
Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Dales Way Association.

The Meeting took place on **Saturday 9th May 1998** at 2.00 pm at the Hebden Village Institute.

Present:- Steve Blanchard, Martin Collison, Douglas Cossar, Pat & Geoffrey Hickman, Joan & Russell Jamieson, Howard Medlock, Jane & Ron Paterson, Frank Sanderson, David Smith, Colin Speakman, Ken & Margaret Staines.

The Meeting was chaired by Frank Sanderson.

1. **Apologies** from Ian & Anne Bailey, Alan Barrett, Paul Hannon & Brian Newland.
2. **Minutes** of the Fifth Annual General Meeting held in 1997 were agreed to be a true record.
3. There were no matters to discuss arising from the previous AGM.
4. **Minutes** of the previous ordinary Committee Meeting held on 4th April 1998 were agreed to be a true record.
5. **Arisings from the Minutes.** There were no matters that are not covered elsewhere in these Minutes (mainly under the Footpath Report). Frank Sanderson did however say that it would be a sad day if either of the differing mileage posts at each end of the walk were ever regularised.
6. **President's Report.** Frank Sanderson reminded the meeting of the ancient roots of the Dales Way as a natural corridor of communication in the distant past. He went on to mention the forthcoming legislation on Access to Open Countryside but in further discussion it was agreed that the Association's interests were restricted to the line of the Dales Way and that such legislation was outside their terms of reference. Finally thanks were given to Officers & Committee Members for their work for the Association during the past year.
7. **Officers Reports**

Sales. Margaret Staines reported fairly slow sales at this time with figures showing a reduction in items sold during the 1997/98 financial year. The Lake District Visitor Centres had opened at Easter but it was too early yet to anticipate any significant sales volume although some sales had been made to date by them. The Accounts for the year showed a reduction of somewhat over £100 in the profit obtained compared with the previous year.

David Smith explained that Margaret Staines had agreed to take on the majority of the Sales work for the future and thanked her for taking this on. He also apologised that Margaret's name had not been included amongst the Officers on the reverse of the Agenda.

Footpaths. Pat Hickman reported that a meeting with Rick Hill of Bradford Council is to be arranged to discuss correcting & improving the signing of the new improved route avoiding the road between Addingham & Bolton Bridge. Our Member Clive Bell who had been instrumental in securing this improved route in the first place, had also checked the position and subsequently requested action from the various Authorities including Rick Hill. It is hoped that the meeting can be arranged before the end of the summer and that both Pat Hickman and David Smith will be able to attend. It was suggested that Clive Bell be invited also. Clive Bell had reported, by telephone, that the legal status of the new path had not yet been cleared and that he had urged that this be treated as urgent so that maps can be amended as soon as possible. The question of an

Interpretative Board by Ilkley Old Bridge will also be covered at the meeting.

No response had been obtained from George Flynn of South Lakeland Council about the removal of Way Marks at New House Farm just beyond Black Moss Tarn. Pat & David Walsh, who are Lengthsmen for the section, had been asked to investigate.

Following the sale of Cam Houses a new Lengthsman would be needed for that section between Oughtershaw & Gearstones. Although it was anticipated that accommodation would no longer be available up there, a ray of hope was expressed by Martin Collinson who said that the new owner might possibly change his mind having seen that it was a profitable business.

David Smith mentioned the long standing problem of the forestry blocking the route above Cam Houses. A party of mature ladies had come to grief there recently with one sustaining a badly sprained ankle forcing them to abandon their walk. They had sent a copy of their letter to the National Park and this will also be followed up by ourselves in the hope of hastening action.

For the benefit of non Committee Members present, it was reported that the new route in Dentdale was now declared to be the official Dales Way. This had been stated in the Spring Newsletter and in due course David Smith will be notifying guide book writers, the Ordnance Survey etc.

Frank Sanderson reported that to date he could get no response from Claire Owen of the Lake District Tourism & Conservation Partnership concerning the route improvement to avoid road walking near Cleabarrow. The Association had made a donation of £150 towards this project and it was a bit worrying that no action or report was forthcoming.

Financial & Membership. David Smith reported the present membership to be currently a little below 350 with a number of Quarter 2 renewals yet to arrive. The situation seemed to have settled with about 50% of Members remaining so for more than just the one year during which they did the walk. 90 Members pay by Bankers Order indicating a longer term interest in the Association.

The 1997/98 Accounts of the Association had been professionally checked on 22nd April. Unfortunately their report had not been received in time for this meeting. A Preliminary Draft was tabled however which gives a clear indication of the Association finances although no doubt there would be variation in the layout and some of the figures compared with the official version. Copies of the official version will be forwarded to Committee Members and any other Member on request, when received within the week following the meeting. (The figures tabled at the meeting varied slightly from those printed in the Spring Newsletter due to late notice of some subscriptions paid by Bankers Order).

There was little to comment upon from the Financial Report (Income & Expenditure + Balance Sheet). The main significant item was the high level of stock for resale which had been purchased late in the financial year with little time for any sales. The stock figures are rounded to take account of a write down of the value of way marks still held and which are unlikely to be sold. (Although hopefully a lot will duly be used). The increase in Subscriptions/Donations under Overheads was due to the £150 given for the Cleabarrow Project. Subscriptions were significantly increased from the previous year mainly following an article on the Dales Way in *Country Walker* magazine. Unless another article appears somewhere this is unlikely to be repeated.

8. **Election of Officers & Committee.** The existing Officers and Committee Members were elected en block. Proposed by Steve Blanchard and seconded by Howard Medlock.
9. **Any Other Business.** Douglas Cossar, in response to a question, reported no further action yet on the proposed Dales Way 'Marker' at the start of the Leeds Link.
10. **Next Meeting.** This will on Sunday 12th July in Wharfedale. Location to be advised later.

David Smith