

MINUTES OF THE DALES WAY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

held at 1.30pm on Saturday 18 July 2009 at St Chads Parish Centre, Leeds

Present: Colin Speakman, Alex McManus, Nikki Trask, Douglas Cossar, Steve Taylor, Heather Collinson, Rhona Thornton, Carol Crossland

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Frank Sanderson, Bill Griffiths, Chris Musson

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 10 January 2008 were accepted subject to the alteration of the current price of the Handbook as detailed in 'Matters arising'.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 25 April 2009 were reviewed. Colin Speakman thanked Steve Taylor for his comprehensive recording of the meeting.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

Colin showed the Committee members the letter from the Duke of Devonshire following the 40th Anniversary accepting Honorary Membership of the Dales Way Association. The Committee unanimously approved this appointment.

Dales Way 40th Anniversary Celebrations have been a resounding success including the lovely occasion of cutting the cake at Bolton Abbey and some excellent publicity for the Association in the Dalesman and West Riding Rambler. The public walk on the 25th April was a great success with high numbers attending, bringing new members to the Association and also 2 new committee members coming forward. Colin commented that David Smith would have been delighted at the success of the event.

Douglas asked if there was a scrapbook for the Dales Way and it was agreed that this was an excellent idea and should be implemented. Carol Crossland volunteered to maintain the scrapbook and the Committee agreed the purchase of an appropriate scrapbook. It was thought that Frank may have some valuable pieces for addition and Colin would pass on David Smith's box to Carol as it was likely that there would be items worthy of keeping.

It was noted that the price of the Handbook was recorded as £2 in the 10 January Committee Meeting minutes when the actual cost is currently £1.50. Carol to correct this.

It was raised that the cost of membership at £4 did not cover the costs of the handbook, sending out newsletter and correspondence etc and this would be discussed later in the meeting under 'Handbook'.

5. General Secretary's Report

Due to computer problems Steve was not able to circulate his report, however he reported that Sales of Handbooks etc was going well and donations since August stood at £350. In general the Anniversary Walks were going well with the exception of the next stage being over-subscribed. Letters had been sent to walkers regarding this and it was agreed that 34 was the absolute maximum number able to be accommodated. Steve will send Alex the list of attendees during the week prior to the 25th July.

Colin expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Committee for the work Steve has put in, to make the walks a success.

It was noted that the bus company has been extremely flexible during the walks programme and Charlie has been invaluable and thoughtful during the programme, parking at strategic points along the way and having water available to purchase after the walks.

Walkers would be reminded on the next walk that we propose to make a donation for Charlie at the end. Steve Taylor to incorporate this in any communications to the walkers.

6. Treasurers Report

Rhona pointed out that the Accounts were not strictly accurate as there would be some handbooks in stock and these should be included as assets.

It was suggested that there should be sub account for the Handbooks, however Colin also pointed out that this would right itself in the next year's Accounts.

Nikki reported total income April to July of £3,277.47 and total outgoings of £3,172.96 giving surplus of £104.71. Deposit account at March 09 is £11,314.58.

Main expenses being Handbook publication, Newsletter publication, Coach Hire, Renewal of PO Box, Postage, and Expenses. Nikki reported that new members are coming through at a rate of 8-10 per month with some overseas members.

Colin commented that this would be Nikki's last report and she confirmed that due to full time work commitments she was unable to continue her role as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Nikki expressed a wish to remain on the Committee and this was welcomed and accepted. Carol Crossland has volunteered to take on this role and Nikki and Carol are to meet shortly for a handover and to facilitate the necessary changes for the bank account etc.

It was formally agreed by the Committee that Carol Crossland be appointed Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Colin expressed thanks to Nikki for her work and for 'saving the day' during what was a difficult time for the Association.

7. Webmaster Report

The report had already been circulated which demonstrated that the use of the site was growing. Alex had already informed Chris that some of the links were not working. With regard to the diversion at Cleabarrow the changes were loaded on the website before permissions had been given and consequently the map is not correct, however this will be rectified.

Alex has suggested that a slide show of the Dales Way could be provided on the web site as he has a large number of photographs, accumulated whilst walking the path and also some from the Anniversary Walks. It was suggested that highlights of each stage could be shown together with captions and possibly music (there is the copyright issue) Alex's son may be able to help with the music. All agreed that this was an excellent idea. It was also suggested that this slide show could be a 'taster' for a more comprehensive CD which could be purchased.

