

Dales Way Association Committee Meeting 17th August 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 12th April 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Colin confirmed he had approached Paul Wilkinson and Kendal Ramblers re Footpath Officer role for Lake District.

Action: Colin agreed to write again to Kendal Ramblers as he had not received a response.

Gordon said that it was not proving straightforward to identify the contributions by DWA specifically for Storm Desmond to thus enable the us to continue to support future impacts of climate change on the route

Action: Gordon agreed to undertake further analysis

Wild Camping

Colin stated that at Dartmoor the decision to ban wild camping had been reversed on appeal. He stated that with the cost of B&B accommodation on the DW being around £100 per night we should be encouraging camp sites on the route so that young people and those with limited budgets can experience the DW. We should look for landowners who could offer basic facilities- e.g. loo/shower and encourage them to apply for a 30-day licence from the NP.

Action: Put on agenda for autumn Colvend meeting with the NP.

Footpath Reports

Bradford MDC/ North Yorkshire

Ilkley to Bolton Bridge: Gordon reported that he and Kath had walked the path in June as far as Farfield and intend to walk the path from Ilkley to Bolton Bridge to replace the worn and damaged DW signs and to look at whether further signage is required at the crossing to Farfield, which had been raised by a recent walker of the DW. The gate/stile at entrance to the B6160 near Lobwood also requires a sign.

Action: Kath and Gordon to replace signs in August/September 2023

Colin provided an update on progress with the extension of the Chipping Staithe Permissive Path alongside the B6160 at Bolton Bridge and was delighted to report that he had received a letter with a positive response and proposed way forward from Ben Heyes, Estate Director, Bolton Abbey.

Action: Colin to write to all parties- Ben Heyes, David Asher- Burley Walkers are Welcome, Addingham PC- Roger Seddon and other key stakeholders to invite them to a meeting/site visit in October 2023. Colin and Gordon to attend.

YDNPA

Chris reported that she had walked the section to Buckden in May. There has been some erosion north of Starbotton but this does not present a problem to walkers.

Membership and Website Report

Chris and Tony reported that there are currently 3,600 Facebook followers. In the period since the last meeting 19 DWA memberships have lapsed. We currently have 232 members.

Finance Report -2022/23

Gordon reported that the DWA accounts for 22/23 have been verified and we are awaiting formal approval from Martin Bairstow, our accountant.

Gordon sought approval from the committee for 3 new DW Information boards from Pryor signs - one to replace the missing sign at the start of the DW in Ilkley and 2 spares. The cost will be £838 plus VAT. The committee agreed to this expenditure.

Gordon reported that the current DWA balance was £14,894 this includes the money committed for the Staithe path- £1000 and the new signs approx. £1,000 plus £200 allocated for the accountant's work.

Chris stated that she is applying for DWA gift aid of approximately £100. Discussion took place on the proportion of funds from subscriptions and donations.

Action: Gordon to identify the sums received as subscriptions and the sums received as donations.

Accommodation Provider Liaison Report

Kath reported she had sent a second email to those accommodation providers who did not respond to the first. To date in response to the 2 emails she had received 26 replies plus 5 closures: 3 in Sedbergh, 1 in Kettlewell, 1 in Hebden. We have added a pop-up campsite in Grassington -running from 28 July to 4th September 23 and Ewegales Farm (a camp site) has changed hands. Chris reported that Tony Hill's B and B in Burneside is back up and running following his year off travelling to visit family.

Action: Kath to prioritise follow up by phone with the campsites/bunkbarns on the DW route.

Action: Kath to send the DWA newsletter to those accommodation providers who have responded to the emails.

DWA Newsletter

Kath thanked Tony for compiling the newsletter and committee members for their contributions. She suggested that it would be good to get articles from outside the committee from organisations with an interest in the DW.

Action: Kath & Tony to produce a Spring Newsletter in April 2024 to include update on progress with the Staithe. Timescale for contributions to be agreed at the next committee meeting.

Action: Colin to approach Paul Chapman for an article on public transport.

Action: Kath to add to agenda for next committee meeting.

AGM 2023

The AGM will take place on Fri 6th October 2023 in the private dining room at the Red Lion Burley in Wharfedale - 12 -2;30pm. A buffet of sandwiches and chips will be provided at 1pm.

Action: Colin to provide written details of the DW AGM walk to Chris/Tony for the website and Colin to notify the Ilkley Gazette. The walk will take place on Sat 7th October 2023 from Barden to Grassington along the Dales Way. (approx. 7 miles). Walkers can meet to catch the bus which departs at 10:15 from Ilkley Bus Station arriving Barden Tower at 10:38. The return bus from Grassington will be either 14:50 or 17:00. Arriving Ilkley at 15:35 or 17:43 respectively.

Action: Kath to produce AGM agenda, signing in sheet and minutes of last AGM to be issued at the meeting.

Action: Committee members to notify Kath of AGM agenda items by 22nd September and provide verbal reports at AGM with written reports passed to Kath on the day so they can be placed on the website for members to read.

Action Colin to ask members at the AGM about timing of future AGMs and also raise a discussion on the nature of DWA membership going forward.

Date of next DWA Committee Meeting

The DWA committee will meet on Thursday 30th November 2023 at 12:00 noon at the Red Lion, Burley-in-Wharfedale.

Action: Kath to book table for 6 with the Red Lion and confirm arrangements with committee members. **COMPLETED.**

Action: Agenda items from committee members to Kath by Tuesday 21st November 2023.

AOB

Other items to be added to the agenda for Colvend meeting -request an update on the anglers' proposal for fencing near the suspension bridge and seek clarification on the prioritisation of repairs in the National Park.

Ryk suggested that the DWA could consider leading a walk in the Otley Walking Festival 2024- possibly a circular walk on the DW link .

Chris mentioned that Baildon Walkers are Welcome are holding their 10th Anniversary walking festival 26th August to 2nd September 2023- lots of walks of different distances. Details can be found at baildonwalkersarewelcome.org.

The meeting closed at 14:45