

**MINUTES OF THE DALES WAY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Held at 1.30pm on Saturday 13th February at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley**

Present: Colin Speakman, Alex McManus, Douglas Cossar, Steve Taylor, Heather Collinson, Bill Griffiths, Carol Crossland, Chris Musson

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

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 24th October 2009 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere:

Douglas asked if the suppliers of the badges had been discovered, Carol reported that she had not been able to find anything. Douglas informed the meeting that Jacque Mart were the suppliers.

Anniversary Walks – Colin read out a letter from the Duke giving thanks for the DVD of the Anniversary Walks which Alex had put together and gave the letter to Alex.

Douglas raised the subject of Steve's access to email and other committee members expressed concern regarding this. However, Steve felt that the majority of his work came via the postal system and he would not be reconnecting his email service. Colin asked what would be the best way forward and Steve suggested that telephone or text could be used, if Steve was not available then a message could be left and Steve will get back as soon as possible.

4. General Secretary's Report

Steve reported that due to problems with the printers, he was considering changing to the same printers as the handbook, however the costs were considerably higher. Steve raised the point about whether the newsletter should be sent electronically and it was agreed that in the next newsletter members would be asked if they would be prepared to receive the newsletter via email. It was also suggested that the newsletter could be posted on the website. The Newsletter was a separate agenda item and would be covered later in the meeting.

Steve also suggested a DWA calendar might be an idea, however it was not thought that this was a good idea at the present time.

5. Treasurer/Membership Secretary's Report.

Carol reported that membership numbers are standing at 462 as a result of an audit of members who had fallen outside of the three months grace for paying their subscriptions.

£1,000 had been transferred from deposit as a result of the deficit during the period, mainly as a result of the higher than normal costs of the Autumn Newsletter. Bill expressed concern at this as it was thought that reserves would be exhausted if the current trend continued. Carol pointed out that it had already been identified that the subscription level was not covering the costs of two newsletters and the handbooks, and the proposed increase in subscriptions to be raised at the forthcoming AGM should alleviate this problem.

6. WebMasters Report

Chris presented the stats on Website visits which continue to be encouraging. Chris presented the options for the Taste of the Dales Way' and it was suggested that a link on the website would be a good option. Alex asked everyone to look at the CD again and offer feedback prior to final editing. Rhona had suggested that the scarecrow section be left out and this was agreed.

Chris also reported some broken links, (Brigantes, Windermere Travel and Scotts Chauffer drive), Carol agreed to check to see if subscriptions had been renewed.

7. Footpath Officers Report

Alex gave a resume of his report, highlighting the issues around the Mary Edwards letter.

He also gave details of the new Harrogate link to the Dales Way and felt that this new route should be supported, however the old route was still in existence if required. He reported that the Harrogate Ramblers would be walking new route on August 21st and this should be included in the next Newsletter and posted on the website.

On the subject of the Dales Way CD, Douglas asked if a DVD could be made so that this could be played on TV. Alex agreed that this could be done.

Colin passed details to Alex regarding proposals to renovate a derelict house and build a new bridge at Cowside, one mile south of Oughtershaw. Colin expressed his concern that this could have serious implications for the Dales Way and asked Alex to liaise with the National Park Authority and take appropriate action.

8. Accommodation Providers Report

Heather reported that representatives had not come forward as had been asked for in the last Newsletter, and she had not had any further information from providers. Douglas pointed out that it was also important to look for new providers and the importance of correct information for existing providers to be provided to him within set timescales for the Handbook each year. It was agreed that a form should be sent to all the current providers to update their entries for the next Handbook. This could be done via email and Committee members would be able to help Heather set up an email distribution list if required. Carol also to provide up to date details of providers who had not renewed their subscriptions in time for the next Handbook.

9. Newsletter

Colin suggested that it was important to think carefully about the future of the format of the Newsletter. Sometimes as a result of enthusiasm and the love of writing it has been easy to move away from the real purpose of the publication, which is to give relevant information and news regarding the Dales Way footpath. It was also felt that due to increasing printing and postage costs, a set space should be set, say 20 pages, which would limit the size and ensure that the key information is included; if there is space for additional copy then this could be accommodated.

Colin felt that the burden of the Newsletter should be shared out amongst the Committee, rather than laying solely with Steve and suggested an Editorial Committee be formed, with Douglas, Alex, Carol and Steve being the members. This was agreed by the Committee. It was agreed that in order to meet the deadline of posting out the Newsletter mid April, it would be necessary for the Editorial Committee to meeting at the beginning of March to agree the content. Steve to send out the copy he has already written and other required copy (ie notice of AGM, notice of change to Subscription, Treasurer Report, Harrogate Dales Way Link, etc) to be brought to the meeting.

10. Handbook

Douglas reported that the 2010 Handbook was not ready, he had emailed it to the printers on 11 Jan, however, the attachment had not arrived. He will be delivering the disk to the printers next day and Steve should have it within the next 10 days. However, it is not satisfactory as the listings are not up to date and he reiterated the importance of getting information to him in time, stating that when he asks for the information, he needs it 'yesterday'. Carol made the point that this is not always possible as Committee Members have other commitments eg work, which might preclude them from doing this. Douglas also raised the point of the adverts which he was unaware whether they had been paid for. Carol to send out invoices for this year's adverts.

11. Future Meetings

2010 AGM to be held on 22nd May at Linton Village Hall, with a walk prior to the meeting. Carol to book (now confirmed).

It was agreed that it was not necessary to hold a further Committee meeting prior to the AGM.

12. AOB

(a) Alex announced that he was planning the Dent Walk which had been discussed at earlier Committee Meetings for a Saturday in the summer. This to be posted in the Newsletter.

(b) Alex also gave details of plans to build a bridge at Crossdale Beck, the local RA have already pledged some funding and he felt that as the bridge would have a positive effect on the Dales Way proposed that DWA should give a donation. Douglas asked for the cost of the bridge to be determined prior to naming a figure. However, it was agreed that a donation would be made up to a maximum of £500. Alex to communicate this.

(b) Colin gave details of the proposed Boundary Changes to the National Park which will have a positive impact on the Dales Way, particularly in the Lune Valley. Colin proposed that the DWA fully support the proposals and suggested that a letter of support be sent. This was unanimously agreed by the Committee and Alex as Footpath Officer to deal with this.

(d) Colin presented the discussion paper on the YDS initiative for the Yorkshire Dales Green Networks. Colin proposed that the DWA should apply for Gold Membership reflecting the work that the DWA does and at the same time become a Corporate Member of the Yorkshire Dales Society (£26.00 per annum). This would mean that the DWA would be able to vote at YDS AGM Meetings and it would also help promote the DWA to other members of the Yorkshire Dales Society. It was unanimously agreed that the proposal be accepted. Colin to arrange for application forms to be sent to Carol for completion.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.40pm and Colin was thanked for his hospitality.