

**Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting
of the
Dales Way Association
held at 2:00pm on
Saturday 19th Oct 2019
in
The Flying Duck, Church Street, Ilkley**

Prior to the AGM a group of thirteen DWA members joined Chairman Colin Speakman for a walk from Ilkley Old Bridge. The walk was a four-mile circular from the start of the Dales Way, to Mount Calvary and Middleton Woods then back to Ilkley.

Present:

Colin Speakman (Chairman - Ilkley), Chris Grogan (Secretary - Saltaire), Tony Grogan (Webmaster- Saltaire) Kath Doyle (Minutes & eNewsletter- Yeadon), Gordon Tasker (Footpaths & Archive -Yeadon), Ryk Downes (Committee Member- Old Pool Bank) Alex McManus (Honorary Life Member- Harrogate), Eileen King (Member- Dunmow, Essex), Julia Jardine (Member- Ellesmere, Shropshire) , Ros Langdon (Member- Sunbury, Surrey), Terry Coombes (Member- Stoke Goldington, Bucks.) Elaine Gibson (Member- Cottingham, Hull) ,Mark Beccles Willson (Member – Sheffield), Heike Becker (Member- Sheffield), Pippa Hudson (Member- Wetherby), Judith Smith (Member- Ilkley), Vivienne Moo Ping Boey and Jolyon West (Members- Ilkley), Linda & Eric Crossley (Members- Brighouse).

Apologies:

Frank Sanderson (President), Donald Holliday (Treasurer/Cumbria Rep – Windermere), Tony Hill (Committee Member- Accommodation Providers/Cumbria Rep), Fleur Speakman, Carol Crossland, Rowan Brockhurst, Mr & Mrs Cullingworth, Barbara McBeth, Hilary Drydale, Christine Fox, Terry Marsh, John Wen, Andy Newing, Kevin Yates, Robin and Joan Loveday, Sue and John Unwin.

Minutes of the AGM of Saturday 13th October 2018 were passed as a true and accurate record. There was one matter arising for Gordon to contact Ilkley and Otley Cycling Clubs to seek their support for the B6160 campaign, however Gordon explained this was not required and was covered in his Footpath report.

Introduction and Chairman's Report

Colin warmly welcomed Dales Way Association (DWA) members to the 27th AGM. A full transcript of his report is attached at the end:

Proposed: Vivienne Moo Ping Boey

Seconded: Jolyon West

Colin then invited Ryk Downes to provide a verbal update from the Punk Panthers DW Ultramarathon held in August and he firstly thanked all those who had helped steward the event. It had been a great success with 109 finishers from 130 starters. Entrants had ranged in age from 18 to 70. Ryk then presented Colin with a cheque for £1,300 for the DWA and explained that a similar amount would be donated to DalesBus.

Footpath Officer's Reports

- **Start of DW to Bolton Bridge** : Gordon Tasker
- **YDNPA**: Tony Grogan
- **Lake District**: Donald /Tony Hill

Membership Secretary's Report Chris Grogan.

Tony G stated he had started to look at the potential of introducing Life Membership of the DWA and the different financial models other organisations used. Mark Beckles Willson stated that this would require careful management of funds.

Action: Referred the issue to the DWA Committee for further work so that we can meet the 1st April 2020 deadline for renewals.

Website Report Tony Grogan

Tony stated that he had 2 items missing from the DWA archive records he was scanning. Julia Jardine was able to help with the missing newsletter and the item has been scanned and returned to her with many thanks.

Accommodation Providers Report Tony Hill

Full committee reports attached at end:

Treasurer's Report

Chris presented the annual accounts on behalf of Donald, who sent his apologies to the meeting. Colin thanked Donald for his sterling work as our Treasurer on behalf of all the committee and members. DWA Accounts attached at end:

Colin asked the meeting for approval of Martin Bairstow of Spenser Wilson as the DWA accountant for the next financial year.

All above reports and actions agreed unanimously.

