

**Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Dales Way Association**

The meeting took place on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2006 at 1.30pm at Linton Village Hall.

**Present:** Colin Speakman (Chairman), David Smith (Secretary/Treasurer), Alex McManus, Pat Hickman, Margaret & Ken Staines, Pauline Robertshaw, Alan Sutcliffe, Bill Griffiths, Chris Musson, Michael Buckley, Barbara & Richard Addyman, and Joyce & Michael Williams.

**Apologies:** Douglas Cossar and Megan & John Timbrell.

**The Minutes** of the 2005 Annual General Meeting had been previously circulated and were accepted as a true copy.

**Matters Arising from those Minutes:** Cam Houses Farm – baggage handlers had been contacted and they agreed although the journey to Cam Houses Farm was difficult as there were many gates to open and shut, they did not refuse to take anyone. All other matters arising will come up in the Officers' Reports. At this point it was agreed everyone present at the meeting should receive a copy of the Minutes.

**The Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2006** were taken as a true record. There were no matters arising.

**President's Report:** In the absence of our President, Colin Speakman gave a report: The new Dales Way Guide Book is selling well. Colin gave thanks to Douglas for his survey last year. A slight disappointment was when the Sustainable Development Fund Grant we applied for was refused. All other Officers were thanked for all their hard work over the past year.

**Officers Reports:** **Sales:** No report. See under Finance below. **Secretaries:** All but one Interpretation Board have been erected in Harrogate, Shipley, Otley Chevin, Ilkley, Grassington, Buckden, and Dent, the only one left is at Bowness, which, hopefully, will soon be in place. All Accommodation Providers have had 20 of the new Sales/Membership forms for walkers to pick up. We are hoping this will boost sales of our merchandise. A supply of A4 posters in the style of the Interpretation Boards have also be sent to Accommodation Providers earlier in the year. **Footpath:** Alex took over as Footpath Officer after the last AGM. He stated he had enjoyed this year. Fifteen problems had arisen during the year and had all been dealt with satisfactorily. The conclusion is that the committee needs to concentrate on two areas. 1) We must establish a dialogue with the authorities to the West of the M6. We now have an excellent relationship with the Yorkshire Dales National Parks Authority with first name terms, and good progress. We must try and replicate this, over the next year. 2) At our last Parks meeting, there was general approval that the Dales Way footpath should be surveyed in order to see where waymarks/signposts should be situated. This survey to be from Ilkley and ending in Bowness. At this point David commented that checking the whole of the route especially West of the M6 would take a long time. It was also noted the Ben Hayes of the Devonshire Estate wanted the green dotted line (legal path) on the OS Map removing and replacing with another colour i.e. Red (permissive path). David would ask the Ramblers Association to take this up with OS Maps. Waymarking: A lot of work has been done, it is sometimes difficult to find something to put them onto. Fingers posts are better but only the Authorities can do this. We could offer some of our funds towards the cost. The National Park have great respect for the Dales Way

Association. We must continue our meetings with the National Park with our Wish list. A few other points were raised for discussion at later meetings.

**Web Site:** The order form has been re-designed but we have had to drop the pictures of the sales items to make it easier to download. Prices have been updated. It is now on two pages instead of one. Chris has had a word with Sherpa. They still have an excellent site but we have no link with them.

There has been 106,000 hits from all around the World. The general picture appears to be that each month the numbers are increasing, especially in the Summer. Chris has found a new Website 'Let's stay in the Yorkshire Dales'. Chris asked for photographs so we can be linked to this site. **Membership:** Continues as usual at the 450 marks. **Finance:** Nothing dramatic to report for the 2005/2006 financial year. Cash flow for the period was a surplus of about £1150. We have some £10,000 in our Bank Accounts which is a healthy amount and should allow the Association to make worthwhile contributions to the Dales Way in the future. Our Sales stock is about £1200 which is, of course, based on Cost rather than possible Sales figures. Income for the period was very similar to the previous year. Sales remain disappointing. It is hoped that the new leaflet and the exercise carried out by Ken & Margaret Staines will have a positive effect. The situation will need reviewing at the 2007 AGM to decide seriously the future handling of our Souvenirs. Despite the above, sales of Handbooks, Badges and Certificates continue to make a significant contribution to funds. On the Expenditure side, the £100 for the Dales Way was for the Notice Board on the Bradford Link. We need to try harder to contribute to the Dales Way in future. Travelling expenses are those incurred by Officers making journeys to fix route problems together with the Survey. Stationery costs are down but it just happened that less restocking was needed during the year. The Sundry £83 was the cost of the external check of our finances and preparation of Annual Report by Sutcliffe & Riley. The Web Site costs were roughly 50/50 for Hosting and Changes. Colin thanked everyone for their reports.

**Election of Officers and Committee:** A resignation had been received from Pam Knowles-Fitton. Colin read out the list of other existing Officers and Committee Members. All members were elected en bloc.

**Any other Business:** David commented that none of us were getting any younger and we need to talk about the future of the Dales Way Association. **Dales Way Seat:** Ilkley Parish Council had previously shown an interest in providing a Dales Way Seat near the Ilkley Interpretation Board. Margaret & Ken to contact. As there was no other business to discuss Colin thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 3.25pm. Refreshments were served.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2006 1.30pm  
to be held at LINTON VILLAGE HALL.**

## Dales Way Association Accounts Report for AGM 2006

Nothing dramatic to report for the 2005/2006 financial year.

Cash flow for the period was a surplus of about £1150.

We have some £10,000 in our Bank Accounts which is a healthy amount and should allow the Association to make worthwhile contributions to the Dales Way in the future.

Our Sales stock is about £1200 which is, of course, based on Cost rather than possible Sales figures.

Income for the period was very similar to the previous year.

Sales remain disappointing. It is hoped that the new leaflet and the exercise carried out by Ken & Margaret Staines will have a positive effect. The situation will need reviewing at the 2007 AGM to decide seriously the future handling of our Souvenirs.

Despite the above, sales of Handbooks, Badges & Certificates continue to make a significant contribution to funds. *+ Guide Book*

On the Expenditure side:

The £100 for the Dales Way was for the Notice Board on the Bradford Link. We need to try harder to contribute to the Dales Way in future.

Travelling expenses are those incurred by Officers making journeys to fix route problems together with the Survey.

Stationery costs are down but it just happened that less restocking was needed during the year.

The Sundry £83 was the cost of the external check of our finances & preparation of Annual Report by Sutcliffe & Riley.

The Web Site costs were roughly 50/50 for Hosting & Changes.

David Smith  
1 May 2006

*84 Hbks Feb → May 06*