

## **Dales Way Association Committee Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Location:** The Red Lion, Burley-in-Wharfedale.

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

Minutes of the last committee meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### **Matters Arising**

To be carried forward from last meeting:

**Action:** Colin to approach Paul Wilkinson and contact Kendal Ramblers re role of Footpaths Officer for the Lake District.

**Action:** Ryk to reconfirm with John Harpham that he is happy to undertake the footpath role for Sedbergh to Burneside.

It was agreed that the Issue of encryption and SSL certification be on hold for the time being.

### **Footpath Reports**

#### **Bradford MDC/ North Yorkshire - Gordon**

##### **Ilkley to Bolton Bridge**

We last walked this section on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Stiles, gates, kissing gates and signage were in good order. There were some Dales Way markers bleached by the sun or broken that could do with being replaced this year but nothing preventing a good walk on the section.

A Dales Way marker was added to the gatepost entry onto the B6160, just above Bolton Bridge for those walking south to make the direction of the path clearer at this point.

The one complaint raised in June 2022 about the condition of the path from the start of the Dales Way to Stourton Road before Ilkley Tennis Club is still with Bradford Council to resolve. Both the Dales Way and Bradford Council have not received any further correspondence from other walkers on this matter.

Discussions are ongoing with both the Bolton Abbey Estate and Yorkshire Dales National Park regarding the proposed permissive footpath to form part of the Dales Way alongside the B6160 at the Chipping Staithe, Bolton Bridge.

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

Rob Wilson, Access Ranger for Upper Wharfedale, reported that the DW information board at Buckden car park is in a poor state of repair. The timber parts are weathered and need replacing and he asked if the DWA would be prepared to meet the costs of the timber of £250. Rob said they would then dismantle the old structure and make and install the new one including galvanised metal post holders. The committee agreed to fund the £250 and welcomed the proposed improvements to the structure. **Action:** Chris to notify Rob of decision

Rob also requested DW way marker inserts as they are running low **Action:** Tony to supply these.

## **Membership Report - Chris**

Chris reported that membership had fallen to 232 of which 189 held email addresses and 43 address only. Whilst membership is dwindling Facebook continues to be really popular and longer term we may need to look at other ways of raising funds such as crowd funding, talks or sponsored walks for specific projects.

## **Finance Report 2022/23 - Gordon**

DWA continues to have a healthy balance of approximately £12k in the bank moving into the last quarter of 2022/23.

A generous donation of £380 was handed over by Tony Hill former Committee member and B&B owner In Burneside. The donation was made by walkers passing through Tony's B&B to help support the upkeep the Dales Way.

The DWA continues to show as a committee we continue to be careful about how we spend our monies. It is nearing that time to prepare the accounts for 2022/23.

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

## **Website Report**

Following discussion it was agreed by the committee that we would not be accepting any new DW membership at this time until various logistical issues have been resolved and that the password for the members area would be lifted to allow open access. Existing members will be unaffected. The DW completion certificates will also be available to download via the website.

## **Accommodation Provider Liaison Report**

Kath agreed to undertake this role following Tony Hill's resignation from the committee. She intends to email current accommodation providers to introduce herself and ask them to review and provide any updates to their entries on the DWA website. Kath also suggested and agreed with the committee that we do not include any tariffs in the entries so that walkers can get current prices when they enquire directly with the accommodation provider.

## **AGM 2023**

Our Annual General Meeting, due to be held on Saturday April 1st 2023 has to be postponed due to circumstances beyond our control. The committee offers sincere apologies to all our members.

**Action:** Tony G to put announcement on the website. Chris to contact all members by email.

**Action:** To be discussed at the next committee meeting. When a new date is agreed we will let members know via website and by email.

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

The committee agreed to meet on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 12:30 at the Red Lion, Burley-in-Wharfedale.

**Action:** Colin to book room with the Red Lion and confirm arrangements with committee members.

**Action:** Agenda items from committee members to Kath by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

## **AOB**

Colin had received an enquiry from John Young of the Friends of Farfield Meeting House regarding the future ownership of the building when the Historic Chapels Trust, a Charity who currently own the building, ceases to function in 2-3 years time.

**Action:** Colin agreed to respond and to pass the enquiry to the Friends of the Dales.

Kath confirmed that she had agreed with Alan Hulme YDNPA to deliver the DW display boards to Colvend in Grassington so they can be displayed in the Tourist Information Centre and other locations over the Spring/Summer.

Gordon raised the issue of DWA archive material which the late Frank Sanderson had held, some of which had been loaned from the DWA.

**Action:** Gordon agreed to contact Frank's partner Susan.

Meeting closed at 2:45pm