8. Footpath Officers Report

The report had already been circulated and Alex gave a resume of the contents. Waymarks have been replaced and new ones added along the way.

Colin remarked that there was a large amount of road walking on the last Dales Way Walk through Dentdale and suggested an alternative route which was a higher level route, and would eliminate this. Douglas commented that this was a tougher and longer route.

It was suggested and agreed that the Committee walk the alternative route in the autumn, taking the train to Dent. A report would then be prepared and the thoughts of members could be sought in the Newsletter.

Alex will follow up the problem of the wall maintenance alongside the B5284 and contact the Footpaths Officer of the Lake District Area Ramblers and it was noted that the Cumbria County Council may need to be involved.

9. Newsletter

Colin commented that Steve Taylor has a heavy workload in particular in relation to the newsletter and asked how the Committee could help. He suggested an assistant, however, Steve did not think that this would be helpful.

Alex was able to provide stories from his walks and Steve had various items for inclusion already in the next newsletter.

Douglas suggested that topics relating to significant sights and customs etc along the Dales Way, could be featured (eg The Knitters of Dent, prominent buildings and their history; an obvious one being Bolton Abbey). It was agreed that this would be a good idea, particularly in view of the fact that the majority of members live outside the area.

Colin passed Steve details of Frank's new gallery for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

It was noted that caution should be exercised in connection with the size of the newsletter and the number of pages; taking into consideration the cost of postage etc.

The next newsletter would be published after the next Committee Meeting, therefore any reports for inclusion should be received by Steve by end of September.

Walk leaders were asked to send a report of each Anniversary Walk to Steve for the Newsletter.

10. End of 40th Anniversary Walks

Colin announced that Frank Sanderson had suggested a celebration at the Dales Way Seat with possibly some Councillors in attendance.

Each walk leader is to send a report of their walk to Frank so that he can pass to Councillors.

A discussion took place as to what the type of celebration would be appropriate.

All agreed that due to the location of the end of the Dales Way, and the distance to be travelled back to Ilkley, that it should be a short event with perhaps a photo and a glass of something.

This would give some time in Bowness if people wished to make their own celebration of dipping their boot in Windermere.

Alex informed the Committee that some of the ladies from the group had suggested some form of celebration at the end and it was agreed that a meal in Ilkley would be appropriate. Suggested venue was Bar T'at bistro. Heather volunteered to organise and liaise with venue for costs etc.

Alex to announce the plans on next walk to find out how many people would be interested and deposit to be collected on the subsequent walk. Cost approx £15.00; drinks to be personal expense. Charlie to be invited and gift could be presented at the event.

Colin will speak with Frank to let him know about the arrangements.

11. Handbook

As a result of emails from walkers it was agreed that diversions needed to be updated in the Handbook. Douglas to take over the production of the handbook and Rhona will assist.

It was agreed by the Committee that the cost of the handbook to be raised to £2.

Accommodation provider details are required for the entire route for inclusion in next edition of the Handbook by mid December. Heather to contact providers and Carol will provide a list of accommodation providers who are currently members.

It was agreed that it was the responsibility of the whole Committee to try and find more providers.

It would also be useful to include information regarding cafes opening and closing, both in the Handbook and on the Website.

Douglas agreed to take over the retail of the handbook, in particular to the National Park Centres and Tourist Information Offices. Douglas committed to sending the handbook for printing before Christmas for retail in the New Year.

12. Review of Operation of Dales Way Association

The Committee all agreed that the Committee was working extremely well as a team and that the new arrangements meant that the workload was more evenly spread.

The success of the Anniversary Walks demonstrated this and the Committee had communicated with each other much more as a result.

It was agreed that it might be possible to arrange further walks in the future, Colin distributed details of the ones arranged this summer by The Yorkshire Dales Society. This will be discussed further at future meetings. Douglas suggested some circular walks might be an option.

13. Next Meeting

24th October at St Chads.

Rhona Thornton expressed that she wished to stand down from the Committee, however she is happy to help Douglas with the Handbook. Colin asked Rhona if she would stay until the next AGM, however Rhona did not wish to do so.

14. AOB

The Committee agreed that a donation should be made to the Mountain Rescue Association as follows :

Cave Rescue Centre, Clapham	£25
Upper Wharfedale Rescue	£25

Meeting closed at 3.35pm

Colin Sanderson
24/10/09.