

MINUTES OF DALES WAY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting took place at 1.30pm on Sunday, 8th January 2006
at Dalegarth, Moorfield Rd, Ilkley

Present: Douglas Cossar, Bill Griffiths, Alex McManus, Chris Musson, Pauline Robertshaw, David Smith, Mark Wilson.

Apologies: Pat Hickman, Frank Sanderson, Colin Speakman, Ken & Margaret Staines,

Minutes of last Meeting on 2nd October 2005. These were agreed to be a true record.

Matters Arising: The only item not covered elsewhere was the Press Release that Colin agreed to produce to publicise the new edition of the Gemmell/Speakman Guide. There was some uncertainty here, but it was reported that a short paragraph had appeared in a recent issue of Dalesman.

Sales: These continue slowly. Copies of the new Order Form had gone out to Members with the Autumn Newsletter. This resulted in the sale of five Guide Books and a hat. In the financial year to date (April to January) Sales had generated an income of £994 with £573 spent on restocking. This expenditure however included the supply of Handbooks which are sent out free to Members.

Mark Wilson reported on a 'pub' in Kirkby Stephen that publicised Coast to Coast souvenirs and queried whether a similar arrangement could be arranged elsewhere with the newly named Dales Way Inn in Ilkley as a very likely candidate. David Smith is to visit to discuss and encourage them to join the Association in any case. An exercise to be carried out to find out roughly how many accommodation providers would be prepared to display our Order & Membership forms. If a reasonable number, some form of stand would be provided to hold them. Delivery probably by hand.

Footpath: Alex McManus reported on route developments including new finger posts to show the way out of Grassington. It was also reported that the new bridge, to bridle way standard, had now been installed at Tommy Bridge. Work on approach paths would continue into February but the bridge could already be used to follow the Dales Way.

Most of the Information Boards were now installed along the route including the one in Shipley Glen. The one for Bowness remains outstanding, but Frank Sanderson was confident that this would be erected before too long.

With help from the Yorkshire Dales National Park, our submission for a grant towards a survey and installation of finger posts throughout the route had been made. A donation of £52 had been received also from The Irregulars of LDWA towards this purpose.

Membership: David Smith reported that this was holding up well with the current total 470. A greater than usual number of enquiries was being received. A new membership form will be printed shortly to replace our stock which is almost finished. It will be similar to the present one.

Finance: David Smith reported no problems here with a surplus over the financial year to date of £881. £200 of this was owed to Ramblers' to cover Handbook adverts.

Web Site: Chris Musson reported on developments which continue. This included a revamped and more clearly laid out Order Form and the Committee agreed that he should go ahead with this at a quoted cost of about £37. Inclusion of pictures of the goods is not straight forward but might be possible as a separate page.

Liaison is in hand with Sherpa and their development of the old Spotlight site. Links are being created and information of our souvenirs are planned to be included.

Statistics showing visits to our site were shown and indicated a good degree of interest.

A large part of the News section will be deleted when the 2006 Handbook becomes available early this February. To ensure a consistent appearance and layout of this section, David Smith suggested that he would normally ask Chris to make new entries, rather than doing so himself.

Any Other Business:

Handbook. Douglas Cossar reported that the 2006 edition was now at the Printers and should become available to send out early in February as usual. This will include a mileage chart of the main route for the first time. Douglas stated that he had now been producing the Handbook for many years and was seeking to find someone to take this on.

Route Surveys: Following the last meeting with the Dales National Park, two Surveys are to be carried out this year. The first will be at Hubberholme again (to allow comparison with 2005) and will take place between 25th June & 1st July.

After some discussion it was agreed that the second be at the Dales Way Seat above Bowness. This should allow comments to be collected from most parties who would have by that time walked the whole way. Dates 23rd September to 30th September.

Date for next meeting: It was agreed that this would be the Annual General Meeting and would be held once again at Linton. The date Sunday, 6th May.

David Smith

08/01/06