

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
DALES WAY ASSOCIATION**

The meeting took place on Sunday 8th May, 2005 at 1.30pm at Linton Village Hall.

Present: Frank Sanderson (President), Colin Speakman (Chairman) David Smith (Secretary/Treasurer) Chris Musson, Alex McManus, Geoff and Pat Hickman, Ken and Margaret Staines, Pauline Robertshaw, Bill Griffiths, Pauline Robertshaw, Mark Wilson and Joanne Lloyd, Megan and John Timbrell and Susan Conlon.

Apologies: Douglas Cossar.

Frank opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

The Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting had been previously circulated and were taken as a true record.

Arising from the AGM Minutes: Any matters arising would be included in the reports below.

The Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting: had been previously circulated and were taken as a true record.

Arising from the last Meeting: There was nothing to report.

President's report: Frank took the newcomers through the history of The Dales Way. He followed on by thanking everyone for all their hard work over the years.

Chairman's remarks: At this point Colin took over the meeting. He said this had been one of the best years since the start of the Dales Way. We have had leaflets supplied by the Integrated Rural Committee which are excellent. A huge amount of work by committee members has gone into the reprint of the Speakman Gemmell Guide, this has now gone to the printers and 50% of the Royalties come to the The Dales Way Association. We have had Interpretation Boards, posters and postcards printed. There is ongoing work on the handbook which is very comprehensive and also a twice yearly newsletter. We have a very good relationship with the Yorkshire Dales National Park and work on footpaths is progressing. Our new Website is well under way. This is all thanks to members of the committee. We have arrived at last and the Dales Way is getting well known.

Officers' Reports:

Sales: Unfortunately, Rita Smith has resigned from dealing with our sales. David took over for a short time. Members Mark Wilson & Joanne Lloyd have taken this on. Our thanks to Mark and Joanne. A modest profit is made on the sales items. David will continue to deal with the certificates and badges and also hold a stock of the new Speakman Gemmell Guide book.

Footpath: Wharfedale – a) the YDNP have been approached regarding the official route of the Dales Way be changed to go along Bank Lane instead of through the fields. The Park suggested we approach the Parish Council. b) During the last year general improvements have been carried out by the National Park including way marking and re-surfacing on sections of the path. c) It has been agreed with the YDNP that "Dales Way" is indicated on new finger posts, and at footpath junctions.

Cumbria – a) Waymarking has been carried out in the Dent area and stiles repaired. Also work is due to be carried out to repair the river bank sides at Ellers and Bridge End. b) Lune Valley stiles and gates have been repaired or replaced as necessary, and waymarking is due to be carried out. There is no news of Hagg Farm. **YDNP** - The next meeting with the YDNP is 11th October 2005 at YDNP offices at Grassington. The time of the meeting to be advised. Pat has resigned as Footpath Officer, our grateful thanks for all her hard work.

Membership: As the subs are collected quarterly the membership numbers go up and down, at the moment it is down from 450 to 430 approx. David has a lot of requests for handbooks but they do not always join.

Finance: Balance sheets were circulated. David said we are breaking even this year. We put money into the Dalesway of approx. £2000 per year. A mistake was made increasing the subs for Accommodation Providers to £10, it was not thought through carefully enough and the decision was made too quickly. At the last meeting it was voted to go back to charging £4 and treating the Accommodation Providers as ordinary members. We feel it is a service to our members and do not want to make money out of it. It was agreed that in future we should discuss subscription changes at an AGM and any increases made should not take effect until the following January. Questions were invited about the accounts and Frank queried the high cost under the heading of stationery, this was the cost of printing leaflets.

Website: Chris reported the website is up and running well. In the past 12 months a number of amendments have taken place and extra links have been added. A hyperlink has been set up with the YHA and should be online shortly. The accommodation section is regularly updated. Chris reported some very interesting statistics, one of them was 99,246 hits and 17,808 visits in the last 12 months.

Interpretation Boards, Postcards and Posters: Of the eight **Interpretation Boards** purchased, two are in position, Harrogate and Ilkley. The Bradford board is due to be erected on the canal towpath at the start of the Bradford Link at Shipley. Leeds board will be sited in Otley Chevin Forest Park this summer. In the YDNP, the board at Dent will be first. A wrought iron frame has been made by the local blacksmith and should be sited at the end of May. The other two frames are being contracted out and will be sited as soon as possible. Frank has managed to get the Lake District National Park to agree to the last board being erected outside the TIC at Bowness. All the **postcards** have been delivered to B&B's along the route; requests have been received for further supplies. We did not come to any decision on a re-print. It was agreed we purchase enough A4 **posters** to send to existing B&B's for their bedroom information packs. It was reported the Jolly Anglers at Burneside had a beer called Dales Way Ale. This has been specially blended by Moorhouses and The Jolly Anglers is the only Pub selling it. The Brewery is interested in running an article in their newsletter about the Dales Way. **Cam Houses Farm** – it had been reported that baggage handlers are trying to avoid delivering bags to Cam Houses Farm due to the poor condition of the approach road. Maybe we as an Association can put pressure on the Council about this. A new B&B at Gearstones has been located and hopefully they will advertise in our Handbook which would make the options in that area much better.

Election of Officers and Committee: Colin read out the list of existing Officers and Committee Members. Pat resigned as Footpath Officer but agreed to stay on the Committee. Alex McManus would take over as Footpath Officer. Mark & Joanne were voted on as Sales Representatives. All other members were elected en bloc.

Any other business: Douglas Cossar will carry out a **User Survey** the last week in June at Deepdale Bridge, nr Yockenthwaite. Volunteers of help were requested. As there was no other business to discuss Colin thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 3.10pm. Refreshments were served.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 21st AUGUST, 2005 at 1.30pm to be held at 67, Grove Road, Ilkley.