

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting

The Meeting took place on **Saturday 4th April 1998** at 2.00 pm at the Station Inn, Ribbleshead.

Present:- Martin Collison, Pat Hickman, David Smith, Colin Speakman, Ken Staines.

1. **Apologies** were received from Douglas Cossar, Joan & Russell Jamieson and Margaret Staines.
2. **Minutes** of the last meeting were agreed to be a true record.
3. **Arising from the Minutes.** Nothing not covered elsewhere.
4. **Officers Reports**

Sales. Ken Staines reported continuing fairly slow sales at this time. The Lake District Visitor Centres would be opening shortly and hopefully sales will pick up with the stock supplied to them for resale.

Footpaths. Pat Hickman presented a report on various matters concerning the route. Her report is included as an Appendix to these Minutes. Briefly the main problem being tackled is the misleading signing erected for the new improved route between Addingham & Bolton Bridge. The Authorities do not seem very keen to make any changes and it was thought that it would be useful to arrange a meeting with them to discuss the matter. No response had been received from South Lakeland concerning the removal of way marks as New House. It was suggested that the relevant Lengthsman be asked to make contact and find out what was happening.

Rick Hill of Bradford Council had now commented on our suggestion for an Interpretative Board at the commencement of the Dales Way at Ilkley Old Bridge. He estimated a cost of £1,500 to £2,000 which was felt to be very high by the meeting. He had said that they might be able to help with the graphic work needed and also suggested that a grant might be available from the Countryside Commission. Following discussion, David Smith will follow this up and will involve Ilkley Council as well. A rough, preliminary draft for the board would be prepared first as a basis for discussion.

It was agreed that the change to the route in Dentdale could now be considered to be official and that a Press Release be sent to all interested parties.

Financial & Membership. David Smith reported the present membership to remain just over 400. (402) Only 22 had not rejoined in Quarter 1 together with 5 deletions for various reasons. In the year to date we had gained 39 new members. 89 now paid their subscription by Bankers Order.

The 1997/1998 financial year was of course now just ended and a preliminary draft of the Income & Expenditure and also Balance Sheet was tabled. These will be checked and redrafted as necessary by Martin Bairstow on 22nd April. The figures on the drafts should be fairly accurate however and give good advance information on the financial situation. The only main variable is the value of year end stock which was not known when the draft was made. The 'round' figure of £2,000 used turns out to be a reasonable estimate however. Comments to the Income & Expenditure statement follow overleaf:-

Sales of Sweat/Polo shirts reduced by about £200 although this is offset to some degree by details of sales given to the Treasurer at the meeting. These involved sales made in 97/98 but can only now be entered in the 98/99 accounts. Also the accounts record a very high level of stock which had to be purchased towards the end of the financial year. This is recorded in the accounts, but will tend to give a rather pessimistic view of the finances as stock has to be valued at cost price only. These factors result in the Surplus on Sales being reduced by some £300 compared to the previous year.

Subscriptions up by over £500 which is good news (£500 equals 125 additional memberships).

Bank Interest shows a modest improvement due to starting a Deposit Account mid year.

Under Overheads the reference to *Staines Postage* is a little unfortunate and will be reworded - probably to *Sales Postage* - or maybe just merged with main postal costs.

MISC covers a mixed bag of odds and ends and appears as a credit under Overheads. This is largely due to payments made to us to cover postage of sales leaflets (Excalibur & Sherpa). It is proposed now to reallocate such receipts into a Sales category. This will leave MISC as a minor credit or debit only.

5. **Sales & Membership Leaflets.** Drafts for new, separate, Membership & Sales leaflets had been distributed with the Agendas. The design for the Membership leaflet would be similar to the existing combined one and was thought to be satisfactory. A stock will be printed commercially in due course - probably towards the end of the year when current stock runs down. (Ref. note about mileage under A.O.B.)

The Sales leaflet proposed was a simple A5 sheet printed on both sides. The design was however complicated by the instructions to order from David Smith if only for badges & certificates, otherwise ordering from Margaret Staines. After some discussion Ken Staines agreed that Margaret and himself would be pleased to take on the postal receipt of ALL orders. It will be a year or two before existing leaflets finally disappear, but the stock of badges can be handed over in batches as convenient. (Note that on sale, badges have to be inserted into polythene envelopes together with a notice).

As things are only David Smith can prepare Certificates as it is felt to be important that these are not just hand written on preprinted cards, but have personal details printed as well. It seems reasonable however that David Smith can be notified by phone or post of details of Certificates to be sent out. (This works already the other way round with David Smith notifying Margaret Staines when Sweat Shirts are ordered). Nearly 300 Certificates were sent out in 97/98.

6. **AGM.** Colin Speakman announced that unfortunately he would not be able to attend on the agreed date (Saturday, 9th May). After some discussion it was agreed with regret that it was not really practicable to change this. David Smith announced that the Linton Hall would not be available and it was suggested that he try for the village hall in Hebden.
7. **Any Other Business.** Martin Collison had done a very detailed exercise measuring the length of the Dales Way on 25,000 scale maps and had come up with some very interesting figures with comparisons with distances given in various guides. His overall total came to 76.8 miles which lines up quite closely with a number of guide books - although Paul Hannon's 84 miles seems possibly to be on the high side. These figures do not of course make any provision for diversions to reach accommodation. David Smith suggested that however carefully the measurements be made - they would nevertheless always be less than reality due to the inevitable small scale twists and turns in this sort of route. He reckoned that these could mount up to as much as 5% which would make the total about 80 miles. Martins figures are to be copied and circulated to committee members with an alternative metric version.
8. **Next Meeting.** This will of course be the AGM on **Saturday, 9th May**. Venue to be Hebden Village Hall if possible. Details will be on the Agenda which may be included in the Spring Newsletter as in 1997.

David Smith