

**Minutes of the Dales Way Association
Committee Meeting 16th October 2010 held at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley**

Present: Colin Speakman, Chris Musson, Nikki Trask, Carol Crossland,
Alex McManus, Don Holliday.

1. Apologies for absence

were received from Frank Sanderson and Douglas Cossar.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 13th February 2010 were agreed as being a true record of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the 18th AGM held on 22nd May 2010

were reviewed.

4. No matters arising not covered elsewhere

5. Membership Secretary & Treasurers Report

A copy of the report is attached, together with the total bank balance.

It was agreed that the Post Office Box would remain in Steve Taylor's name to ensure continuity of the post office box number.

The vacant post of Committee Secretary was discussed and it was agreed that Chris would put this on the website. It was also suggested that a letter could be sent to all the people who attended the Anniversary walks, however, Carol expressed concern about the time it would take to identify contact details if they were not members. Carol informed the Committee that in view of her workload at the moment, particularly the amount of time needed to administer the change in subs for bankers orders, she would not be able to continue as minutes secretary after the current meeting. Alex offered to record the minutes if Carol would arrange the meetings. This was agreed by Carol and Alex.

6. Webmasters Report.

Web page hits are very good and there are 29 active users on Facebook.

Alex asked about some changes that were necessary as a result of updating the news page, and also in view of the Harrogate/Ilkley link a connecting line between the two points needs to be inserted. Chris informed Alex that the connecting line would need to be done by QDK as he is not able to change anything on this page. This led to a discussion about the use and costings of QDK and whether an alternative could be sourced. Nikki informed the Committee that a work colleague may be interested in providing support (Colin agree some payment would be available for this) in this area and it was agreed that Nikki would speak to the colleague and get back to Colin. Alex to email Chris with details of the changes needed to the news page and Carol asked for the membership application to be updated with the new subscription levels.

7. Footpath Officers Report

The majority of Alex' report can be found in the last Newsletter

Alex gave a resume of the YDNPA Liaison meeting on 5th October. Main points being – Permissive path between Buckden & Hubberholme will not be proceeding as the farmer involved is not happy with the position of the proposed path, shelved for now but still to be on agenda.

Bridge at Crossdale Beck - application for planning permission to go to November Meeting with construction by end of financial year (31/3).DWA had already earmarked £500 donation for this and this was agreed by the Committee. Official letter to be sent from DWA supporting this construction.

Foot counter at Holme Hill – no results had been forthcoming, however Alex has now received these since the meeting.

Liaison Meetings at Cumbria Country Access group to be held and Alex will be attending the first meeting on 18th November. Don possibly to be involved in future meetings, but Alex to attend the first one.

Cumbria County Council & Lake District National Park Authority have recognised Dales Way as a national trail.

Silver plaques now in place at certain points along the Dales Way, however these are disappointing.

1km of riverside path at Buckden has been made accessible by creating a level aggregate surface, and it is intended to install three rest points along the way. DWA have been asked if we would like to contribute to these. Costings have not yet been received, therefore not possible to make a decision at this meeting.

It was thought that it would be a good idea to explore the alternative route into Dentdale to avoid the large amount of road walking. This alternative walk could be held early in May (possibly May Day bank holiday), and would be accessible from Dent Station. This could be publicised in the Newsletter and on the Website. All agreed that this would be a good idea and would provide an official event for the DWA which would be a good opportunity to find volunteers for the Committee.

8. Accommodation Providers Report.

Nikki has been in contact with accommodation providers listed in Handbook and has had a good response. She has updated records in preparation for handing details to Douglas for the 2011 Handbook by 1st December. It was suggested that in the difficult times ahead, providers may benefit from offering special deals (eg midweek offers, special deals for more than one night's booking or offering lifts from the route).

9. Newsletter

Everyone agreed that the recent newsletter was excellent and it was felt the publication was now 'back to normal'. The next publication would be distributed in April and it was expected that the newsletters would be ready for envelope stuffing on 8th April.

10. Handbook

Douglas requires updates for the Handbook by 1st December. Alex queried the printing costs for the last Handbook at £887. Carol to check how many, in order to identify if a cheaper supplier could be found. **(The price of £887 was for 1200).**

2011 handbook will be available in January for distribution to new members and existing members will receive their copies with the Newsletter in April.

The Committee agreed that the inserts requested by Jacquetta regarding her book would not be put in the handbook as it was felt that a precedent would be set by this action. Alex to offer Jacquetta a half page advert in the Handbook for £50 and a link on the website.

11. Next Meetings

Next Committee Meeting set for 26th February 2011.

2011 AGM to be held on 21st May 2011

12. Any Other Business

Three Peaks Corporate Event to be held on 18th November, however all members of the Committee were unable to attend. Should anyone find that they are able to attend, please let Carol know asap – deadline 9 November.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm and Colin was thanked for his hospitality.

**Treasurer & Membership Secretary's Report for 16th October
DWA Committee Meeting.**

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 6 MONTHS TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2010

Income	£3274.75	Expenditure	£2682.51
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Main items of income and expenditure:

Donations	£637.00	Handbook printing	£887.00
Handbook	£305.00	Newsletters	£648.46
Certificates	£100.50	Accountancy	£240.88
		General Postage	£225.74
		Expenses	£504.00

Surplus at end of September	£592.24
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Plus current account balance at 1 April	£916.16
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Total bank account balance at 30th September	£11172.98
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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

21 new members since 1st April. Membership currently stands at 435, following the usual audit, and removing any members who have not paid within the three months grace. 11 Accommodation providers have not renewed their membership and I will liaise with Nikki on this.

The main focus for me over the last few months has been to manage the transition of the increased subscription fee for our members who pay by bankers order – approx 50%.

Following the agreement to the increase at the AGM in May I wrote to all members who paid by bankers order whose membership was due in the following three months enclosing a new bankers order for completion (copy of letter attached). I have continued to write to members on a monthly basis in advance of their membership being due in order to give enough time for them to complete the new order prior to the payment leaving their account.

The results have been mixed, with some people returning new bankers orders promptly enabling me to send these off in time and others who where the timescale has been too short to enable the bank to process before the monies leave their account. Also because I have kept a record of the bankers orders sent to the banks, I am also beginning to notice that some new orders have not been actioned by the banks as the old amount of £4 has been received in our account.

However, as I have been monitoring the process I have adequate records to enable me to follow up on these anomalies and I will need to spend some time on this over the coming months. There are 55 members to date who have paid by standing order at the lower level.

I feel that we have to accept that it is going to take some time to get everyone on the correct level – probably into the next financial year.

We also need to update the membership application page on the website to reflect the new levels for new members, as the current cost is incorrect at £5.

Carol Crossland

Dales Way Meeting 16th October 2010

Web Secretaries Report

The web site has had a period when I have added things as and when needed.

Updates and inclusions and alterations have been added as requested.

If there are any suggestions I will be only too happy to try and incorporate them.

Attached are the latest Stats.

Chris

DALESWAY STATISTICS 2009

MONTH	UK	TOTAL VISITS
JANUARY	921	3269
FEBRUARY	2138	7221
MARCH	1249	4145
APRIL	1641	4672
MAY	1390	4700
JUNE	1040	3579
JULY	1046	3678
AUGUST	1117	3736
SEPTEMBER	889	3846
OCTOBER	646	3704
NOVEMBER	651	3731
DECEMBER	506	3482

DALESWAY STATS FOR 2010

January	790	3715
February	817	3316
March	961	4289
April	1458	6705
May	1073	4707
June	1077	3912
July	1028	4123
August	1262	4835
September	852	4010
October	406	1749 to 14/10/2010
November		
December		