Proposed: Chris Grogan

Seconded: Judith Smith

Election of Officers and Committee

The following people agreed to stand as Officers and Committee Members for the year 2019-20

President	Frank Sanderson
Chairman	Colin Speakman
Footpaths	DW start to Bolton Bridge: Gordon Tasker & Kath Doyle YDNPA: Tony Grogan Cumbria & the Lake District: Donald Holiday and Tony Hill
Treasurer	Gordon Tasker
Secretary	Chris Grogan
Web Administrator	Tony Grogan
Newsletters/ Minutes	Kath Doyle
Accommodation Providers	Tony Hill
Archivist	Gordon Tasker
Committee Member	Ryk Downes

Proposed: Alex Mc Manus

Seconded : Eileen King

The vote was unanimous.

Action: DWA Members to consider and let Chris Grogan know if they would be interested in joining the DWA committee this year. There is an opportunity to come along to a committee meeting prior to volunteering to see if this is something they would like to be involved in.

Any Other Business -none.

Presentation – The Dales Way at 50

Colin gave an informative powerpoint presentation with many photographs of the 50th anniversary of the Dales Way which was enjoyed by all.

There being no further business Colin thanked everyone for coming, particularly those members who had travelled some distance to attend, the meeting closed at 16:00

Chair's Annual Report 2019

One single factor has dominated the work of the Dales Way Association in 2019 – the 50th Anniversary of the Dales Way – not the Dales Way Association which is a mere stripling at 28 years old, but the Anniversary of the year, 1969, in which a small group of dedicated ramblers began to realise their vision of an 80 mile footpath route not just from Ilkley to the Lake District but also with links from the centres of Leeds, Bradford and Harrogate, thus connecting urban West Yorkshire with two of England's greatest National Parks – by continuous footpath.

But before we get to thinking about those celebrations, it is important we recall that at the same time, the Association has been dealing with all the usual day to day matters of looking after the route, dealing with problems over broken stiles and signs, fallen trees and even four years after Storm Desmond the last problems around Burneside bridge of storm damage.

We also deal with increasing numbers of enquiries, suggestions and comments from users of the route, the overwhelming majority of which include expressions of gratitude for a walk that is so universally loved.

We have a small but highly dedicated team of very talented officers, a committee who actually do things not just sit through meetings, and I cannot emphasise enough how lucky we are to have such brilliant people to look after the Dales Way with our many local authority and National Park partners.

However, this year for a variety of reasons, we have seen the retirement of two of our stars. First Alec MacManus, from Harrogate who for more than a decade has been our superb – I would also say fearsome - Footpath Secretary, in the front line of dealing with problems on the ground and tackling such issues as missing waymarks or broken stiles with an energy which totally belies the fact that he is an octogenarian. Sadly, finally this year, Alex decide it was time to hand over to a younger person, and suffice it to say, it has required at least three people to replace him – Gordon in the Bradford/North Yorkshire area between here and Bolton Abbey, Tony Grogan in the National Park and Tony Hills supported by Donald in the North. But Alex has also done much to promote the Society, writing a good deal of the newsletters both printed and electronic versions in times past, as well as his popular DVDs of the Dales Way.

Thank you Alex for your wonderful work over such a long time. We can of course offer you warm thanks from the Dales Way Association but your real thanks are from the many thousands of people who walk and enjoy the Dales every day of the year.

This year we have also sadly, lost another key member of our team – Don Holliday our very efficient and hard working Treasurer who has looked after our finances again for around a decade. Ill-health has forced Donald to retire as he is no longer allowed to drive because of a medical condition and therefore cannot attend meetings. But we are delighted to learn that he will remain with us as our main contact with the Kendal Ramblers in the Cumbria parts of the Dales Way and I know will support Tony Hills in dealing with issues in the north. But again thank you Donald for your outstanding contribution to our work.

Thankfully, another of our stars, Gordon Tasker, has risen to the challenge and offered to take over the key role as Treasurer of the Association. Many thanks Gordon for that.

