

## Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting

This Meeting took place on **Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> January** at 2.00pm at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley. 2002

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

1. **Apologies** were received from Douglas Cossar and Frank Sanderson.

2. **The Minutes** of the last Meeting, on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2001, were agreed to be a true record.

3. **Arising from the Minutes.**

Colin Speakman reported, with regret, that Arthur Gemmell had passed away since the last meeting. Negotiations were in hand regarding the future of the Dales Way Route Guide.

David Smith apologised that the Autumn Newsletter had been sent out so late. However he hoped that the standard would be approved now that it was printed professionally by John Mason in Skipton.

The proposed Interpretative Boards were unfortunately rather overlooked in this meeting due to the time needed to discuss the Relaunch Events. However Ken Staines reported that the various Authorities all seemed keen on the scheme and might even pay for it. They also had in house design capabilities. Pat Hickman was able to show some very fine line drawings that she had produced showing many aspects of the Dales Way. These could form a very attractive feature in the board design.

Margaret Staines had received a letter from the Jamiesons who were settling happily in Crete. She is to let David Smith have their address so we can keep in touch and, hopefully, they retain their interest in the Dales Way.

4. **Officers Reports.**

**Sales.** David Smith reported minimal sales at the moment and thus no problem in handling this task. It was hoped that a volunteer could be found from amongst our accommodation providers at the planned Relaunch Event. Overprinted Order forms were now in use as a temporary measure. A check is needed on stock still held at the Bowness TIC.

During preparation of the 2002 Handbook, it had been noted with regret that reference to the Association in the Dales Way Web Site, had become very obscure. This was taken up with our Member, Simon Pitts, who apologised and said that changes were unintentional and that the site would be modified to give much greater prominence to the Association. This Site handles the sale of guide books etc, and arrangements have now been made for them to publicise the Handbook and hold a stock for resale. There is a possibility that a scheme may be devised for them to publicise the Dales Way souvenirs that we have for resale.

**Footpath.** Pat Hickman reported that there was not yet a lot to report as, in the winter period, activity had not yet built up following foot & mouth. However she was able to report that the revised route over the bridge at Brackensgill (in Dentdale) was now to be shown as the Dales Way on future Ordnance Maps and that the National Park were installing appropriate signs.

The new route out of Grassington, avoiding Townhead Farm, had now been created and signed. This was stated to be quite satisfactory although muddy at one point. It was however agreed that, at the next meeting, the National Park be asked to look into the possibility of making legal the use of the enclosed green lane onward towards Lea Green. It is understood that this is used widely by the public without objection and would clearly be a better line for Dales Way walkers.

David Smith mentioned that a finger post by the Farfield Friends Meeting House was broken - but that in any case signing now needed changing there to show the official route through the grounds.

A date is being negotiated for the next meeting with the Lakes Park and South Lakeland. The date for the next meeting with the Yorkshire Dales Park has already been fixed for **26<sup>th</sup> September** this year. It was however noted that we had not yet received a copy of the Minutes of the last meeting. Pat agreed to chase them on this. If she could let David Smith have a copy in due course, he will circulate it to the Committee.



**Membership.** It was reported that new Members were appearing slowly at present. However total membership was now 429 and it seemed reasonable to expect that it would duly level out at about the 450 mark as in the past. It was noted that we had lost a number of accommodation addresses - although not to any serious extent.

**Finance.** David Smith reported that despite the effects of foot & mouth, the finances remained sound and that our resources had grown by over £1000 during the year to date. There was only a surprisingly small drop in Subscription income, but of course sales of souvenirs had been virtually nil. Because of foot & mouth there had been no significant expenditure on the Dales Way. Although the Invoice is not yet received, the cost of having the Newsletter printed was given verbally as £295.

The total held in our two accounts now amounted to £9,854. It was agreed that some of this needed to be spent and the proposed Information Boards were a project already in hand.

## 5. **Dales Way Relaunch Events.**

Margaret Staines reported on planning to date and confirmed that the Hall at Bolton Abbey was booked for both intended occasions. These are for the Accommodation/Service Members Event on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March and for the All Comers Event on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April. (Note these dates were given as advance information in the Autumn Newsletter).

Margaret agreed to produce a detailed Planning Sheet with agreed actions. (David Smith to print and send to Committee).

Briefly it was agreed that a reasonable buffet be provided for the 20<sup>th</sup> March Event, but that only hot or soft drinks for the second. A draft for the invitation letter to the first meeting is attached - please let Margaret have any comment. This invitation would be extended also to interested 'outsiders'. Eg. National Park, Dalesman magazine, Tourist Association, etc, etc. Margaret to compile list of outsiders, with addresses, so that David Smith can send out at same time as those to relevant Members.

Details of the second event would be highlighted in the Spring Newsletter and also Press Releases to local newspapers and outdoor magazines. Contact also to be made with Ramblers' although too late to go in their Walks programme.

The first event would be entirely indoors at the hall, whereas it was agreed that the 'all comers' second event would start with a walk from Ilkley Station to Bolton Abbey, where there would be some welcoming and background speeches before taking refreshment and general chat - hopefully producing ideas. National Park to be asked whether they would like to make a contribution to the speeches.

A key decision made at this meeting was that a high quality leaflet be produced to publicise the Dales Way and encourage its use. This to be prepared urgently so as to be available before the above Events. To achieve a reasonable standard this would be designed and printed professionally. Obviously we would have a say in the design and would prepare a rough draft to give an idea of what we wanted before going ahead. It was agreed that we approach Rodney Birch, who had produced an excellent Membership Leaflet for the Yorkshire Dales Society, to take on this work. David Smith to action this. As far as practicable all Committee Members will be circulated with details of the design as we proceed to make sure we get the best end product. Also details to be shown to 'interested parties' (National Park Authorities) as a courtesy but also to make sure we were not making some error.

A lot more detail discussion took place - but action will be covered by Margaret's planning sheet. Clearly there will need to be a lot of liaison between Committee Members as we proceed. No firm decision was made on the cost of the leaflet. It was accepted that this would be significant and almost certainly greater than £1,000. It was strongly felt however that, as we had the funds and this leaflet would have a key role to play in the reviving of the Dales Way, that it would be money well spent. Possibly we might seek some contributions to help pay for it although too late to apply for any official grant.

6. There was no 'Other Business'.

7. **Annual General Meeting.** Agreed as Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May probably in Kettlewell.

8. **Next Ordinary Committee Meeting.** Not sure whether this will be an official meeting, but certainly there will be a meeting following the Event on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Otherwise the next meeting will be the AGM.

As always, many thanks to Fleur & Colin Speakman for their hospitality at 67 Grove Road for this meeting.