

## **Dales Way Association Committee Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Location:** The Swan Inn, Addingham

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

**Apologies:** Ryk Downes, Tony Hill.

Our meeting followed a group walk from the Old Bridge at Ilkley along the Dales Way to Addingham.

Minutes of the last committee meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Proposed footpath behind the staithe at Bolton Abbey Estate**

Ryk provided an update in writing following discussion with Nicky Bunting NYCC who clarified that any footpath would be the responsibility of the Bolton Abbey Estate and would remain a permissive path.

**Action :** Colin to write to Ben Hayes to arrange a meeting in November, to include Phil Richards YDNPA, to discuss next steps, also to raise the pressing issue of traffic management between Bolton Bridge and Burnsall.

#### **Directional sign on entry to B6160**

**Action :** Gordon reported that this was in hand.

### **Footpath Reports**

#### **Bradford MDC/ North Yorkshire**

A quiet period on this stretch of the DW with no new issues identified, ongoing issues are in matters arising.

Feedback provided by Fiona Plane on the condition of the path from the start of the DW to Stourton Road stated there has been no progress to date because of a change of personnel in the Highways Department. Fiona will continue to pursue.

**Action:** Gordon to review late October if no response.

#### **YDNPA -Tony G**

Tony and Chris walked the Dales Way route covered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park throughout 2022. Overall the path is in good shape, and the waymarking for the most part is good too.

Bolton Abbey to Grassington: No riverside improvement works have started yet on section beyond suspension bridge near Hebden.

Oughtershaw to Cam: A lot of work has been done on the valley bottom floodplain of Oughtershaw Beck to improve Natural Flood Management - water retention, including damming, tree planting, pond creation alongside Nethergill and Swarthgill. Fingerpost signs through Cam Houses are on their last legs. One down just on leaving forest corner to cross track . This has been reported. A new bridleway is now signed from Cam High Road through Cam Forest.

Gearstones to Dent: Tommy Bridge -signs of decay on bridge planks, will need renewing in near future.  
Dent to Lowgill: Sedbergh, just beyond road bridge a new minor path diversion now approved but still not signed and says temporary.

A complaint passed on by Terry Marsh referred to problems on the A683 a short road walk section after Brigflatts & Sedbergh. People are turning up to Hebblethwaites and marker post can be seen as slightly misleading. probably needs another marker post on other side pointing down roadside.  
A couple of new fingerposts (e.g., at High Oaks) could do with waymarks added to be clear.

**Action:** Above Issues to be raised at Colvend meeting

On to Burneside (Cumbria CC, soon to be Westmorland & Furness): Signage problems: there are areas of missing DW waymarks or bleached out ordinary waymarks, and several propped-up broken waymark posts in section up to Burton House.

**Action:** Tony G to raise the issue of missing waymarks with Geoff Fewkes Cumbria CC".

## Membership Report

Chris reported that there are currently 277 individual members (including families). The Life Membership is now on the website and we have 2 Life members to date including Kate Ashbrook - General Secretary of Open Spaces and former chair of the Ramblers. Currently we have 3,400 Facebook users.

Clarification was provided on Life membership where a family were involved, that this would be for the life of the individual who paid for the membership, not the whole family /or the life of the DWA.

## Finance Report

Following work with Martin Bairstow, Spencer Wilson, Chartered Accountants again this year, Gordon confirmed the accounts had been audited to 31 March 2022.

He told the meeting subscriptions and donations for 2021/22 had slightly fallen from 2020/21 levels. By comparison there was no major expenditure during 2021/22 with the figure less than 2020/21. DWA have a healthy balance of over £12k in the bank, slightly more than 2020/21 although the net profit is slightly down

Gordon said overall our DWA account shows as a committee we continue to be careful about how we spend our monies and we need to continue to do so with any future spend.

Chris confirmed that Bank Charges are now applied to our Virgin Money Account at approximately £6.80 a month. The committee agreed that we would keep our account as it is currently because any changes would impact members standing orders and direct debits.

Chris asked for an update on the deposit account.

### **Action**

Gordon to provide an update to the committee on the status of the deposit account.

## Website Report

Tony reported 300 visits to the website each month. Our HTTP is not encrypted. Users may therefore see a message that this website is not secure. There is no security risk to Paypal. SSL certificate costs £92pa.

**Action:** Carry forward to agenda for next meeting issue of encryption and SSL certification

## **Accommodation Providers Report -Tony H** (via email)

Whilst there are new providers coming along Tony expressed concern about the long-term viability of small businesses in the Dales. Staffing is a major issue, as well as the increases in food, energy and fuel and can anticipate price increases in 2023. For example, many eateries in Kendal are now closing on Mondays and Tuesdays. It is already getting quite expensive for walkers.

Tony and his wife Caroline have decided after 12 years providing B&B to close and take time to see their children and grandchildren in Australia and France. This leaves the Jolly Anglers in Burneside as the only accommodation provider. Most walking companies are booking their clients into places in Kendal.

Tony concluded that" it has been a joy and immensely fulfilling to provide accommodation for walkers over the years. In the meantime, thank you all. The Dales Way is rightly placed, high on the list of trails, actually anywhere in the world. I hope many more continue to enjoy the delights of the Dales and Lakes for years to come. Therefore, I think it's time to step down from the committee and remove our entry on the accommodation providers list on the DWA website"

Tony has served throughout this time as the accommodation officer for the Dales Way Association, and his knowledge and contacts have proven invaluable. The DWA committee wish them all the best for the future.

**Action** : Tony H has some donation money which he will forward by BACs towards the end of October

**Action:** Roles of Accommodation Officer, Footpaths Officers for Sedbergh to Burneside and for the Lake District to be filled. Colin to approach Paul Wilkinson and contact Kendal Ramblers.

## **Autumn Newsletter**

Tony G is compiling this over next 2 weeks to include Chairs Introduction, Frank Sanderson piece, a walk, Finance and Footpaths updates, AGM 2023 details and email feedback from a German walker.

## **AGM 2023**

To be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023

**Action:** Chris to agree and confirm venue and location of walk. Danny Jackson, Bradford Council to be invited to attend as a guest speaker.

## **Discussion re Watershed Alternative Route**

NYNPA received a complaint from the owner of part of Cam Houses regarding DW access on the road from Cam Houses to Cam Highway. They were advised to contact the DWA and to date we have not heard anything. In the meantime, Tony G has compiled a comprehensive report on this issue. The DWA stated this is a Public Right of Way and should the issue escalate, we will need to involve the WR Ramblers.

**Action:** Raise at the Colvend meeting and Tony G to send his research report in advance of the meeting.

## **Colvend Meeting**

The date of the meeting has changed to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 10am

## **Date of next DWA Committee Meeting**

The committee agreed to meet on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**Action:** Chris to agree location and notify committee members.

## **AOB**

Colin mentioned music events taking place in the Dales including Old Dales Dances in Kettlewell and Folk Music in Buckden

**Action:** Colin to provide information to Tony G for the newsletter

Kath raised the issue of what we should do next with the DW display boards.

**Action:** for agenda at next meeting

Meeting closed at 2:45pm