

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting.

This Meeting took place on **Saturday 19th September 1998** at 1.30 pm in Buckden Village Hall. (This meeting had been postponed from 12th July).

Present:- Martin Collison, Pat Hickman, Joan & Russell Jamieson, Frank Sanderson, David Smith, Ken & Margaret Staines.

The Meeting was chaired by David Smith.

1. **Apologies** from Paul Hannon & Colin Speakman.
2. **Minutes** of the Sixth Annual General Meeting held on 9th May 1998 (which was the last meeting) were agreed to be a true record.
3. The only **matter arising from the Minutes**, & not covered elsewhere, was the matter of the sum of £150 donated to the Lake District Tourism & Conservation Partnership. This followed a presentation to the Committee by their Clare Owen back in 1997. The purpose of the donation was for a route improvement to avoid dangerous road walking near Cleabarrow. No response had been obtained to date from enquiries as to progress. David Smith agreed to write officially asking for information - followed up by telephone calls if necessary.
4. **Officers Reports.** (Note: This item on the agenda is not limited to Reports but includes all discussion and information on the relevant subjects.

Sales

Margaret Staines reported steady, but unspectacular, sales either directly or through the Lake District Park Centre. David Smith stated that total receipts from sales so far in the financial year were £1,172, although actual profit was of course only a relatively small percentage of this. Of this total nearly £400 had come from sales by the Lakes National Park (including badges which are sold directly to them). Sales were clearly making a significant contribution to the Association funds as well as promoting its presence. (Note that figures in this paragraph do not include significant additional sales reported by Margaret Staines at the meeting and cheques handed to the Treasurer at that time).

Footpath.

Pat Hickman tabled her report. This included a response from George Flynn of South Lakeland Council as well as from Lengthsmen Pat & David Walsh regarding way marking at New House. The former had said that he would get someone to visit the farm to try and resolve the matter with the owners and get the route correctly way marked. Pat & David reported in addition that better way marking was needed as guidance on leaving Black Moss Tarn to the west over the hill.

A report had been received from some walkers who had had a rather disturbing encounter with a farmer between Bramaskew and Nether Bainbridge in the Lune valley. Unfortunately discussion at the meeting failed to cover the actual place where this occurred and comments made were therefore largely irrelevant. Pat's report in fact identifies the site quite correctly and there could be a problem of people not strictly following the line of the right of way just to the west of the barn in the middle of an open field. This could be worth pointing out to the National Park as needing some way marking.

A meeting is to be arranged with Rick Hill of Bradford Council to discuss the replacement of the misleading finger post at the Addingham end of the improved route below Bolton Bridge. Ben Heyes from the Estate and Clive Bell of the Ramblers" to be invited to join in. Rick Hill has reported that Clive Bell was working with the Estate to get a finger post installed at the Bolton Bridge end of the new route.

Way marks to a greater or lesser degree are now installed throughout the Dales Way and all three of the Link Routes. One bit missing is the length of the Leeds Link falling within the responsibility of Bradford. Rick Hill plans to install way marks and finger posts for this section fairly shortly. Unfortunately we are virtually out of stock of yellow Leeds Link way marks and will probably have to order a new fairly small batch.

Ken Staines reported that no action had yet been taken to reinstate the correct route through the edge of the forestry above Cam Houses. This remained quite impassible. It was agreed that the National Park needed a bit of chasing to get this work done.

Some time previously David Smith had circulated details of possible route changes that could affect the route where it presently crosses the West Coast Railway. (To avoid crossing the lines in view of the higher speeds envisaged for trains). No further news was available and any timescales are not known although the Association had no objections to proposals made.

David Smith had been in touch with the new owner of Cam Houses (Ian Wallace). Although he had purchased the property for shooting purposes, he was in no way against walkers and indeed it is likely that he will introduce significant benefits to this area. Firstly sheep would be removed from large areas and heather allowed to regenerate which will improve the scenery. Secondly he is undertaking a very considerable modernisation of the buildings and has every intention of providing much improved accommodation for walkers. He also hopes to continue the hospitality that has welcomed passers by with the possibility of getting refreshments. To some degree this does depend upon him finding a couple to live at the farm and look after it on a day to day basis. (He would like a dry stone waller). Further discussion with Ian Wallace has been tentatively arranged to up date our information. He intends to join the Association.

Examples of the National Trail User Survey carried out on the Cleveland Way were presented to the meeting.

Financial.

David Smith reported Membership to remain at almost 400 with new Members slightly greater than those not rejoining in the year to date. 100 Members now paid subscriptions by Bank Standing Order.

There was little to report on the financial side beyond the encouraging Sales performance detailed above. The total amount held in the two Bank Accounts was now nearly £4,000. Cash flow in the first six months of the financial year to date was £869. Some pie and bar charts were tabled for interest although did need considering with care as they reflected bulk purchases of stationery, for instance, which would not need repeating for a year or two.

5. Sales/Membership Leaflets.

Samples of the new separate Sales & Membership leaflets were tabled. 5,000 of each have now been printed.

6. New line of route in Dentdale.

The rather belated letter from Rae Lonsdale and David Smith's initial response (previously circulated to Committee Members) was discussed together with comments written by Douglas Cossar. Little further action could be suggested apart from confirming our initial response together with Douglas's comments. Details of the new line now to be circulated to Guide Book writers and Ordnance Survey by David Smith.

7. **Dales Way Seats.**

Frank Sanderson detailed the most unfortunate circumstances resulting in the demolition of the partly constructed seat upstream from Bowston. Full planning permission together with agreement from all concerned had been obtained. Unfortunately the land had been sold without details of this being made known to the new owner. Despite Frank's courteous responses to his objections and to a letter from his Solicitor - he had destroyed the partly constructed stone seat and the site was now an unsightly mess. This was unthinking vandalism destroying work done costing some £800 - some of which came from public funds.

Frank Sanderson was now working through the Country Landowners Association to try and reach some amicable solution. There was no way that the Dales Way Association could justify the expense of a legal approach themselves. The meeting agreed that Frank continue to attempt to find the best solution but was of the opinion that the seat should be reinstated in some form and that this should be carried out at no further cost to the Association. This may not in practice be entirely possible to achieve - but it was hoped that an acceptable compromise would be reached in due course.

8. **Any Other Business.**

Colin Speakman, by telephone to David Smith, had reported activity by the Millennium Trust upgrading the Dales Way upstream from Burnsall for disabled use. This could include seats and Frank Sanderson was asked to contact Alison Quigley on 015242 51002 to discuss this. Frank was also asked to contact Fiona Chalmers on the same number about a possible film covering sustainable tourism & the Dales Way. David Smith is also to contact Alison for general discussion about the route.

Colin had also reported probable significant changes in the management structure of the National Park which could affect our contacts 'on the ground'.

It was suggested that grid references for accommodation should be included in the Handbook. In fact this is already done - mainly outside villages and towns where it is not really practicable. If the situation could not be identified on a map it could be difficult to get an accurate grid reference from the Member concerned. Attempts would be made to identify addresses needing this information for the 1999 Handbook.

The 1999 Handbook would be on the agenda for the next meeting and would, in particular, discuss the inclusion of special adverts for those offering Services for the Dales Way. (eg. Transport). Inclusion of separate leaflets, other than our own, was no longer considered to be practical.

9. **Date & Place for Next Meeting.**

This will be on **Sunday, 6th December**, at 67 Grove Road in Ilkley.

David Smith