

---

## Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting.

The Meeting took place on **Sunday, 23rd March 1997** at 1.30 pm at the Anderton Memorial Institute in Linton.

**Present:-** Douglas Cossar, Paul Hannon, Pat Hickman, David Smith, Colin Speakman,  
Ken & Margaret Staines.

1. **Apologies.** Joan & Russel Jamieson and Frank Sanderson.
2. **The Minutes** of the last ordinary Committee held on 18th January were accepted as a true record.
3. **Arising from the Minutes.** The question of access for the disabled to the Dales Way was raised. It is however hard to add anything to the brief statement under Item 9 in the Minutes.
4. **Officer's Reports.**

**Sales.** Margaret Staines reported slow sales which is to be expected for the time of year.

**Footpaths.** Discussion took place on three sections of the route.

**Cam Houses.** It had been learned from the farm that the National Park had made a site visit to view the route from the farm up to the Cam High Road. This includes the section blocked by forestry. It was felt that having made the visit, the Park must now have some idea of what action they proposed to take. It was suggested that Pat Hickman enquire.

**The Approach to Ellers Bridge.** A letter dated 3.12.96 from Rae Lonsdale (YDNP) to Pat Hickman was discussed. Ideally the route should be established along the river bank with a simple bridge across the ditch to gain the minor road. The present line crosses the ditch some 100 yards to the east by a rather unsatisfactory foot bridge and is inadequately way marked. Common sense dictates that the route should follow the river bank and in practice this is followed by a majority of walkers. However in flood conditions progress can be blocked. Pat Hickman agreed to follow this up.

**New official route from Ellers Bridge.** A fairly lengthy letter had been received from Rae Lonsdale about the suggested change of route from Ellers. The proposed new line would cross Ellers Bridge and after crossing the road, make its way by existing rights of way along the valley side. The point was made that if Ellers Bridge had been in place when the route was originally planned, the route would undoubtedly have gone where now suggested. There was some discussion about the letter which, although very helpful, seemed to contain a number of misconceptions. David Smith is to write a letter (helped by Douglas Cossar) pointing out the Association view of the position. It was agreed that the best way forward was to survey the ground and that Rae Lonsdale be invited to come along. A firm date for this to be on Friday May 9th was made and will be quoted in our invitation to Rae Lonsdale. Meet at Ellers Bridge at 2.00pm.

**Finance.** Current membership was 281 of whom 100 provided accommodation. 5 Members offering accommodation had still not renewed their subscriptions due this Quarter. David Smith to chase them.

David Smith reported a balance of about £2600 at the bank and gave brief details of income and expenditure over the year. It was hoped that once again Martin Bairstow would kindly check the accounts at the same time as doing so officially for the Yorkshire Dales Society.

5. **1997 Handbook.** Douglas Cossar was complimented on the 1997 Handbook with additional information now included. It was reported that in the future the aim would be to have it available for distribution in January rather than February as in the past.

**Spring Newsletter.** David Smith asked for any contributions to be sent to him by about the end of the month. It was hoped that it would be sent out some time in April and would include the agenda for the AGM.

6. **Way Marks.** Supplies have now been provided for the entire length of the route including all three Link Routes. Progress on installation is likely to be slow although as previously reported the South Lakeland section is now fully covered. All way marks, except those for the Lakes National Park, have been paid for.

7. **Dales Way Seats.** In the absence of Frank Sanderson there was no news to report on installation of the two seats that are planned.

8. **New Guide Book.** Colin Speakman & David Smith had been to the launch of the new book, '7 Glorious Days' written by our member, Alastair Wallace. Sales of this book would result in some income for the Association. We have been paid for the costs of producing leaflets and hope that we should soon get £50 from an auction held at the launching.

Some disquiet was expressed on the use of the Association logo on the cover which could infer special approval. Our Newsletter will carry a simple review of the guide but will stress that the Association does not make any recommendation favouring it above the many alternatives.

A presentation was made to the Association at the launch in the form of a presentation for wall hanging and featuring the original water colour from the cover. It was agreed that this be handed to Frank Sanderson as President and also because it would be seen by many if displayed in Blenheim Lodge.

9. **Any Other Business.** Paul Hannon reported that the new Explorer Maps (1:25,000) covering the eastern end of the route were now published.

10. **Next Meeting.** This will be the AGM. It was now booked in Dent at the Methodist Church Hall on the date originally agreed. It was now suggested that the day be changed to the Sunday of the same weekend. Starting time 2.00 pm. David Smith will try to amend the booking. It would be preceded by a walk down Dentdale timed to suit train arrival. Probably necessary to arrange transport back after the meeting.

David Smith