

**MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
DAY WAY ASSOCIATION**

This meeting took place on Sunday 16th May, 2004 at 1.30pm at Linton Village Hall.

Present: Frank Sanderson, Colin Speakman, Dave Smith, Chris Musson, Alex McManus, Ken Staines, Geoff Hickman, Bill Griffiths, Alan Sutcliffe, Margaret Staines, Pat Hickman, Pauline Robertshaw and Sue Canton.

Apologies: Douglas Cossar, Brian Newland and Brian Robertshaw

Minutes of the 2003 AGM were agreed to be a true record.

Arising from the AGM Minutes: There were no matters arising.

Minutes of the last ordinary meeting 7th March were accepted as a true record.

Arising from the Last Ordinary Meeting: There were no matters arising.

President's Report: The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said we have grown used to a low turn out but he is so satisfied with the way the Officers run the Dales Way Association he knows it is in good hands and can rest easy. He congratulated everyone for the part they play in a very well run organisation. The strength and influence of organisations like the Dales Way Association is considerable.

Officers' Reports:

Sales: The Sales side is run by Rita Smith and is working fine. The clothing sales are low volume but we sell a lot of certificates, badges and handbooks. The profit is not great even though the sales look quite good in the accounts, a lot of money is in stock held. . **Footpath:** Pat mentioned the bridge over the River Mint which had been washed away during the year. We have done everything we can to publicise the problem for Dales Way walkers, magazines, Website, newsletters and our handbook. Despite all this some walkers still do not know of the problem. At the present time South Lakeland have nobody looking after footpaths so have contracted the repair out to another company, Capita, who are trying to sort out the problem and assure us it will be done as soon as possible, (approx. 2 months). In the meantime there is a diversion set up which is easy to follow even though it is mostly on tarmac. The National Park has been busy in Lower Wharfedale where a lot of work on the footpaths and bridges have been carried out. **Waymarking** has been improved over the years. The worst part of the Dales Way is towards the West near South Lakeland people are still getting lost. We need to keep in touch with the National Park to improve this section. A Draft of the new Speakman Gemmel guide was to hand and members were asked to look at it before leaving the meeting. **Membership:** Last year membership reached 490 but is now down to 450. This is probably a legacy from the Foot and Mouth epidemic where members kept their membership going until after they had walked the Dales Way. Members offering accommodation were 100 but now only 90, which does cause concern. Some of them are not very keen on one night only walkers and will only book them in at the last minute. **Accounts:** David

had circulated the accounts before the meeting. The results for the year show us breaking even, roughly similar to the previous year. In both these years we had exceptional costs. In 2002/2003 it was the post Foot & Mouth re-launch and leaflet, whilst last year it was the setting up of our Web Site and the purchase of a further supply of way-marks. In the past, if we ignore special, one off, outgoings, our annual surplus was in the region of £2000. With increased costs, mainly postage, this basic surplus is now probably nearer £1500. This is quite adequate in the short term bearing in mind the resources we have on deposit with the Bank. However, we are facing appreciable costs this year – Interpretive Boards etc. This is good, the money we receive should be going towards the Dales Way itself. However, if we do continue to spend significant sums like this, it may be necessary in a year or two, to consider an increase in Subscriptions.

Election of Officers and Committee: Frank proposed Colin as Chairman which was accepted by a show of hands and Colin proposed Frank as President which was also accepted by a show of hands. Colin praised the Committee for their contributions to the Association. The Committee was re-elected en-bloc. Chris Musson was elected at Web Master and Bill Griffiths was elected onto the Committee. Alan Sutcliffe was thanked for providing us with all his invaluable transport knowledge.

Any other business: As Chairman, Colin Speakman now took over the meeting Colin commented on how much was now happening, at last the Dales Way has been recognised as being a major part of the sustainable economy of the Yorkshire Dales. It has taken 12 years for the National Park to realise this. There are now Rural Development projects which are promoting the Dales Way, one of them is to help small businesses along the Dales Way in Craven. **Interpretation Boards:** Ken Staines reported all was going well with the Boards. A first draft of the design was available to everyone to look at and pass their comments about changes. One Board will be placed at Ilkley Bridge, we will provide the Board and Ilkley Parish Council will erect it. Three Boards will be placed in the YDNP possibly at Barden Bridge, Grassington and Dent Bridge, the final decision rests with the National Park. Another three Boards will be placed on the Link Paths. **Web Site:** Chris asked if all matters to be added to the Web Site could be passed on to him. It will take quite a long time to get it running fully. **Craven Funding:** David reported that The National Park are producing a series of leaflets. They have already completed one for the Pennine Way and are now doing one for the Dales Way.

Date and time of next Ordinary Committee Meeting: Sunday 26th September, 2004 at 1.30pm at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley.

There being no further business Colin thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 2.55pm. Refreshments were served.