

**MINUTES OF DALES WAY ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
24 OCTOBER 2009 – ST CHADS**

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Frank Sanderson, Douglas Cossar and Nikki Trask.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 18th July 2009 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere:

Final Dales Way Anniversary Walk – Colin expressed a public vote of thanks to Steve for his superb organisation of the walks and to Heather for her organisation of the dinner at the end of the final walk. All agreed that the Anniversary celebrations had been a great success.

Autumn walk via the alternative route in Dentdale, with possibly a high level and low level route – it was suggested that this could be a planned walk for late spring/early summer next year – it was agreed that this be an agenda item for a future committee meeting.

4. General Secretary's Report

Steve reported that donations were continuing to come in at a good level - £202 in last quarter. Regarding the handbooks at the moment there are 155 left from the 1200 initial supply, and would further copies be needed before the 2010 copies are available, Steve to speak to Douglas re this.

11 new members taking membership to 485 – highest ever.

It was discussed whether it a change of venue for the AGM might be possible in order to attract more members, CC offered to do a postcode scan to determine the spread of location for members, and this could be discussed at the next meeting.

Stocks of the badges are getting low and Steve enquired where the badges were ordered from. Carol will check through paid invoices to see if the source can be identified.

Steve confirmed that his email connection would not be reinstated, most of his communication being by post. Hard copies of emails should be posted to the Dales Way PO Box and people can contact him by phone, as he has an answerphone system ensuring that messages can be responded to.

5. Treasurers Report

Member numbers standing at 485.

Colin asked if analysis could be done as to the profitability of the anniversary walks and sent out with the minutes, Carol to carry out this exercise.

It was discussed as to whether the subscription should be increased to £6.00 with an offer of family membership at £8.00. It was agreed that this proposal would be put to the next AGM.

Income and expenditure for the quarter showed a deficit, however this was not a reflection of funds in the bank as a number of payments for the coach hire for the Anniversary Walks had been made in the quarter when the actual receipts of coach hire charges from walkers had been received earlier in the year.

6. Web Masters Report

Chris reported that the stats showed that the website is getting a good number of visits and the page showing the geographic spread proved interesting. QDK are still looking at the possibility of the slide show but progress appears slow. Chris is able to alter the News page but not other parts of the website, therefore Alex and Chris to investigate alternatives, ie powerpoint with a link on the front page (ie Gallery). This could incorporate two slide shows - taster and 40th Anniversary Walks.

7. Footpath Officers Report

Alex's comprehensive report is attached and Alex highlighted some of the content. The minutes of the Dales Way Association Liaison Meeting are also attached. The newly formed Friends of 3 Peaks was discussed and it was suggested that the Dales Way Association become a member. All agreed and in addition to the membership fee of £10, a donation to be made of £15, Carol to organise.

8. Accommodation Representative Report

Heather reported that due to time constraints it was impossible to contact all providers in time for the Handbook, therefore there will be an item in the Newsletter asking for a representative from each area to collate information and pass to Heather. The Committee also agreed that the providers had to take responsibility for making sure that their details were correct.

Heather asked about any actions that may be taken as a result of complaints and Colin confirmed that DWA were not responsible for vetting accommodation, however it was agreed that should three complaints be received then the accommodation would be withdrawn from the Handbook and Website.

9. Newsletter

Due to the inclusion of reports of the Anniversary Walks it was agreed that a copy of the Newsletter be sent to all non member walkers who attended the Walks, together with a membership form. Steve reported that an item has been included to ask for volunteers to clear paths as per the recent meeting at the National Park Authority. The request for information for Tea Rooms would be included in the Newsletter. There was discussion as to whether an article should be included regarding a walk which had been completed for charity from Bowness to Wetherby. In general it was felt that the Dales Way is not a 'challenge walk' and should not be promoted as such. In accordance with the constitution of the Dales Way Association no further led walks will be planned for next year and this will be confirmed in the Newsletter.

10. Badge & Certificate Orders

Problems regarding the recent case of Berry was discussed. Steve reported that the badges had been sent out, however it would appear they got lost in the post and the problem escalated due to the fact that Steve was not receiving emails. Replacement badges and an apology have now been sent.

11. Handbook

Carol reported that Douglas has asked for information to be included in the Handbook to be submitted by 1st December 2009 latest. Tearooms - all agreed that the proposal put forward by Steve was an excellent idea and Steve to go ahead and include in the Newsletter.

12. Date of next Committee Meeting

6th February 2010 at St Chads

13. Any other Business, there being no other business the meeting closed at 3.20 pm.

Colin Salmon - 13th Feb '10