

## Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Dales Way Association

The meeting took place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 1.30 pm. At Linton Village Hall.

**Present:** Frank Sanderson (President), Colin Speakman (Chairman), David Smith Alex McManus, Chris Musson, Dianne Watterton, Susan Sanderson, Fleur Speakman, Rhona Thornton, Bill Griffiths.

**Apologies:** Barbara & Richard Addyman, Douglas Cossar, Pat Hickman.

**The Minutes of the 2006 AGM** had been previously circulated and were accepted as a true record.

It was reported that Margaret Staines had resigned both as Secretary and from the Committee. Bill Griffiths was elected as the new Secretary.

Thanks were expressed to Margaret and Ken Staines for the immense amount of work that they had done for the Association. Thanks were expressed also to Pat Hickman for her work on the Committee.

### Matters Arising from those Minutes:

**Dales Way seat in Ilkley:** The Ilkley Council had allocated sufficient funds for the construction of the seat and no problems were anticipated in its construction. D Smith undertook to liaise with the Council.

**Dales Way Plaque at Bowness:** The President reported that assurances been given that a plaque will be fixed to the Tourist Information center.

### Officers Reports:

**Finance:** The Treasurer (David Smith) presented certified accounts for approval reported that the Association had almost broken even this year with income being less than expenditure by only £31. There had been two major items of expenditure, £441 for a new notice board and £700 for traveling expenses for mounting a Dales Way survey at Hubberholme and Bowness. There a balance was of £11,315. The accounts were approved and it was suggested that £5000 of the reserves should be put into a high interest account.

**Membership:** 450

**Sales:** These had continued to decline and the treasurer proposed to discontinue sending out order forms with the Handbook.

**Footpath :** (Full report available for consultation). The Footpath Officer (Alex McManus) reported that he had surveyed a substantial part of the Dalesway particularly the western end. There had also been some reports from walkers who had encountered difficulties. Twelve 'problems' had been reported to Capita, the agents responsible to the CCC and the LDNPA.

The safety of walkers on the *Sprint Bridge-Burneside* section was of increasing concern and a proposal to alleviate this had been submitted to CCC. A decision was expected in Sept 2007. Temporary diversions were being considered in the interim. Burneside Parish

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Council had declined to help. The Chairman reported that thus far there had been no resolution of the difficulties caused on the *Harrogate link* when part of the Bolton Abbey Estate is closed during the shooting season or during the threat of fires. The YDNPA has agreed to help. The associated problem of a suitable symbol on the OS map for this section has therefore also to be resolved.

**Web Site:** Chris Musson (Web Manager) presented statistics in a revised format. These showed that the number of 'hits' was still increasing with the USA being the major source. The web site will now carry an 'Incident Report' form.

**Dales Way Handbook:** Rhona Thornton (Editor) reported that the Handbook had been produced as in previous years in the January. She expressed concern that the inclusion of detailed public transport links both held back the date of publication (changes were not made public until December). She also reminded the meeting that changes the following May which made obsolete some of the Handbook information. She **proposed** that only essential transport information...how to get to and from the ends of the path... be included together with the links of where to get up to date and detailed information. This was **agreed**. The Chairman undertook to thank Alan Sutcliffe for all his work in providing the information.

**Election of Officers and Committee (2007-2008)** President –Frank Sanderson; Chairman- Colin Speakman; V.Chairman- Douglas Cossar; Treasurer/Membership Secretary-David Smith; Secretary- Bill Griffiths; Footpath Officer- Alex McManus; Website Manager- Chris Musson; Handbook Editor- Rhona Thornton; Accommodation Providers- Pauline Robertshaw.

**A.O.B: Dales Way Survey 2007:** It was reported that the YDNPA would assist with providing help with the surveys.

**Dales Way News Letter:** David Smith reported that he wished to retire in the near future from editing the News Letter.

The meeting closed at 15.30.