

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting

The Meeting took place on Sunday, 25th February 1996 at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley.

Present: Alyson Coney, Douglas Cossar, Frank Sanderson, David Smith,
Colin Speakman, Ken & Margaret Staines.

Clive Bell, Footpath Secretary of the Ramblers', West Riding Area, Craven Group, also was present by invitation.

1. Apologies were received from John & Sandra Creese.
2. The Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on 3rd December, were agreed to be a correct record with the following amendment. Date of Meeting showed year as 1955 in error which should read 1995. Also an apology had been received from Frank Sanderson.
3. Most matters Arising from the Minutes are covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

Survey to estimate usage of Dales Way. David Smith commented that despite discussion at previous meetings, he felt that any limited count carried out on a very few occasions, would be largely meaningless. He had heard at Cam Houses recently that at some time in the past the National Park had had a counter on a nearby stile.

Nobody wished to volunteer to carry out a simple check on the Accounts prior to the AGM - as required in the Constitution. It was suggested that the YDS Auditor, Martin Bairstow, might be prepared to do this for a notional amount whilst carrying out the annual check on the YDS accounts. David Smith noted this suggestion but was not really happy to try and scrounge in this manner. (The cost of the check on the YDS accounts is more than £400).

4. Officers Reports.

Lengthsmen. David Smith felt that this needed discussion and had sent a note to John Creese on learning that he could not attend.

The current impression (possibly incorrect) is that we are getting very little feed back from our Lengthsmen. This was brought to mind when it was agreed that in future issues, the Handbook should include a section on Route Notes. These would describe any significant alterations to the route which would not yet be in Guide Books. It should also be a main purpose of the Newsletters to include comments and news of any changes or happenings of interest along the way.

In addition one would hope that Lengthsmen would check out information on facilities within their section. (eg. the Post Office at Grayrigg). It is also desirable that they contact Accommodation providers to find out any problems or necessary changes. At the same time they should take the initiative to seek new addresses.

Not surprisingly the meeting agreed that it was very desirable that the Lengthsman system should work and that reports were received from them on a regular basis - even for quite minor matters which could be of interest. It was suggested that reports would be more readily forthcoming if deadline dates were introduced. It was agreed therefore, to line up with publication of Handbook & Newsletters, that reports should be sent to David Smith for the end of August and the end of December each year.

Following an accident, John Blakeborough had had to resign as Lengthsman for the Ilkley to Addingham stretch. He has been thanked for his help and John & Sandra Creese have extended their section to include this stretch.

Also David Smith reported that he had lost contact with Ian Hardcastle who covered the Burnsall to Conistone stretch. He is in fact no longer a member having not renewed his subscription early last year - so unless he can be found again, we need someone to cover that bit.

Following the above, Clive Bell of the Ramblers' (See beginning of Minutes) was asked to report on progress with the introduction of a new right of way to avoid the dangerous road walking short of Bolton Bridge. He recapped the line and status of the new path which had generally reached agreement with those concerned. The problem was that nothing was now happening.

His latest action was a letter to North Yorkshire County Council urging that action now take place. Copies of this letter were tabled. It was a significant fact that whereas cost was used as the usual excuse for doing nothing - in practice the only real cost would be the provision of two stiles. It was suggested that David Smith, after a week or two, would follow up this with a letter to North Yorkshire Council. (This could really do no more than state agreement with the very thorough letter sent by Clive Bell). Letters might also be sent to County Councillors and/or the County Surveyor. In due course we could offer to help with the cost of erecting the two stiles.

Clive Bell was thanked by the meeting for his report and asked if he was able to join our committee. He was unable to accept this on a formal basis, but agreed that we could send him agendas and that he would come along when he could.

Membership. In calendar year 1995 we had gained 88 new members and lost 61. It was worrying that a number of those not rejoining had offered accommodation. At the time of the meeting, total membership stood at 240 of whom 97 offered accommodation. These figures do not include those who have not yet renewed their subscription due in the first quarter. A small number of those outstanding probably would pay their subscription in due course. There were still 5 members offering accommodation that had not yet renewed in 1996.

Owners of bunk barns and camp sites listed in the Handbook are now all members.

Finance. The amount in our current account peaked at about £2,500 at the beginning of February. We have now started to spend this however with the following more major expenses.

Handbooks	£ 140
Copying for Newsletter	£ 100
Purchase Way Marks	£1,345

The above reduced our current account to just under £1000. Some other significant expenses will occur shortly as follows:-

New Stock of Sweat Shirts	£110
New batch of Badges	£250
Reorder Membership Form	£120

Our capital will thus tend to reduce to about £500 although our steady income from subscriptions and sales should build this steadily up once more. Although the Hon.Treasurer did not like to see our finances reduced below £1000, he nevertheless thought that we would quickly build up to this again and that overall the finances were healthy. (Note that with our current membership we get in nearly £1000 p.a. in subscriptions).

Sales. Sweat shirts are continuing to be very popular and had provided an income (not profit) of £730 in the financial year to date. A further batch is to be ordered. Stock of badges is getting a bit low and a further batch of 500 will need to be ordered before too long. (185 sold in financial year to date).

Dales Way Video. Since the last meeting arrangements had been made with Imago the producers of the new video of the Dales Way. A leaflet advertising this is now sent out with Handbooks and for each video sold in this manner we will get £2.50. A copy of our membership form also goes out with videos sold.

Membership/Order Form. We are well on the way to use up all the 2,500 originally ordered. After discussion it was agreed that no great change in design was needed although mention should be made of the 3 Link Routes. Also the opportunity would be taken to update the prices of Sweat Shirts. (0.50p increase on each size and P&P to be £1.40 per item. This means an 'each' price increase of £1.90 BUT this to include P&P and reduce complication). 5000 to be ordered this time.

5. Way Marks

These have now been purchased and a sample of the complete 'set' of 16 was tabled. David Smith is, in time, going to take these round to all the relevant Authorities to discuss their installation. Hopefully we will get paid for their supply although the attitude of the YDNP remained a bit of a worry.

6. Handbook for 1996.

The committee expressed satisfaction with the new Handbook and with the Newsletters. The matter of the expansion of the Handbook in future years to include 'Route Notes' has been mentioned earlier. It is also important that Lengthsmen can check out facilities listed along the route. Preparation of the Newsletter remains a bit of a struggle with no input beyond what the writer can find out largely by chance. It is hoped that the two dead line dates mentioned above will enable a useful input from Lengthsmen and, hopefully, **Others..**

7. Any Other Business.

Frank Sanderson had an interesting report about projects that could be sponsored by Visual Arts UK. This could involve some aspect of the Dales Way. A suggestion already made would be for something suitable at the footbridge over the River Mint. (GR 562969). Repair work is already planned for this bridge.

- 8.** It was agreed that the next ordinary committee meeting be on **Sunday 28th April** at 67 Grove Road. Arrangements have been made for the AGM on **Saturday 18th May**. This will be at Linton once again. Agendas will be circulated to all members sometime in April.

Once again the Committee are grateful for the hospitality provided by Fleur & Colin Speakman.

David Smith