

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting.

This Meeting took place on **Sunday 14th October 2001** at 2.00 pm at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley.

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

1. **Apologies :-** Frank Sanderson.
2. **Minutes** of the previous Meeting (the AGM) and previous ordinary meeting held on 11th March were agreed to be true records.
3. **Arising from the Minutes.** There were no matters that are not covered below.
4. **Officers Reports.**

Sales. Following the departure of Joan & Russell Jamieson, David Smith reported that he now held the Association stock. Sales virtually nil. See item 6 below for future action.

Footpath. Pat Hickman was able to report little concerning the route as virtually no work had been carried out due to the Foot & Mouth crisis.

Finance. David Smith reported that membership had held up pleasingly well despite the foot & mouth crisis. Current membership was 435 although non renewals in Quarter 4 might reduce this to nearer 400 by the end of the year.

Income had been inevitably affected by foot & mouth. Compared with the previous year subscriptions were down by some £300 and Sales were virtually nil (£85 compared with £802). Despite this there was a surplus of nearly £900 for the financial year to date. However it must be pointed out that no significant expenditure has been made in the period.

5. **Future Meetings with the National Parks and other Authorities.**

It was agreed that the intended regular meetings with the Dales National Park and with Lakes National Park/South Lakeland Council should be arranged now that, hopefully, the foot & mouth crisis was subsiding. It was confirmed that the Dales meeting be in November and the Lakeland one in February if possible. Agendas would need to be considered in advance - although to a large agree could follow unfinished business from the original meetings.

6. **Future Handling of Association Sales.**

David Smith currently holds the stock and is happy to handle future sales on a temporary basis. A volunteer would have to be found however to handle these in the long term. Ref. item 7 below.

It was noted that the departure of the Jamiesons had left an almost insoluble problem as the newly printed order forms all included their Bowston address. These had already been distributed widely. It could only be hoped that orders arriving at that address would be forwarded to the Jamiesons (wherever they might be!) and then reforwarded to David Smith. This is bound to lead to delay. Until someone is found to handle Sales, the present Order Forms are being overprinted with David Smith's address.

7. **Volunteers for Committee**

These are urgently needed. It is particularly desirable to have representation from a Member providing accommodation.

This opened a wider discussion (not necessarily only under this item on the agenda). It was agreed that following the foot & mouth crisis it was highly desirable to relaunch the Association. It was agreed in principle that events should be arranged for this purpose - probably in a hired village hall (Bolton Abbey?). Refreshments to be provided. Probably two such meetings would be needed to cover those providing accommodation and others. Invitations for the latter could include non member walkers, National Park etc. Suggested timing was Spring 2002. Ken & Margaret Staines undertook to make the arrangements and mastermind these events. (Many thanks).

8. **Autumn Newsletter.**

David Smith reported that he hoped to be able to produce this but that it would inevitably slip into November before being sent out. Reports were currently being received from the relevant Authorities - after request. Contributions from Committee Members was suggested! Almost certainly this would have to be professionally printed.

9. **Any Other Business.**

Colin Speakman reported with regret that Arthur Gemmell's condition had deteriorated and that he was no longer capable of any discussion on the future of the 'Gemmell/Speakman' Dales Way Route Guide. He was however in touch with relatives and those involved and was reasonably confident that the publication of this guide could in due course be taken over by the Association. No reissue would be needed for several years.

Ken Staines reported on the matter of Interpretative boards. Bradford seemed most helpful and offered help both graphically and, possibly, financially. It was agreed that Committee Members sketch likely schemes for the board and that we go ahead with an installation at Ilkley Old Bridge as soon as practicable. Ken agreed to arrange this with Bradford when we had roughed out our ideas. Separately Bradford had suggested replacing the finger post at Ilkley Old Bridge - what mileage should it show? No clear decision was made on this although a new sign would be welcome. Possibly 80 miles would be the best 'round' figure.

10. **Next Meeting.** This was agreed for **Sunday, 13th January 2002** at 67 Grove Road., Ilkley. Proposed that starting time be brought forward to 1.30pm.

Finally many thanks once again to Fleur & Colin Speakman for their hospitality.

David Smith