

## MINUTES OF A DALES WAY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

**The meeting took place at 1.30pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2004 at 67, Grove Road, Ilkley.**

**Present:** Colin Speakman, David Smith, Alex McManus, Douglas Cossar, Ken & Margaret Staines and Pat Hickman.

**Apologies:** Chris. Musson.

**The Minutes of the last meeting, the 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2003** were accepted as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** There was nothing to report.

**Officers' Reports:** **Sales** – Rita has had very few sales during the winter months. Sales are still slow but a contribution is being made to the Association. The items for sale are also a service to the members. There is approx. £1200 (cost price) of stock. Orders are still coming to David who sends them on to Rita. **Footpath** – The bridge over the River Mint near Shaw End has been carried away in recent floods. David has published the problem to members via the handbook. Magazines and the Dales National Park have been informed. We have no information as to when the bridge will be replaced. David will contact SLNP about putting up a notice in an appropriate place where walkers can be diverted around the problem. Colin suggested we write to Cumbria C.C. Highways Dept. and ask when they intend to repair the bridge, as it is a public footpath it should be reinstated as quickly as possible. **Waymarks** - David reported Waymarks are in place from the end of the National Park as far as the M6. The M6 to Burneside still needs waymarking. It is sometimes difficult to find a place to fix a Waymark and we are not allowed to erect our own fingerposts, but we can put our Waymarks on existing fingerposts.. Colin suggested a meeting with SLNP and Kendal Ramblers regarding waymarking. There is a problem at Bolton Bridge where the Dales Way has to go on the road. The road here is often full of parked cars so making it quite dangerous for walkers. This small area is not in the National Park but belongs to Skipton Highways. **Membership** – Average membership is 450. **Finance** – We should end up breaking even as we have spent £1000 on the Web Site this year. We have £8,600 in the Deposit Account. The Web Site will be on on-going cost.

**Accommodation Providers:** There used to be 104 members who are also accommodation providers, but there are now only 90. David asked if someone would take on the job of encouraging new accommodation providers to join. No-one offered. Colin suggested we advertised in the handbook for members to recommend accommodation providers who are not already members. It had been noted that quite a few providers were not keen to take in early bookings for anyone staying for one night only but would consider them nearer the time of their walk.

**Speakman Gemmel Guide:** Douglas reported that nothing had happened yet. The sub-committee had a meeting in December. Alex and Douglas will arrange to walk Dentdale very soon to complete the reviews. The book should be typed up by the end of this month ready for publication.

**Web Site:** We are now fully on-line. There has to be a period of correcting faults and adding omissions. Chris will take on the task of keeping it up to date once it is all in order. Alex mentioned the Settle/Carlisle Web Site which has a very good 'Virtual' system. All suggestions raised will be sent to Chris.

**Interpretation Boards** – Margaret & Ken reported that the three quotations received had been taken to the Sustainable Development Fund office at Clapham. There is to be a meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March where the final decision will be made with regard to us receiving the Grant for the Interpretation Boards. Our initial request was for £7730, if we are given the Grant it would be for £5,895 which represents 75% of our estimated cost for the Boards. Colin proposed we set aside approx. £2000 which is the amount we would have to find to complete the work. This was agreed, David can now pay the bills as and when necessary.

**Tourism in the Dales and Craven** – Following a meeting in January David reported the Association is not committed to doing anything. An information pack will be produced about The Dales Way. David presented to the Committee a pack already in existence about The Pennine Way. Ours will not be as comprehensive as we already have a handbook, but will follow similar lines. It had been suggested that a leaflet was produced by us as a single sheet only and not as the three-fold we already produce. We will be consulted about the contents of the pack and will have input via meetings.

**YDNP 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – The Relay Walk could not take place due to bad weather, but 60 people did walk part way. The day ended with a firework display. All future events will not involve our Association.

**Dales Way User Survey** – Rather than Douglas sitting at Cam Houses to count walkers on the Dales Way, it was suggested a counter was put in place. The Tourism in Dales and Craven meeting said they would take it on board.

**Any other business:** There was no other business..

**Date and time of next meeting: The AGM on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 1.30pm at Linton Parish Hall.**

Everyone was thanked for attending and Colin closed the meeting at 4.00pm.

David thanked Colin and Fleur Speakman for their hospitality.