

Dales Way Association Committee Meeting 15th February 2024

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 30th November 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

The Tree Planting programme by Ilkley Round Table; Gordon reported that he had communicated with key stakeholders for their views on the way forward for the Ilkley Round Table.

Action: Gordon to write to Simon Stokes and suggest next step would be for Simon to liaise with Professor Rick Battarbee and Gill Battarbee of the Addingham Environment Group and Civic Society respectively. There is no direct role in this for the DWA.

Gordon also reported that he had liaised with Abigail Mace of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and that the “i-spy” idea was on the back burner for the moment.

Footpath Reports

Bradford MDC/ North Yorkshire

Ilkley to Bolton Bridge: Gordon stated that the replacement Dales Way Information board had been installed at the start of the DW in Ilkley, by Bradford Council. The plaque detailing the donation for the board is to be added. Gordon has followed this up with Richard Perham, Bradford Council.

The Staithe permissive path – Ben Heyes is happy for the work to commence in Spring when the wet weather has improved and the ground is drier. A walk through with Ben Heyes and David Asher will be arranged. Date for this will be reviewed mid- March.

Action: Gordon and Colin to discuss mid-March.

YDNPA Tony reported that he, Chris and Colin had met with Peter Katic and two of the YDNP National Trust rangers to walk through the proposed path diversion between Buckden and Hubberholme. This will eliminate a quarter of a mile of road walking to take the DW by the riverside. There will be gates at either end of the section and the path will be surfaced, with a flagged area where prone to flooding. The necessary permissions and surveys are to be conducted with the hope this work will be completed late 2024 early 2025. The committee discussed what contribution the DWA should make towards the cost of this work and agreed the sum of £1000. This project meets one of the clear aims of the DW, that is to take the walker along the riverside wherever feasible to do so.

Wand F/LDNP

Cath Williams provided a written update for the meeting and stated that she had walked the whole of the DW section allocated to her and established contact with Helen Brown WAF and Marion Jones LDNP. Cath will meet with Helen Brown in the Spring to look at Cowan Head. Cath has also reported a broken finger post near Staveley which has been added to the extensive list of repairs by Marion. Marion from LDNPA raised the issue of availability of funding from DWA to support landowners on

The DW route towards repairs for furniture i.e. gates, stiles etc. The committee discussed this and agreed a way forward:

The maximum funding available to LDNPA to support landowners on the DW route with furniture repairs in the year ending Mar 2025 will be £1000 (One Thousand Pounds) in total with an upper limit of £200 per furniture repair request.

Any request for support for furniture repair in LDNPA to be submitted in writing to the DWA Treasurer, approval will be on a case-by-case basis.

The furniture repair must be directly on the route of the Dales Way. This funding is approved for one year only and subject to review at the end of the period.

Membership and Website Report

Tony reported that the SSL Certification work had been completed and the site now showed the padlock icon.

Chris stated that our current membership is 237.

Finance Report

Gordon reported that the current balance is £15,000 with monies now committed to the Staithe permissive path, Buckden- Hubberholme Path Diversion and LDNPA Landowner repairs, these 3 totalling £3000, leaving the uncommitted balance at £12,000.

Accommodation Provider Liaison Report

Kath stated that Colin and Janet Howlett at North Barn B & B, Hubberholme have retired after providing accommodation for walkers on the DW route for 10 years. She had written and thanked them on behalf of the committee and wished them a happy retirement.

AGM 2024

Kath confirmed that the Octagon Room at Grassington Devonshire Institute has been booked for the DWA Talk and AGM on Saturday 27th April 2024.

Action: Colin to confirm the details of the walk he will lead and talk/ AGM timings and provide the details to Tony.

Action: Colin to contact Derrick the Caretaker and arrange a Grassington site visit to test out his IT equipment in advance of the Talk/ AGM. (Derrick's mobile number 07738 273571 -please note he doesn't work Wednesdays.)

Action: Colin to provide press releases to the local newspapers prior to the event.

Action: Tony to produce a JPEG poster for the event for the Institute to upload to their website and email listing and an A4 poster for the foyer and forward to Cathy Doyle (bookings@grassdevinst.org) and to Ryk. Poster must state no animals only Assistance Dogs to be admitted to event.

Action: Kath to contact Cathy Doyle to confirm that a table will be required for merchandise and request a copy of the H and S Fire Safety instructions which Kath will cover on the day of the event. Colin does not require a microphone.

Action: Gordon to contact Alan Hume to request our 3 DWA Information Boards be available for the venue that day.

Action: Kath to produce copies of the signing in sheets Agenda, AGM papers etc for attendees.

Action: Colin, Tony and Chris to bring merchandise and membership forms to the event with necessary cash float etc.

Action: Ryk to arrange for flyers to be placed in local Grassington bookshop, National Park Office, the Hub and the local pubs.

Action: Gordon to arrange payment of £60 to Grassington Institute no later than one week before the event.

DWA Newsletter

The DWA Spring newsletter will go out to members mid-March 2024.

Action: Articles to be provided to Kath by **1st March 2024**.

Chairmans Introduction- Colin

Dales Way AGM walk and talk arrangements etc- Colin

Wind Turbines -Colin

Path Diversion Proposal - Tony

Staithe progress/ Dales Way Sign – Gordon

Leeds Dales Way Link- Ryk

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 for newsletter.

Dales Way- Leeds Link Route.

Ryk talked the committee through his proposal for changes to part of the current Leeds Link route which would involve changes at Bramhope and Pool Bank across fields leading to Danefield and the Dales Way.

Action: Ryk to lead a circular walk in August along the proposed section of the route and invite DWA members to join the walk. Ryk to establish where suitable parking is located for the start of the walk.

Date of next DWA Committee Meeting

The committee agreed to wait until the AGM to diary the next committee meeting so we can agree with Cath Williams a suitable date and location/venue. **AOB** – none. The meeting closed at 14:20