

The Dales Way Association
Committee Meeting – Thursday 17th Jan 2019
11am Friends Meeting House, Settle

Present: Colin Speakman (Chair), Donald Holliday, Chris Grogan, Tony Grogan, Tony Hill, Ryk Downes, Gordon Tasker, Kath Doyle (Minutes).

1- Apologies: Frank Sanderson.

2-Minutes of the Committee Meetings of August 16th 2018 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

3-Matters arising – Action- Chris to order 6 charity boxes for the DW and Donald to deliver one to Hawkshead in Bowness. Tony Hill agreed to place some in Burneside after we have utilised them for the DW 50th celebrations.

Carried forward :

Action- Colin to write to the West Riding Ramblers Association to remind them of their responsibilities regarding the DW link Routes.

Action All committee members to log onto their Wordpress accounts to check they are functioning.

Action Chris to issue a “save the Date” email to the invited guests for the 50th dinner once the guest list is finalised with Colin.

4- Reports from the Areas

LDNPA/Cumbria – Donald reported no current issues. Tony Hill stated that issues tend to be with walkers getting lost near the viaduct on the Lune and this is usually because they are using old guide books and no map, he stated he has checked and that the path is clearly waymarked.

YDNPA –Tony G had received issues, identified by walkers, beyond Settle and passed to Paul Wilkinson who quickly responded that the wall will be fixed and wire fencing looked at, vegetation cut back and the possibility of bridging of the sluice, but confirmed not much can be done with roots. Tony updated the couple who were delighted.

The waymark has been replaced between Gearstones and Dent Road where the footpath joins the bridleway. A report from Lancaster Ramblers of a missing waymark on the turn off to Laithbank, Dentdale, on the North-South route was checked December 2018 and it is still there. Tony informed Ramblers and the Ranger.

The proposed diversion of the DW footpath at West Clint Dentdale from the Farm yard; DWA confirmed we have no objections.

Alan Hulme YDNPA stated that there is the opportunity to install 2 electronic counters on the Dales Way (Yorkshire Dales section) which coincides nicely with the 50th Anniversary and welcomed suggestions for location from the DWA. The committee agreed with Tony’s proposals to replace the existing one for continuity of data and also on the approach to Cam Houses to see how many walkers take the Watershed alternative.

Action- Tony G to confirm with Alan Hulme

Tony G asked the committee if they would be prepared to do some face to face interviews with walkers along the route in this 50th year, mileage would be covered. Committee members agreed.

Action- Tony G to progress with volunteers

Ilkley to Bolton Bridge – Gordon reported that he and Kath had walked this section of the route, recording and photographing every stile, gate and signpost and these are now logged. The broken fence near the Ilkley Tennis Club is in the hands of the landowner to action. No further progress to report on the Staithe at Bolton Bridge. Gordon is in touch with Barbara Henderson who is campaigning for improvements to the road safety on the B6160 near Addingham.

5- Finance Report. Donald confirmed the balance of our bank account as £6694.60 as at 31/12/18. Chris added that our Paypal account currently holds £148.

6- Accommodation, Web and Membership Reports

Accommodation- Tony Hill stated that he is getting better feedback from accommodation providers on changes now. There are now 13 companies offering walks and /or baggage handling on the DW. There is a concern that pubs in the area are facing a really hard time. Chris stated that the B and B - Shepherds Cottage at Winshaw use their own website and are not on the DWA website.

Action – Tony Hill to get in touch with them.

Tony H stated that the residents of Bowston are campaigning regarding the river wildlife and were seeking support from the DW. He responded that it is not normal practice to involve DW in local issues unless they directly affect the route itself.

He updated the committee on the “Vision for Burneside” and stated that Croppers were leading on this and the flood defence work required may determine how the DW is routed through the village.

Website- Tony G stated that he had added a new blog from an American couple to the DWA website and updated the Home Page with Anniversary plans including the story of the first Dales Way walk. He said that the new DW scanned documents archive is now up and running and he will continue to add to this over the coming year.

