

Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Dales Way Association.

The Meeting took place on **Sunday, 18th May 1996** at 2.00 pm in the Anderton Memorial Institute in Linton.

Present:- Gwen Akeroyd, Alyson Coney, Alma Cunneen, David Edge, Alec Freeman, Harry Green, Pat Hickman, Chris Musson, Brian Newland, Frank Sanderson, David Smith, Ken & Margaret Staines.

1. Apologies were received from Douglas Cossar, John & Sandra Creese, John Nettleton, Ron Shaw, Colin Speakman, David & Pat Walsh.
2. Minutes of the 1995 AGM. These were agreed to be a true record.
3. Minutes of the ordinary committee meeting held on 28th April were agreed to be a true record.
4. Frank Sanderson reported on and displayed the framed Certificate to be presented to Arthur Gemmell whilst making him an Honorary Member of the Association. This is made as recognition of his vision in creating the Dales Way together with much other access work. It is hoped that this presentation can be made at the next committee meeting on 16th June.

A threat of unwelcome housing development on School Knott adjacent to the Bowness end of the Dales Way had been reported. It was now felt that this in practice hardly affected the route and that the Association should not become involved.

5. **President's Report.** Frank Sanderson gave an interesting report on his involvement with the Dales Way since the time he moved to Bowness. This duly led to the construction of the Dales Way Seat above Bowness and very successful children's painting competitions featuring it.

Membership was now about 250 which was much greater than originally expected. Work done by Committee members in carrying out surveys and negotiating with the relevant Authorities had led to the purchase of Way Marks for the entire route, including the three Link routes.

Work is now in hand to construct two more Dales Way Seats to be sited on the route at Black Moss Tarn and at Bowston near Burneside. These will feature Celtic Heads. It is hoped that more Seats working back to the east can be planned in the future.

6. **Sales Report.** Margaret Staines said that sales of sweat shirts and badges continued steadily. These made a very welcome contribution to Association funds. Consideration would be given to stocking other items for resale in the future. It was reported that the Lakes National Park had asked for a price list.

Treasurer's Report. David Smith gave the current membership as about 250 which indicated that the number was holding fairly steady with, if anything a slight increase. Just over 100 members offered accommodation. 56 Standing orders for payment of subscriptions were held now which indicated a very satisfactory number of members with a long term interest in the Association.

Owing to the long term good will built up by Colin Speakman with Martin Bairstow who works with the chartered accountants Sutcliffe & Riley, we were able to have our accounts vetted and a simple report produced. This was made available to all at the AGM and included an Income & Expenditure Account together with a Balance Sheet.

The latter showed the Association Assets to be £2,224 made up of cash at Bank plus our stock of items for resale. The stock had been written down which seems reasonable as we shall almost certainly not sell ALL Way Marks.

In conjunction with the above the Treasurer presented an actual break down of funds in and out of our Bank during the year. This differs from the above accounts in that it does not consider stock. (Actual figures for stock held, at cost were also presented). These figures showed a negative cash flow of £482 for the year, which was thought to be very reasonable indeed in view of the purchase of Way Marks in the period.

To bring the situation up to date the Treasurer reported a current balance at the Bank of £1098 which should rise steadily in the year ahead although a sum of about £200 was outstanding for payment for the new Membership/Order forms. (Invoice not yet received from the Supplier).

7. **Officers and Committee.** Unfortunately there were three resignations from the Committee to report. Alyson Coney could no longer serve and John & Sandra Creese felt that they had to relinquish their joint efforts as Footpath Officer. The meeting expressed thanks for all their efforts on behalf of the Association.

There were no immediate volunteers from the floor of the meeting to take on the task of Footpath Officer or for new members of the Committee. However possibilities did arise informally which are to be followed up.

Failing any alternative proposals, all the officers and committee (with the exception of the above resignations) were re elected for a further year.

8. David Smith reported that the supply of Way Marks was held in stock although he had not been able to try and distribute these. An order was in fact pending from Leeds Council for virtually the entire stock of the Leeds Link. Letters had now been sent to all the other Authorities giving details of the price for the signs - and suggesting that they issued orders for them.

A single fixed price had been calculated for all the different versions of way mark. There was however a small variation offered depending upon quantity ordered - ie they would be a little cheaper for a large batch. The Association did not expect to receive complete repayment of the purchase price of the signs.

9. No other business was introduced. The date for the next ordinary committee meeting will be Sunday, 16th June. It will take place at 2.00pm at Blenheim Lodge in Bowness.

David Smith