

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting

The Meeting took place on **Sunday 30th November 1997** at 1.30 pm at 67 Grove Road in Ilkley.

Present:- Martin Collison, Douglas Cossar, Pat Hickman, Russell & Joan Jamieson, David Smith, Colin Speakman, Ken & Margaret Staines.

1. **Apologies** were received from Frank Sanderson.
2. **Minutes** of the last meeting were agreed to be a true record.
3. **Arising from the Minutes.**

Having taken advice it was established that the Association was not included on the list of those able to propose Members for the Lake District National Park Committee. It would not therefore be practicable for Frank Sanderson to be so recommended. The only way would be to second a proposal from an approved organisation such as the Friends of the Lake District. They would almost certainly have their own favoured candidate however.

Use of the Dales Way Handbook list of addresses in the new guide book 'T'Other Way Round'. The author had apologised in writing and would include an acknowledgement in any future edition.

After more discussion and based on Colin Speakman's experience with the Yorkshire Dales Society, it was confirmed that there would be only a very minor benefit in becoming a registered Charity. The disadvantages in work and cost far outweighed these.

David Smith had suggested the erection of a suitable notice board at the start of the Dales Way at Ilkley Old Bridge to Rick Hill of Bradford Council. At the time of this meeting no response had been received. David Smith to progress.

4. **Officers Reports**

Sales. The Lake District National Park had approached us asking whether we could supply items for resale at their Bowness Information Centre. They reported a lot of interest for Dales Way items from parties who had completed the walk. Resulting from this Margaret Staines had paid a visit to the Kendal Headquarters and had a very useful & friendly meeting with their Commercial Buyer, Guy Huxtable.

The only difficulty lay in LDNP needing to have a 30% margin on their sales. Resulting from this Margaret had carried out a very detailed analysis of our sales prices and circulated them to those at the meeting. These included Tee Shirts, Knitted Hats & Baseball Caps in addition to the existing Sweat & Polo Shirts. From the figures, she proposed that a stock be supplied on a Sale or Return basis. (In other words the stock remained our property until sold). The profit that we would get from sales by this means would be considerably less than by existing mail order. They would however be sufficient to make a reasonable contribution to Association funds. Probably more important they would be another source of publicity for us. The Park would settle their account with us every month.

After some discussion it was agreed that Margaret Staines go ahead as she proposed but that, at this stage, the stock to be purchased for LDNP would be somewhat less than the £1,500 (approx) suggested. A budgetary figure of £1,000 maximum was agreed and Margaret was asked to go ahead, basing quantities of each item on her experience.

The Treasurer asked that he be given several weeks advance notice before having to pay an invoice of the above magnitude!

It was asked whether we should also consider selling Dales Way pens, key rings etc. The consensus, for the moment, was not. It was also agreed that if sales from Bowness Information Centre were at all reasonable, then an approach should be made to the Yorkshire Dales Park to see if a similar scheme would be worth while with them. Colin Speakman warned that on previous experience this Park were unwilling to consider anything not produced directly for themselves.

Footpaths. Pat Hickman reported an improved response from Lengthsmen with 12 out of 17 Report Forms being returned. These had been compiled into an interesting Report which, together with some relevant correspondence, was handed out to the meeting. (Copies enclosed with these Minutes).

The Report is self explanatory and only two matters need mentioning here. The continued blocking of the route in the wood above Cam Houses is most regrettable. However it was agreed that we would accept the common sense approach by the Park which is to *'let them get away with it'* and for the Park to propose and install an official diversion. Pat was asked to respond and to stress that the diversion would need proper construction in view of the muddy ground around the forest together with proper way marking. It really is disgraceful however that a right of way can be blocked in this manner with impunity. That includes removal of signs erected by the relevant Authority.

The other matter was information about some additional accommodation addresses which David Smith will follow up. (Following the meeting David Smith will be going through the Report in more detail so as to comment to Pat as necessary).

Russell Jamieson reported on the development at Cowan Head and at this stage could see no worry about any detrimental effect on the route.

Financial & Membership. David Smith reported the present membership to be 377 of whom 96 provided accommodation. 166 new Members had joined in the calendar year to date including 15 new accommodation addresses. The above figure only considers fully paid up Members. At the moment there are 13 B&Bs whose subscription has not been paid. These are being contacted with the hope that they will rejoin when their memory is jogged. The Blue Bell Inn will not be asked to rejoin following a number of complaints about the hostile attitude to walkers encountered there.

The Association bank account has now been split in two - both with the Yorkshire Bank in Ilkley. A round sum of £3,000 has been transferred to a 'Three Month Premium Account'. This, of course, is in order to secure a better rate of interest. Instant withdrawal is limited to £500 per month to avoid loss of interest.

Finances remained in a healthy state with approximately £4,000 in our two Accounts.

David Smith announced that our current stock of Membership/Order Forms would probably be more or less used up following those supplied for use with the 1998 Handbook. This will give the opportunity to produce two new Forms - one for Membership and the other to include our now greatly extended list of items for sale. The old form will remain in circulation for some while no doubt and it is anticipated that we will continue to accept order based on information in it for at least a year.

Initial thoughts are for the two forms to be similar to the present one but with differing colours. Drafts will be tabled at the next meeting - however any ideas or comments would be welcomed in advance. Margaret Staines was asked to consider what prices should be included on the Order Form as these would have to hold for a further two or three years.

5. **New Route in Dentdale.** The National Park had been informed of our decision to reroute the line of the Dales Way from Ellers Bridge to the bridle way above Rash. (Route as described in the Gemmell/Speakman guide book as a return route). This had of course already been surveyed with Rae Lonsdale of the National Park. They had acknowledged the information and said they would be in touch later when they had reviewed what would be involved.

David Smith had not yet notified guide book writers, magazines etc of the new line although this will need to be carried out in due course. The new line was recommended in our Autumn Newsletter. It was suggested that Guide Book writers should be informed shortly in view of the long time scale involved between reissues.

6. **The 1998 Handbook.** Closing date for inclusion will be before Christmas and it should be ready for distribution before the end of January. Details of the new line in Dentdale will be included. The section on baggage carrying, accommodation booking services would be extended. David Smith is to offer Sherpa Expeditions (& others?) the possibility of a half page advert for £40 payable to the Ramblers'.
7. **Any Other Business.** Douglas Cossar has been in touch with Roger Brookes of Leeds Council recently and discussed the possibility of erecting some solid marker at the start of the Leeds Link. This might be a stone plinth/column with a suitable message engraved on it. It was agreed that this was a good idea and that the Association would be willing to contribute to the cost.
8. **Next Meeting.** It was agreed that this be on **Sunday, 1st February**. Venue to be 67 Grove Road in Ilkley again.

Many thanks to Fleur & Colin Speakman for the hospitality provided for this meeting.

David Smith