Membership - Chris reported that the membership database is up to date with active members and the next 3 year membership starts in April 2019. Chris also mentioned that she is giving a talk to Yorkshire Tourism in March at Sedbergh on the contribution of Long Distance Walks to the local economy.

7- Plans for the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the Dales Way in 2019.

Chris confirmed that the **50th Anniversary DWA Celebratory Lunch** would take place at the Cruick Barn at the Craven Arms, Appletreewick on Thursday 20th June 2019 12-4pm with 30 places Colin was pleased to announce that Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary- Open Spaces Society & Chair and Vice- President of the Ramblers would be attending and was happy to speak.

Action- Colin to confirm the guest list to Chris.

Action- Colin to contact Clare Balding to see if she could attend or pre record an interview for the lunch.

Action- Chris to write out with the menu and request for special dietary requirements once acceptances received.

New committee member Ryk Downes confirmed that plans were well developed for the **Punk Panthers 82 mile Ultramarathon “The Dales Way Challenge”** which will start at 8:30 am Saturday 17 August 2019 at Bowness. Competitors must complete the route in 48 hours on Sunday 18th August 2019. Ryk already has 100 competitors registered and plans are progressing for the various checkpoints and facilities on route. Further details can be found on the Punk Panthers website.

Gordon provided a brief update on the proposals for the **DWA 50th Anniversary Exhibition** . which will start on Saturday 3rd August 2019 (to coincide with the public walk.) and run up to and including Saturday 31st August 2019. The Manor House is open weekends and on Wednesdays in August.

He stated that a successful preliminary meeting had taken place with Briggs printers and outlined the dates by which material would be provided, so that the DW banners could be produced by mid May and displayed at the celebratory lunch in June 2019.

Gordon stated that Hawkshead at Bowness had kindly put DW Memories on their Facebook page requesting comments from walkers of the route. He also stated that he had recieved some DW memories from individuals for the exhibition.

Colin said that various organisations were happy to participate in the exhibition if a space could be provided for them eg Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust. Colin stated that Nick Robinson at the Manor House was hugely enthused and willing to help in any way.

Action- Gordon to liaise with Colin to get contact details for the various organisations who have expressed interest.

Action- Tony Hill to contact accommodation providers and Holiday/ baggage handling companies on the route to ask them to provide publicity materials for the exhibition.

Action- Kath and Gordon to contact the National Parks/ Tourist Information/ Bolton Abbey Estate etc for materials for the exhibition.

DWA 50th Anniversary Public Walk will take place on Saturday 3rd August 2019 starting at the Old Bridge in Ilkley, via Addingham, to Bolton Abbey, approximately 6.5 miles. Colin is arranging a vintage double decker bus to transport walkers back to Ilkley in time for the opening of the DW exhibition at 3pm. A charge of £5 per person will be made.

Colin announced he was giving a **DWA Public Lecture** on 22nd August at the Manor House which will be an all ticket event with the proceeds shared between the DWA and the Manor House. There will also be a **DWA Coffee morning** on 30th August at 10.30 am.

Chris outlined the contacts she had made with various publications and other media regarding features re the 50th Anniversary.

Action- Colin to write a piece for “the Dalesman”

Action- Gordon to contact “Trail” Magazine.

Colin stated that Baildon Walkers are Welcome are planning to walk the DW Bradford Link Route between Shipley and Ilkley on Saturday September 14th 2019. All DWA Committee members are welcome.

Action- Colin and Ryk to discuss the Leeds Link Route.

8- 50th Anniversary Spring Newsletter – Items for the newsletter to be sent to Kath by 1st April 2019. Kath will complete and send to Tony G by 17th April 2019. Some articles have already been received from Tony G and Alex Mc Manus.

Action- Colin to provide Chairman’s introduction.

Action – Ryk Downes to provide an article on the Punk Panthers Ultramarathon.

Action- Kath to produce an Anniversary timeline with dates of all the events.

9-Date of next committee meeting Thursday 25th April 2019 at 11am at the Friends Meeting House, Settle.

10- Any other business. There being no other business the meeting closed at 13:10.