But thanks are also due to the rest of the team who hopefully will be around in 2020 to take the Dales Way forward – our tireless general secretary Chris who is the dynamo buzzing behind us to ensure everything happens when and how it should, Kath who not only produces very accurate an

precise minutes of meetings but also is doing a superb job with our newsletter, Tony who combines duties both as our webmaster and now footpath officer for the Dales Way in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Our newest recruit is a Punk Panther – Ryk Downes who has brought a new dimension to the Dales Way Association, that of running. The Punk Panther Ultra Marathon Dales Way 50th anniversary run from Windermere to Ilkley held in mid-August was not only a huge success with over 130 runners, but has as we will learn has produced a very substantial donation to the Association to further our work, and this superbly managed event caused little or no damage or disturbance to the Dales Way or its other users and is a model to how things should be done, so welcome Ryk - who shares our passion for the Dales Way.

I will be saying rather more about the 50th anniversary celebrations in a few minutes time, but suffice it to see each and every one of our Committee members has made an outstanding contribution to our amazingly enjoyable and very well publicised events over this summer.

I would also add our thanks to our President Frank Sanderson, who because of his health problems related to his advancing years - Frank is in his early 90s - is not able to get to meetings easily, was able to join us for our Anniversary dinner in June – and it was great to see him in fine form giving us a very entertaining and witty speech.

And finally, thanks to you, our members for your wonderful support during our Golden Jubilee year. Without your support we do not exist, and neither would the Dales Way.

It has all been a fantastic achievement. And I can only offer you, as Chairman of the Dales Way Association, my heartfelt thanks.

Colin Speakman

Committee Reports 2018-19

Agenda Item 4. Footpath Reports

Bradford District Council – Gordon Tasker and Kath Doyle

Issue 1: Identified September 2018 at the metal kissing gate, Ilkley Tennis Club where a well-worn path had been formed to the left of the gate and over the field's boundary fence which was little more than broken low wire fencing.

Latest Position: Bradford Council made the landowner aware of the matter. There has been no further contact with the landowner. The recorded footpath is open and available and that is Bradford Council's area of concern. There is an issue if any walker trespasses off the path but the landowner is aware and it is up to him as to what action is taken to restore his boundary and protect his land.

Issue 2: Bradford Council had received a report of concerns about the condition of the wall of the Riverview Nursing Home adjacent to The Dales Way.

Latest Position: Bradford Council have been in touch with the Manager and repairs to the wall are being arranged.

Issue 3: Bradford Council had received concerns about vehicles visiting the Ilkley Tennis Club and parking on the footway and blocking the route for pedestrians

Latest Position: Bradford Council have written to the Tennis Club to ask them to remind members to keep the route clear at all times

Issue 4: Bradford Council ordered some resurfacing work on the Dales Way between Bark Lane and High Mill in Addingham. This involved clearing vegetation and laying a new crushed stone surface on this well used section.

Latest Position: Re-surfacing and fence replacement work between Bark Lane and High Mill has been completed. There has also been some work done on the section of path beyond the caravan park.



Issue 5: Bradford Council had permission to convert two stiles specifically a wood stile and a high ladder stile approaching Bolton Road into pedestrian gates planned to be completed during summer 2019.

Latest Position: The ladder stile has been replaced with a pedestrian gate. The high wooden step stile is due to be replaced with a kissing gate in the near future. The kissing gate was ordered in May 2019 but has only just arrived.

Issue 6: Brought to the attention of the Dales Way by a walker and reported to Bradford Council is the sign at the junction of Ilkley Road and Old Lane directing walkers onto Old Lane, through Low Mill to Addingham. The sign is being lost in an Ash tree and its visibility and onwards direction is unclear.

Latest Position: Bradford Council remember erecting the sign before the millennium, so it's done 20 years! They have stated it's not easy to pick a place to put a sign because of the curve in the road but they are investigating what can be done to improve the situation.



North Yorkshire County Council – Gordon Taker and Kath Doyle

Issue 1: Brought to the attention of the Dales Way by a walker and reported to North Yorkshire County Council is the sign is at the corner of Lobwood House Drive directing walkers into fields beside the B6160 onto Bolton Bridge. It has fallen down.

Latest Position: Contact Mike Gurney no longer covers the Dales Way and issues need reporting via paths@northyorkshire.gov.uk the generic email address. Nick Bunting, NYCC has forwarded accordingly and we will receive an acknowledgement containing a unique reference number.

