

**MINUTES OF THE DALES WAY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**The meeting took place at 1.30pm on Saturday 28 June 2008 at 67 Grove Road Ilkley**

**1 Present:** D. Cossar, W.K. Griffiths, A. McManus, P. Robertshaw, F. Sanderson, C. Speakman, R. Thornton, N Trask, S. Taylor

**2 Apologies:** D Smith, C. Musson

**3 Minutes of the last meeting** on 1 March 2008 were accepted

**4. Minutes of the AGM** of the 27 April 2008 were examined

**5 Matters Arising:** Future of the Dales Way Association:

The Chairman outlined the discussions that he had had with David and Judith Smith and reported that the membership records and financial papers were now accessible by the Committee.

An extensive discussion took place focused on the consequences of the serious illness of David Smith and the offers made at the AGM by Nikki Trask and Steve Taylor to help with the financial and membership work of the Association. In the discussion, references were made to a list prepared by the Chairman of the responsibilities of the officers and to a briefing paper by the Secretary outlining possible scenarios for the future of the DWA.

The following decisions were reached:

- (1) That Nikki Trask and Steve Taylor be appointed Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Secretary of the Dales Way Association respectively with immediate effect.
- (2) That they immediately assume responsibility for financial and membership matters of the Association.
- (3) That over the next two months they should jointly consider what are the necessary tasks relating to finance and membership matters and how these could be best carried out
- (4) That they together with Colin Speakman would be the authorized signatories for cheques... any two of the three signatures being sufficient.
- (5) The Association would continue to use the Yorkshire Bank at Ilkley where the deposit account of the DWA stood at £11,158 and the current account at £1,245.
- (6) A PO box should be rented to receive mail for the Association. In the mean time Judith Smith would help the transition of responsibilities.
- (7) The future of the handbook would be discussed at the next committee meeting. In the meantime Steve Taylor would deal with requests for copies of the 2008 version
- (8) Consideration would be given too at that meeting of when the financial year of the DWA should start.
- (9) Members of the DWA were to be informed of the handover by David Smith of his responsibilities.
- (10) That the membership files would be put onto a new computer filing system and that Chris. Musson would help with this.
- (11) Details of financial transactions and membership issues would be made at each committee meeting.

There was much discussion as to whether the DWA could and should continue as a membership based organization in light of the new assistance from Nikki Trask and Steve Taylor because of the motion passed at the AGM, charging the Committee with bringing forward proposals to dissolve the Association in its present form.

*It was agreed that the actions (1) to (11) outlined above were necessary whatever the future of the Association and that the best course way forward was to adopt the second of the three courses of action in the briefing paper viz. (ii) - That with the new help the Association could continue at least for the immediate future but that efforts must continue to be made to seek new committee members who would assume some of the responsibilities of managing the Association.*

There was general recognition that there was a need for additional members of the Committee to help with many small occasional tasks which were not clearly the responsibility of any one Officer and very importantly to be at hand should any of the officers not be able to carry on in their present roles.

*It was agreed that positive and immediate steps should be taken this summer to recruit new committee members.*

Potential new committee members might be found through advertisements placed in local newspapers and also from those Association members living within relatively easy traveling distances. If these were to be invited to come on a "brainstorming" walk, followed perhaps by a buffet tea, then some might be persuaded to join the Committee.

The situation would then be reviewed at the autumn meeting of the Committee.

**Special Item of Business:** It was agreed that David Smith be made an honorary life member of the Association and to become its Vice president. This would be put formally to the next AGM.

**Any Other Business:** The Footpath Officer reported on a significant number of issues that had arisen since the AGM. In that time, he had surveyed three sections of the path; had been in contact with the YDNPA about the path through Cam Forest and was endeavouring to get the new information board, destined for Barden Bridge, to be put in place without the complexities of planning permission and associated expenses. His full report is appended to these minutes.

Attention was drawn to the fact that 2008 was the 40<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of the first ever walk along the Dales Way

It was reported that a request had been made by a university for access to the results of the 2007 survey of the Dales Way. *It was agreed* to release these data.

**5 Date of the next Committee Meeting:** 5 October at 1.30p.m.at 67 Grove Road. The Chairman was thanked for his hospitality and the meeting was closed at 16.15



Briefing Paper for Dales Way Association Committee Meeting  
June 28 2008.

**A: Co-option of Nikki and Stephen to the Committee.** This was sanctioned at the 2008 AGM in the context of them assuming responsibility for finance and membership respectively. Thus far, they have not yet adopted these roles. However the Constitution of the Association gives the Committee power not only to co-opt new committee members but also **appoint new officers** as it may determine. Thus the Committee is formally in a position to appoint Nikki and Stephen as Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Membership Secretary respectively.

**B: The Future of the Association**

The 2008 AGM decided two things: (1) To accept the offer of help from Nikki and Stephen and if this were realized to plan the way forward on June 28.

(2) If they were not able to help, then at the June committee meeting plans would be put in place to call an Extraordinary General Meeting in the autumn of 2008 to discuss the dissolution of the Association.

What could not be clarified at the AGM was whether the offer of help from Nikki and Stephen be in its self adequate for the Committee to think that the Association could continue as at present.

There appears to be at least three possible courses of action for the Committee on June 28 when it discusses the consequences of the new assistance

(i): - The Association could and should continue as at present.

For there to be a successful future of the Association, members of the present Committee should be clear as to their desire to continue with their responsibilities.

(ii) - That with the new help the Association could continue at least for the immediate future but that efforts must continue to be made to seek new committee members who would assume some of the responsibilities of managing the Association.

(iii) - That despite this offer of help from Stephen and Nikki, the other factors which lead the Committee in Oct 2007 to favour a move towards a non membership organization were sufficiently important that steps should be taken to implement the resolution of the AGM. In this scenario, the help from Steve and Nikki would again be crucially important over the next few months.

If either scenarios (i) or (ii) were taken then it is desirable that the membership is told within the next few months and probably before the end of 2008.

*In all of these scenarios the Committee may wish to establish now the nature of the formalities that must be met if it were decided in the short or medium term to move from a membership based organization to a "Trust".*