

Dales Way Association Committee Meeting 30th November 2023

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

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

Apologies: Cath Williams.

Minutes of the last committee meeting held 17th August 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Following the AGM walk and our recent meeting with YDNPA Gordon to send photos of the two areas of concern identified on the DW route.

Action: Gordon to send photos to Phil Richards YDNPA for his consideration. **COMPLETED**

Following the AGM Simon Stokes from the Environment Agency had provided further clarification on how we might work collaboratively. Ilkley Round Table have a tree planting programme and would be keen to know if there are any areas of the DW close to Ilkley where they might place saplings.

Action: Gordon to write to Bradford Council Fiona Plane to see if any area suitable from Ilkley to Addingham along the DW.

Simon also mentioned an idea of involving DW walkers in engaging with the river environment and gathering snapshot information, for example an "I-spy" type of idea. The committee thought that engagement via social media might be something we could assist with.

Action: Gordon to contact Simon to get more information on what this might entail.

Footpath Reports

Bradford MDC/ North Yorkshire

Ilkley to Bolton Bridge: The only issue to report on since the recent AGM was progress with the chipping staithe. Colin stated that he had corresponded with David Asher of Burley Walkers are Welcome, who had undertaken a site visit and provided some indication of the work and materials required. Colin had clarified the quantity of limestone needed and that in the view of the DWA gates would not be a requirement of the works.

Action: Colin to ask David to provide a written costed proposal which Colin will then share via a letter with Ben Heyes, Estate Director, Bolton Abbey

YDNPA

Tony reported that he had been contacted by Peter Katic who is the National Trust Area Ranger for the Yorkshire Dales National Park who said that they wished to reroute the DW path at Hubberholme to follow the riverside (rather than the road) to come out below the permissive path. This is possible because the 4 fields by the river are now National Trust property. The committee agreed that this was really great news and would fully support the proposal. Peter hopes that, subject to planning permission approval and work with YDNPA for grants, this could be in place by the end of summer/early autumn 2024

Action: Chris and Tony to arrange a site visit and inform committee members of the details.

Cumbria

Chris said she had met, in Settle, with Cath Williams to welcome her as our new DWA committee member from Kendal Ramblers and had discussed roles of the existing committee and expectations of Cath's role in Cumbria/Lakes. Gordon said he had sent an email to Cath to welcome her to the DWA committee too.

Membership and Website Report

Tony proposed and the committee agreed that the daleway.org domain would be transferred from Skyware into a new standalone account with the webhosting company Namesco. This will make it easier in future to pass the running of the site on. Costs agreed- internal migration charge £90 and the first year hosting charge of £144. The committee also agreed to the purchase of an entry level SSL certificate which provides a secure https: at £31 +VAT.

Chris explained discussions she held with a local company who could take over the running of our website at a future date if required. As an example, Assembly Marketing already work with two other walking groups including Baildon Walkers are Welcome. The cost currently would be £35 +VAT per month.

Chris stated that we have reintroduced membership applications via banker's order on the website. This requires prospective members to download an application form and send details to their bank to pay an annual subscription and is much more straightforward to administer.

Finance Report -2022/23

Gordon confirmed that at the end of October our account held £16,000. £14,000 of which is not currently committed.

The committee also discussed the benefit of the DWA holding a Virgin Money Business Debit Card which would, for example, avoid committee members having to pay for DWA AGM costs from their own personal account and then claim back the money from the DWA. The committee agreed unanimously and that the Treasurer should be the card holder.

Action: Gordon as Treasurer to complete the application form and send to bank.

Accommodation Provider Liaison Report

Kath stated there was no further update to report since the recent AGM.

AGM 2024

The committee agreed that a spring AGM was the preference of many DWA members and so the proposed date for 2024 DWA AGM will be Saturday 27th April 2024. The provisional location will be Grassington, subject to suitable accommodation being available. This will be confirmed to members once details are firmed up. Colin agreed to present a talk on the Dales Way prior to the AGM and to lead a walk in the morning.

Action: Gordon to contact Grassington Town Hall to establish availability and costs.

DWA Newsletter

It was agreed that because of the early AGM the Spring newsletter would go out to members mid March 2024.

Action: Articles to be provided to Kath by 1st March.

Action: Kath to pass to Tony on 11th March for publication to members.

Action carried forward from last meeting: Colin to approach Paul Chapman for an article on public transport.

Date of next DWA Committee Meeting

The DWA committee will meet on Thursday 15th February 2024 at 12:00 noon at the Red Lion, Burley-in-Wharfedale.

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

Action: Agenda items from committee members to Kath by Tuesday 6th February 2024.

AOB

Ryk reported that his work on the Dales Way Links was work in progress. He stated that by the next committee meeting he will have explored all 3 links and will put forward proposals to the committee.

Tony suggested that when we next order signs for the links we order generic signs which say Dales Way Link.

Action: Kath to add to agenda for next committee meeting

The meeting closed at 14:30