

Dales Way Association Committee Meeting 16th June 2022

Location: The Hermit Inn, Moor Road, Burley in Wharfedale.

Attendees: Colin Speakman, Chris Grogan, Tony Grogan, Ryk Downes, Gordon Tasker, Kath Doyle.

Apologies: Tony Hill.

Our first committee meeting for over a year. An informal setting outdoors following a walk from Menston Station to the Hermit, passing Hag Farm to allow the committee to consider the path diversions proposed by the new owners.

Minutes of the last committee meeting and the AGM were agreed as true and accurate records.

Footpath Reports

Proposed footpath behind the Staithe at the Bolton Abbey Estate.

Gordon reported that he had spoken with Ben Hayes for an update on progress with the proposed footpath behind the staithe at the Bolton Abbey Estate. Ben had met with Nicky Bunting NYCC and during their discussion expressed concerns about the potential for flooding in the winter and the status of the path. They have not currently reached agreement on a way forward.

Action: Ryk agreed to speak to Nicky Bunting for the NYCC view.

Colin suggested a meeting with Ben Hayes to include Phil Richards, Yorkshire Dales National Park. The committee unanimously agreed to offer the sum of £1,000 towards the costs of the path, to be paid on completion of the work. The offer to be made at the meeting.

Action: Following feedback from Ryk, Gordon to arrange a meeting with Ben Hayes, including Colin and Phil.

Path from Start of Dales Way to Stourton Road (paved entry to Tennis Club)

Gordon detailed a concern from a lady in Ilkley regarding the condition of this short stretch. He has contacted Bradford Council who will determine whether it is maintained by the Highways or Countryside Teams and review. He updated the lady concerned and will keep her advised.

Directional Signs on Entry to B6160

Issue raised by a couple of experienced walkers, walking south from Bolton Bridge, of the risk in crossing the B road near a corner with limited visibility from the southern direction. They also stated it was unclear where the route goes from the north when crossing the bridge at the B6160.

Gordon responded to the couple detailing both the "SLOW" signs and very clear "walkers on the road" signs added in three places and the path behind earthed mounds on the chipping staithe. Gordon has spoken with Ben Hayes who has agreed to an arrow/Dales Way pointer to be attached to the gate or fence.

Action: Gordon to follow up

Tony Grogan reported a minor change to the path just beyond the road bridge at Sedbergh where the path curves which had washed away and has now been realigned. Tony has placed the information on the website.

Chris raised the issue of having someone to monitor footpaths and refer issues with the Local Authority in the stretch of the DW from Sedbergh to before Burneside would be really helpful. Ryk contacted John Harpham a runner who lives in the area and he kindly agreed to undertake this role.

Tony Hill reported that walkers are back in earnest. There have been several issues with broken stiles reported on the section from the Lune viaduct to Burneside. Tony has forwarded to the CCC Access Team. So many walkers now exclusively use their smartphones to navigate, rather than with map & compass and do get into a bit of a pickle when their phones fail or just don't get a signal! Tony signed up some walkers for navigation training sessions!

Tony H also raised the question with the Local Authority team about the transition into the new Unitary authority of Westmorland and Furness, during 2022-2023. At present there is no information about how access will be managed within that authority.

Action: Tony to keep committee members posted during the year.

Membership

Chris reported that membership had dwindled and at the April renewal for 3-year membership none of the 36 had renewed. The committee agreed to the proposal to simplify and fix the annual renewal date for the end of March, which will be easier to administer.

The committee also discussed and agreed that we would introduce DWA Life Membership which would be a one-off payment based on the life of the person/ or the life of the DWA. The sum agreed was £120 for individual and £160 for family life membership.

Finance

Gordon reported that the annual accounts for 21/22 are currently with the accountant for approval. Most activity had been subscriptions and donations with the balance standing at £9.5K excluding the deposit account. We have recently received several donations including a bequest amounting to £625.

AOB

Chris reported that holding the last DWA AGM in April had proved very popular with members and the committee agreed to this proposal to change to April 2023. It was acknowledged that we would not be able to provide an audited Finance Report at that date in the year but the Treasurer would provide an up-to-date financial statement to the AGM.

The next DWA AGM will be held on Saturday 1st April 2023. Venue and walk to be agreed.

Action: Chris to notify members as soon as a location is agreed so that they can book accommodation if travelling from a distance.

Tony Grogan agreed to produce the Autumn DWA Newsletter.

Action: Items for inclusion to be forwarded to Tony G by 29th September 2022

Next DWA Committee Meeting

The committee agreed to meet on 29th September 2022 prior to meeting at Colvend with the National Park which is arranged for 13th October 2022.

Action: Chris to agree location and notify committee members.

Meeting closed at 1:30pm