

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting.

This Meeting took place on **Sunday 28th November 1999** at 1.30 pm at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley.

Present:- Douglas Cossar, Pat Hickman, David Smith, Colin Speakman, Margaret & Ken Staines.

A few moments of silence were taken before the meeting commenced in memory of Jackie Sanderson.

1. **Apologies** from Joan & Russell Jamieson and Frank Sanderson.
2. **Minutes** of the previous Meeting held on 19th September were agreed to be a true record.
3. **Arisings from the Minutes.** There was no further news about possible Millennium Trust Grants although a very rough list of possible sites for both Seats and Interpretative Boards had been created. Ref. Item 5 below.
4. **Officers Reports.**

Sales. Margaret Staines reported sales to be slow since the last Meeting. She was having difficulty sorting out a serious discrepancy with the stock held by the Lakes Tourist Office. Their records showed some 55 items short. David Smith reported receipt of an email from Guy Huxtable from them suggesting that the Handbook should mention that items could be purchased at Bowness T.I.C.

Footpath Pat Hickman reported on a number of items as follows:-

Signposting on the canal at the start of the Bradford Link was still being considered although somewhat bogged down in red tape.

David Smith had reported that the way marking on departure from Grassington was, in fact, now adequate and could be removed from the Wish List.

Pat has written to the relevant Area Ranger about the possibility of avoiding road walking between Buckden and Hubberholme. No reply yet received.

Avoidance of road walking after leaving Sedbergh. Pat had written to the Area Ranger. (See notes at end of Minutes).

Pat had a response from the Lakes Park indicating a probable clean up at Hag End Farm who are considering creating a Bunk Barn and Tea Shop there.

David Smith reported very swift and effective action from South Lakeland following two obstructions reported on the route (1 barbed wire, 1 electric fencing).

Colin Speakman reported on two submissions by the Dales Park to the Millennium Trust effecting the Dales Way. This covered the path improvements near Crook of Lune and also some work near Ellers Bridge. The latter did not appear to address the problem of approaching Ellers Bridge coming downstream. Colin also reported that the Yorkshire Dales Society was going ahead with a project for a stone bench in commemoration of Arthur Raistrick to be installed near the Grassington Information Centre.

Colin also reported on an excellent development at the Friends Meeting House Farfield, situated where the Dales Way joins the road when coming from Addingham. This historic structure and its surrounding grounds are being tidied up and a 'picnic' area installed. It was proposed that access be created to realign the Dales Way through this property. This would clearly be of great benefit to the route and Colin is to respond to Richard Harland indicating our keen interest and willingness to help financially or in other manners.

Financial. David Smith reported Membership continuing to grow. We now have almost 450 Members. At the time of this meeting there had been 147 new Members in 1999 and 108 had not renewed - a gain of 39. 20 new accommodation addresses had been gained although there were also a lesser number of deletions.

The total amount in the two Bank accounts was £6,555 and the cash flow for the year to date was a positive £1,272. These figures include the purchase of over £1,300 of goods for resale. There was no foreseeable need to increase the amounts now held and David Smith (again) suggested that we had a duty to the membership to devote roughly the positive cash flow to improvements to the Dales Way. Sales to date in this financial year totalled over £1,900 although of course this was by no means all profit.

5. **Interpretative Board by Ilkley Old Bridge.** No action to report on this which will be picked up again when Martin is recovered. However after discussion it was proposed that this should not now be considered in isolation. There was a case for a series of such Boards at key sites along the Dales Way and a common design would show considerable cost savings. This could be considered in parallel with the possibility of Seats for seeking Grant Aid. It was pointed out that we were now almost certainly too late to apply to the Dales Millennium Trust.
6. **The 'Wish List'.** This is now being actively pursued by Pat Hickman and progress now appears in her Officer's Footpath Report.
7. **Handbook for 2000.** The Committee again praised this publication. Douglas Cossar asked Members to have a careful look at their copies of the 1999 issue to pick up any errors, omissions or suggestions for additional material. Please contact Douglas before the end of the year. After discussion it was agreed that we would not offer additional advertising 'boxes' for those providing accommodation. This feature for 'Service' providers had been very successful for 1999 and would be continued with the same prices.
8. **New Members for Committee.** It was agreed that there was some urgency in finding a few new volunteers to join the committee and secure continuity for the future. At the same time Ken & Margaret Staines reported that, in the foreseeable future, they would no longer be able to hold the stock of items for sale - although they were very happy to handle other aspects of this work. This was connected with the uncertainties of selling their present house and it was agreed that things be left till the next Committee Meeting. At that time it might well be necessary to reprint our Order Forms to give David Smith's address.
9. **Any other Business.** None
10. **Date & Place for next meeting.** 20th February at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley.

This concluded the business of the meeting. Thanks were expressed once again for the hospitality provided by Fleur & Colin Speakman at their home.

NOTE: Almost immediately following the meeting, Pat Hickman received a number of very positive responses to her letters. In particular the Dales Park was very keen for a meeting which is to be arranged some time during January or February at Grassington. It seems likely that most if not all involved Area Rangers would be present.

There was good news too about steps already taken to reduce the road walking after Sedbergh. This had been implemented since early 1999 but nobody was told about it and way marking is not yet in place. This will be discussed. The Park are very keen on the replaced bridge at Brackensgill Bridge in Dentdale. I suspect that we shall come under pressure to realign the route over this rather than our own recently introduced alternative.

Positive responses have also been received from other Authorities who are keen to meet us - possibly on a regular basis.

David Smith