In terms of signpost replacement, NYCC review these on an annual basis, and decide which ones require replacing in the year. These are then batched together, for example, they may do Craven one year, but won't do Craven again for two, three or more years, depending on how long it takes until a decent sized batch has built up again.

These replacements would just be standard timber signposts saying "Public Footpath". Any bespoke signposts, for example, including the name of the route, destination and distance, can be erected, but would need to be paid for by a third party. Further discussion to advise NYCC required by The Dales Way Association.

Issue 2: Bolton Road Chipping Staithe on the Bolton Abbey Estate and is the proposed footpath across the staithe and through Lob Wood just before reaching Bolton Bridge.

Latest Position: This goes back to the early part of 2019 with the Bolton Abbey Estate taking forward discussions with North Yorkshire County Council Highways and Footpaths teams. There was no reason at the time why this work would not go ahead but there is no progress or update to report. Further investigation by The Dales Way Association is required.

Issue 3: Dangerous B6160 between Addingham and Bolton Bridge which the Dales Way crosses twice. Firstly at Farfield Quaker Meeting House and after walking through a number of fields beside the B6160 it crosses the road again at the top of the hill before descending to Bolton Bridge.

Latest Position: Barbara Henderson and Addingham residents are working to improve the safety on the B6160 and have been doing since Barbara raised the matter at last year's AGM. Since then the Group have been working with Bradford Council and Highways North Yorkshire Area. I represented The Dales Way at a meeting in March 2019 providing our support. Since then it has been very quiet and I haven't received updates from Barbara. Further investigation by The Dales Way Association is required.

Yorkshire Dales National Park – Tony Grogan

1) **Missing waymark** replaced with new - between Gearstones and Dent Road where footpath joins bridleway. Dec 2018.

2) **Received report** from Footpaths secretary at Lancacaster Ramblers that there was a missing waymark on turn off to Laithbank, Dentdale, on North-South route. Checked it in Dec 2018 and it is still there! Informed him and ranger (Graham Pye).

3) **West Clint Dentdale** - Diversion of footpath from Farm yard. DWA no objections. (Jan 2019).

4) **Harvey Maps** - updated their Dales Way map and asked us to provide any changes. 2 changes to map (Grassington and Burneside approaches) and all DWA details were well out of date - including that we supplied copies of the Dales Way Handbook at £2 per copy post free from some long gone address... - Jan 2019.

Footprints - new map (last produced 1990).

5) **Tree down in Dentdale** - between Nellie Bridge and Tommy Bridge on approach to Dent, blocking stile. Reported to Paul Wilkinson YDNPA. Eventually removed by farmer. - June 2019.

6) **Hole at Bridge End, Dentdale** - A large hole has appeared on the Dales Way just before Bridge End on the way to Dent. It was caused by a broken land drain and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the landowner are working together to fix it. In the meantime Paul Wilkinson, the YDNPA Area Ranger responsible for Dentdale has put warning tape around the hole. Our thanks go to the walkers who reported this and to the YDNPA for their fast response. - Sept 2019.

7) **New waymarker inners** ordered (500) as we'd run out. First 200 sent to YDNPA.

8) 3 changes to the Dales Way route are still not on **OS maps**: - approach to Grassington in the National Park; change near Hardrigg, Cumbria; and change to approach to Sprint Bridge, Cumbria. I am in the process of dealing with this on behalf of DWA. - Oct 2019.

9) **Damage to Millthrop Bridge, Sedbergh** – A vehicle has run into the Millthrop Bridge which takes the road from Dent to Sedbergh across the River Rawthey. The north-eastern parapet has been knocked into the river and the road is closed to traffic until further notice. Dales Way walkers can still cross with care. This has been reported on our website and an alternative footpath suggested in case this changes. October 2019.

Cumbria and Lake District National Park – Tony Hill

There is little to report this year. Finally, post Storm Desmond in 2015, the area around Burneside has now been restored to its former glory! Whilst there are still some issues in the area, with bridges and flooding, the Dales Way route is clear and unobstructed. The new Ford Bridge, the main road bridge in Burneside was opened in May 2019, allowing our walkers direct access to the village. There have been no reports of problems on my section. My B&B in Burneside, is useful, as I get to hear about problems along the way.

