

**The Dales Way Association
Committee Meeting – Thursday 16 Jan 2020
12.30 – 2.30 pm
in Saltaire Methodist Church Hall, Saltaire Road, Saltaire BD18 3HJ**

MINUTES

Present: Colin Speakman (Chair), Tony Grogan, Ryk Downes, Tony Hill, Chris Grogan (Minutes).

Apologies: Frank Snderson, Donald Holliday, Gordon Tasker, Kath Doyle

Minutes of the Committee Meetings of Sept 6th 2019 were agreed as a true record.

Reports from the areas:

Bradford and North Yorkshire – written by Kath Doyle and Gordon Tasker and presented by Tony Grogan.

Executive Summary:

There are no additional issues arising we are aware of on both the Bradford Council and North Yorkshire County Council sections of footpath since our report to the AGM in October 2019.

There are three long standing issues where there will be no change for some time. These are in the Bradford section the boundary fence at Ilkley Tennis Club and in the North Yorkshire section the Bolton Road Chipping Staithe and the Dangerous B6160 between Addingham and Bolton Bridge.

There is one issue that may be a individual or match funding cost to DWA and that is the replacement of the fallen down sign at the corner of Lobwood House Drive directing walkers into fields beside the B6160 onto Bolton Bridge. Investigations continue.

AGREED: The committee agreed we should pay for the replacement sign.

ACTION: Gordon and Kath to progress. Colin suggested if North Yorkshire County Council can't replace quickly YDNPA may be able to help.

There has been little change to the updates or feedback for the existing issues we are progressing from either stakeholders or walkers and dialogue with stakeholders is ongoing to clear the outstanding issues.

Quiet and little to report for the January 2020 meeting. Kath and I DO need to walk our section again as it's a year since we have reviewed and will do that before the DWA April 2020 meeting.

- See attached at end for full report.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority – Tony Grogan

1) Hole on path at Bridge End (Dentdale). Marked out by YDNPA - now fixed by farmer.

2) Millthrop Bridge - 20 November Cumbria C.C. reported bridge now fully re-opened.

3) Changes to Dales Way route on OS: 2 changes in Cumbria now updated and will appear on new maps (Hardrigg & Sprint Bridge, Cumbria). Change on approach to Grassington being handled by YDNPA, who have asked OS formally for the change - we are just awaiting confirmation on this.

ACTION: Tony G to ask YDNPA to re-sign the updated route in Grassington.

4) December - finished updating my photos of all stile/gates/fingerposts along the route.

Chris reported that a donation of £600 had been received from a member and that was to be used by YDNPA to resurface a section of path in Hubberholme.

ACTION: Chris to report to member when the work is done and arrange a site visit if appropriate.

Colin reported that there is a planning application in to Leeds City Council to build an earthworks barrier alongside the golf club at Alwoodley on the Leeds Link Route. DWA haven't been consulted. Ryk reported that that the golf club has removed trees which has improved the view from the path.

AGREED: Committee agreed we would support Leeds Ramblers' position.

ACTION: Colin to liaise.

Cumbria/Lake District – Tony Hill

Tony H reported that there was only one outstanding issue on this section. The path entering Burneside is in a bad state and the wall often gets knocked down by cars.

ACTION: Tony H plans to propose to Burneside Parish Council that the wall is replaced by a hedge and the path resurfaced.

AGREED: Committee agreed that we would be happy to consider a request for funds towards this.

Tony H is able to monitor the path from Burneside to Bowness.

AGREED: We need a volunteer to look after the 12 miles from Crook of Lune to Burneside.

ACTION: Colin to approach Kendal Ramblers before March 13th (deadline for Spring Newsletter). If no one comes forward an appeal will be put into the newsletter and Ryk will approach running friend from Sedbergh.

Finance Report – Chris Grogan

Chris reported that we currently have £7222 in the bank and £318 in our Paypal account.

We need to agree new bank signatories including Gordon who is treasurer but currently can't write cheques. When they are active we should remove Alex and Donald from the account.

AGREED: that Gordon and Ryk be signatories with Colin and Chris.

ACTION: Chris to organise meeting with Gordon, Ryk and Colin at bank in Otley.

Accommodation Report – Tony Hill

Tony Hill reported standard of accommodation on the route is much improved and accommodation providers are beginning to understand the Dales Way and DW walkers better. More walking companies coming on line. Fewer European walkers but plenty of Americans and Australians. Very popular with Israelis. Discussion around best way to liaise with accommodation providers.

AGREED: Accommodation providers should be encouraged to contact Tony H directly with their updates and changes.

ACTION: Tony G to put Tony H's contact details onto website Accommodation page. Chris to forward all accommodation emails directly to Tony H. Tony H to let her know when he is away.

Web Report – Tony Grogan

Averaging over 10,000 visits per month to the website.

Facebook remains active with 1,395 followers

Membership Report – Chris Grogan

No change

Spring Newsletter

AGREED: The Spring Newsletter will feature all the Anniversary events. Reports shouldn't be too wordy but should include lots of photos.

ACTION: Copy to Kath by Fri 13th March to include

Overview list of events - Tony G

Book - Tony G

Talks - Colin

Walk - Colin

Ultra Marathon - Ryk

Exhibition – Kath and Gordon

Accommodation stories – Tony H

AGM - Chris

Date for 2020 AGM

AGREED: Sat 14 November 2020. Ryk to do presentation about Dales Way/Dales High Way Ultras.

ACTION: Colin to investigate walk around Ilkley exploring ginnels and back streets.

Date of next committee meeting

AGREED: Next meeting will be in Burneside on Thursday 23rd April

ACTION: Tony H to book venue, invite Geoff Fewkes to all or part of the meeting and/or for lunch, arrange buffet lunch, suggest anything else the committee might find interesting to 'make a day of it'.

Any other business

Tony H gave an update on the Burnside Vision including the success of the community energy project. The meeting finished at 2.15pm

DWA Meeting Thursday 16th January 2020

Footpath Report For

Bradford Council and North Yorkshire County Council Sections

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Bradford Council Section

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 Councils 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. **NO FURTHER UPDATE**

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. **NO FURTHER UPDATE**

Issue 3: 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. **NO FURTHER UPDATE**

Issue 4: 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 its 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. **NO FURTHER UPDATE**

North Yorkshire County Council

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: 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.

We are in contact with Hartlington Fencing Supplies NYCC signpost supplier to identify the cost of a general or bespoke signpost with specific wording. ie Top line Public Footpath, Middle line The Dales Way, Bottom line Bolton Bridge to be delivered to NYCC Highways Skipton for erection.

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: Bolton Abbey Estate frustrated with the lack of response from NYCC Highways and are pressing ahead with the scheme. No work started as yet. **NO FURTHER UPDATE**

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: Nothing has moved forward since 2019. Outstanding actions from both the Addingham group taking this forward the North Yorkshire Councillor who is supporting

North Yorkshire has done what they planned: new SLOW signs on the road and new, very clear walkers on the road signs in 3 places

My contact Barbara Henderson believes both crossings remain dangerous and the speeding restrictions are much too fast but will try to do something again, either this year or in 2021. **NO FURTHER UPDATE**

Compiled by Kath Doyle and Gordon Tasker
Dales Way Association Footpath Officers
15 January 2020