

MINUTES OF A DALES WAY ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting took place on Sunday 9th March, 2003 at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley.

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

Apologies: Frank Sanderson, Douglas Cossar, Brian & Pauline Robertshaw, Rita Smith & Pat Hickman.

Minutes of last meeting: Agreed to be true.

Arising from the Minutes: Gemmell/Speakman guide – Colin reported the RA were having slow sales of their books at present. They have approx. £15,000 worth in stock. They would not want to publish any more just now. Colin will discuss the matter with Douglas Cossar.

T'Other Way Up guide – David will contact Douglas to ask the RA to speak to Ron Shaw direct.

Web Site - The draft David sent out to committee members was just a basic idea. He thanked members for their comments. Sometime in the future, accommodation providers could be included. It could now evolve. David has registered it at a cost of approx. £70. He will contact Simon Shaw of QDK to give the go ahead. Chris Musson offered to take it on board once established. *FERN*

At this point David *DOUGLAS* was congratulated on the new handbook.

Correspondence: There was nothing to discuss.

Officers' Reports:

Sales – Last year we sold over £1300 compared with £150 the previous year (Foot & Mouth). £864 of stock has been bought. A modest profit has been made. David will produce a report. David and Rita Smith are still happy with the present system of sales. - X

Footpath – Pat sent a message to say everything was quiet at the present time. Pat's husband Geoff, has had a heart operation, the committee wishes him a speedy recovery. Bank Lane at Grassington was discussed. The YDNP has taken on board the idea of using this lane instead of their farm diversion through the fields. It was suggested, as our meetings with the YDNP were proving so successful, that a similar meeting should be set up with LDNP. *SLAKELAND*

Membership – Membership peaked at 494 before sending out renewal letters for Quarter 1 this year. With renewals and new Members it has now climbed back to 470. Of these 93 offer accommodation and 195 pay Bankers Order. We have 17 new Members this year to date.

Finance – We are now near enough to the end of the financial year (31st March) to have a fair idea of the final results for the year. As anticipated the Accounts will show a loss for the year due to the exceptional costs incurred with the Dales Way Relaunch early in the year. The total for these was £2113 which is roughly equal to the surplus we have made in normal preceding years. New stocks for re-sale during the year are £864 and Way Marks £517. Resulting from this we have, at present, made a loss of £923 over the year. It is anticipated that we shall receive income of some £350 before the end of the month when the latest Bank Statements, and cheques for Souvenir Sales have been received. This should reduce our overall loss to less than £600. The accounts will be audited mid April as usual. However with the AGM so early, it is more than likely that the official Financial Report will not be available at that time. If this is the case the Treasurer will present a draft report. There is approx. £8,500 in the deposit account.

Accommodation Providers - There being no representative at the meeting, there was nothing to report.

National Trails Trust - David has not heard any more from the Trust.

Any Other Business - Waymarking: An improvement is needed. Various Authorities and the R.A. have made an effort. David has walked the Western end to check, there are signs that the YDNP had put more up. Dentdale to Cowgill has a lot, but not 100%. There are quite a few gaps with none at all. A lot more are needed in South Lakeland. Chris has offered to help with this. David has had reports of people having trouble with route finding. Finger Posts would be the answer. The problem should be discussed at the YDNP meeting. Chris reported that the Leeds end was not clearly marked at all. The Harrogate Link is well marked by the local R.A. It would be nice to have meetings with Leeds & Bradford Authorities to discuss this. **Interpretation Boards:** This ongoing item has not, as yet, been resolved. Ken will take it on and report back at the AGM. A total of 4 was suggested, depending on cost, Ilkley, Grassington, Dent and Bowness.

Date and time of next meeting: This will be the AGM, please note the revised date of **Sunday 27th April, 2003 at 1.30pm at Linton Village Hall.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.30pm. Grateful thanks to Colin & Fleur Speakman for their hospitality.