I know there has been some debate about waymarking, or perceived lack of, on the section between Sedbergh and Burneside. Many walkers now rely on their guidebook, some of which are out of date. Some walkers also find the section remote and more arduous than they realised, partly because the distance shown in a couple of guidebooks is less than it is. I think tiredness and frustration has a lot to do with the comments we receive. It is a fact that our foreign walkers are unfamiliar with UK rights of way and the need to map read effectively, rather than just follow waymarks.

The Dales Way Association paid for new fingerposts in the Lakes District National Park section which are now in place.

Agenda Item 6. Membership Secretary's Report – Chris Grogan

We currently have 306 members of which around one third are family members. 180 people pay their subscription by Bankers' Order annually. One or two people still send us a cheque, the rest are paid using PayPal. All new members give us an email address which makes it easier and cheaper to send out newsletters and other communication.

Agenda Item 7. Website Report – Tony Grogan

150,000 visitors over last 12 months.

Facebook has 1271 followers.

50th anniversary celebrations - There's a section on the website covering the 50th anniversary celebrations: - on the Home Page click on "50 Years of the Dales Way" link on the right ("In Brief").

DWA Archive - As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations this year I set myself the task of scanning all the old DWA minutes and newsletters and putting them in digital format into a special archive on the website, within the members' area.

This is now finished, apart from one or two missing documents.

In particular, a copy of the Autumn 2005 newsletter no. 27, and the minutes of the AGM's for 2009.

The quality varies depending on the originals. They can be accessed via the DWA website:-

Click on "About Us.." on the top menu, then select "Members Area", then sign in by clicking "Click Here" on the right (Username and password required, username is the word **member** and the password is **dwa1991** - all smallcase.)

There's a list of links to more recent Newsletters (back to 2010) and Minutes (back to 2012), and links to older copies in the "Special 50th anniversary archive" at the bottom of the page.

Agenda item 8. Accommodation Providers' Report – Tony Hill

It is heartening to receive very positive reviews regarding accommodation. The majority of walkers have praised the overall standard of accommodation and especially, the welcome they receive from their hosts. There have been several places that have changed hands this year, especially at key locations along the Way. I find it very encouraging that there appears to be a greater recognition that walkers, not least our foreign walkers, are a key asset for local economies.

Strategic plans, such as 'Kendal Futures' and the 'Vision for Burneside' have recognised that tourism and recreation are vitally important factors in creating vibrant communities. I sense a seachange, especially in the Lake District and surrounding areas, not least because of World Heritage Site status, that a welcoming mentality must be nurtured in order for our communities not only to survive but thrive.

Without exception foreign visitors, from the across the world acknowledge the sheer breadth of diversity and interest that the Dales Way offers for walkers.

It is a national asset and as such, in my opinion, deserves national recognition.

2019 has been a good and positive year for the Dales Way.

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2019



Spenser Wilson
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

CONTENTS	PAGE
Income and expenditure account	1
Balance sheet	2

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Gift aid		114		67
Subscriptions		1,568		1,546
Donations		812		426
Certificates		150		150
Retail sales		45		45
less purchases		(22)		(22)
		<u>2,667</u>		<u>2,212</u>
EXPENDITURE				
EXPENSES				
Room hire	203		123	
Dales Way expenditure	600		2,000	
Travelling expenses	272		175	
Postage and stationery	85		322	
Subscriptions	40		35	
Web site	72		72	
Accountancy fees	186		180	
Bank charges	23		30	
		<u>1,481</u>		<u>2,937</u>
SURPLUS OF/(SHORTFALL IN) INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>1,186</u>		<u>(725)</u>

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank	<u>9,233</u>		<u>8,197</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Other creditors	<u>-</u>		<u>150</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>9,233</u>		<u>8,047</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>9,233</u>		<u>8,047</u>
FINANCED BY:				
CAPITAL ACCOUNT - ACCUMULATED FUNDS				
Balance Brought Forward		<u>8,047</u>		<u>8,772</u>
Net profit/(loss) for the year		<u>1,186</u>		<u>(725)</u>
		<u>9,233</u>		<u>8,047</u>