

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting

The Meeting took place on **Sunday 28th September 1997** at 2.00 pm at Blenheim Lodge Hotel in Bowness on Windermere.

Present:- Martin Collison, Douglas Cossar, Pat Hickman, Frank Sanderson, David Smith, Ken & Margaret Staines.

Claire Owen from the Lake District Tourism & Conservation Partnership attended part time by invitation.

1. **Apologies** were received from Joan & Russell Jamieson and Colin Speakman:
2. **Minutes** of the last meeting were agreed to be a true record. These were in fact the AGM which will of course also be considered at the next AGM.
3. There were no arisings from the Minutes which are not covered elsewhere in this meeting.
4. **Officers Reports**

Sales. Margaret Staines reported continued healthy sales of Sweat & Polo Shirts. David Smith reported on the continued valuable contribution made by sales. Figures for the financial year to date were Sweat Shirts - £716, Badges - £192, Certificates £316 and Handbooks - £41. These were the amounts received and not profit of course.

A new order for a stock of badges would be placed shortly together with ongoing purchase of stock of Sweat and Polo Shirts. Over £200 profit will have been made on the present batch of badges when finally sold out. Consideration is to be given as to whether it would be worthwhile to market suitable hats with the Association logo. Margaret Staines agreed to investigate.

Footpaths. Pat Hickman reported on a telephone call with Dorothy Smith at Cam Houses about the ongoing problem of the forestry near the farm. There had apparently been some clearance carried out, but the true line of the track was still virtually impossible to follow and the way round the trees remained very muddy.

It was encouraging to hear that reports from Lengthsmen were coming in with 11 of the 15 report forms being returned. John Nettleton had walked his stretch on a number of occasions and found no problems.

At this point, Clare Owen described the purpose and work of the Lake District Tourism & Conservation Partnership. In particular the matter of the proposed route improvement to avoid walking on the busy B5284 road near Cleabarrow was raised. The National Park were keen to implement this but funds were not likely to be available for some while. Clare was seeking assistance from other sources to get this created as quickly as possible - the estimated total cost being £1,500. The Committee agreed to donate 10% of this figure in partnership with the National Park. A cheque was handed over at the meeting.

Financial & Membership. David Smith reported the present membership to be 370 of whom 101 provided accommodation. Some further Quarter 3 renewals could still be expected. 146 new Members had joined in the calendar year to date including 8 new accommodation addresses. Since the inception of the Association 637 people had joined.

Finances were in a healthy state with over £4,000 in our Bank Account. David Smith proposed that a proportion of this be transferred to a deposit account and thus attract more interest.

It was queried whether we should consider becoming a registered Charity. David Smith thought not but will seek advice on the matter. The question of any tax liability was also raised. Tax was already deducted from the very small bank interest received.

It was suggested that some money could be well spent in the installation of Interpretative Boards on the route. The starting point at Ilkley Old Bridge would be an obvious choice as a start. David Smith to raise the matter with Bradford Council.

5. **Lengthsmen.** As reported above it was pleasing to note that reports were coming in, although not from all concerned. Two lengths had lost their Lengthsman and it was pleasing to report that Joan & Russell Jamieson had agreed to take on the Burneside to Staveley section. At the meeting Martin Collison agreed to pick up the Burnsall to Conistone stretch which of course includes Grassington.

It was agreed that David Smith prepare an improved Report Form with a summary of a Lengthsmans duties on the reverse.

6. **Path diversion at Cowan Head** upstream from Bowston. Russell Jamieson had investigated this. The diversion was made necessary by development in the area and would only involve a minor deviation to the route. It was not thought that this would be in any way undesirable.

Earlier in the year an alternative route for the Dales Way had been considered and surveyed in Dentdale. (Starting at Ellers Bridge - see earlier reports etc). It was agreed that the Association should press for this to be duly implemented and David Smith is to write to Rae Lonsdale of the National Park with a request that this be done. It is hoped that this would involve close liaison with the Association so we would be aware of time scales, progress etc.

7. **Dales Way Seats.** Frank Sanderson reported little progress, but hoped that things would start to happen before too long now.

8. **Accommodation List.** Nothing really to report although it was hoped that extra addresses would be included in the 1998 Handbook which it was planned to issue mid January. It was suggested that the Handbook should make it clear that the list was not based on recommendations and that the Association in no way inspected standards. Some discussion followed on actions to be taken following any complaints.

9. **Any Other Business.** Frank Sanderson suggested the desirability of having Association representation on various bodies. He said that he would be prepared to stand for inclusion on the Lakes National Park Committee. It was agreed that a recommendation to the relevant Authority be made by Colin Speakman subject to his special knowledge of such matters.

A copy of the new guide book to the Dales Way was shown to the meeting. This had been written and published privately by our member, Ron Shaw. It described the route in reverse starting at Bowness. David Smith explained that Ron Shaw had discussed the book in some detail with him before publication. It had not been appreciated however that it would include a 'dutch copy' of the accommodation list in the Handbook. In fact it had been recommended that no such list be included. Ron will be asked to state his source in future editions.

10. **Next Meeting.** It was agreed that this be on **Sunday, 30th November**. Venue to be decided, but probably at the Ilkley end.

Many thanks to Frank & Jackie Sanderson for the hospitality provided for this meeting.

David Smith

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

FOOTPATH OFFICER'S REPORT - 28 September 1997

CAM HOUSES

I rang Dorothy and Robin Smith last week about the footpath through the forest. Some clearing of trees has taken place but there is still some difficulty in actually walking through because of debris on the ground. Some attempt has been made to ease the problem of mud on the path alongside the forest by placing wood over the worst parts, but these have been displaced by members of the shooting syndicate from Cheshire who use the forest.

None of the new waymarkers have been put in place yet.

STAVELEY TO BOWNESS - JOHN NETTLETON

A letter from John Nettleton stated that he had walked the whole of his length at regular intervals and he is pleased to see all the new waymarkers. He has spoken to scores of walkers who were all full of praise for the route.

Patricia Hickman

Out of 15 Report forms sent out last year, 11 have been returned.