

Minutes of the Dales Way Association Committee Meeting held via Zoom on Friday 24th January 2025 at 11am.

Present: Colin Speakman, Ryk Downes, Tony Grogan, Cath Williams, Chris Grogan, Gordon Tasker, Kath Doyle.

Meeting was held via Zoom due to the gales caused by Storm Eowyn.

Minutes of the last meeting- were amended to include the accommodation report and reissued and agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

Bramhope Link- Ryk provided an update and it was agreed to consult Leeds Ramblers prior to publishing the route on the website, notifying O.S and updating any future edition of DW guidebook.

Action - Ryk agreed to consult the Leeds Ramblers and walk with them in the summer.

Footpath Reports:

Gordon presented the Bradford and North Yorks report – see attached report

Action- Gordon to contact Fiona Plane to establish future contacts

Tony presented the YDNPA report – see attached report

Action- Colin to circulate the NT Press Release on Hubberholme Path to committee members

Action- Tony/Chris to check with Steve Hastie if notices are posted at both ends of the Denthead road closure with details of the diversion route for walkers.

The committee members felt that in the future this diversion route via Arten Gill may have the potential to become the route of the DW.

Action- Ryk to arrange a date for the committee to meet in the summer to walk the diversion route.

Action -Tony to notify Darren Hinchcliffe that the DW Committee are happy with the Dales Way Bradford Link route as it currently exists as agreed in 2009 and share draft letter with Colin.

Action -Chris to comment on the planning application for the Grassington campsite and provide the agreed support of the DWA committee and let Jason know.

Cath presented Cumbria/LDNPA report- she stated there had not been much activity due to the continuous rain hampering the work in Westmorland and Furness. The owner at Holme Park Farm had requested a new stile/gate and this was resolved by Helen providing the owner with instructions to construct a gate.

Action- Cath to make enquiries locally to see if there are any groups (such as a “Mens Shed” or “Andys Man Club”) who might be able to assist with these types of constructions in the future.

Cath also stated that she has a contact who volunteers for LDNPA and has installed 40 DW signs in the Lakes. This is in addition to the 80 Cath installed previously.

The committee commended Cath and those who volunteer for LDNPA for the 120 DW signs in the Lakes - such a great achievement and a vast improvement for walkers on that stretch of the DW.

Action- Cath to produce an article for the next Newsletter and the website on this success story.

Finance Report:

Gordon presented the Finance report – see attached

Gordon queried why we had not received any applications for the furniture funding from LDNP

Action- Gordon to investigate with LDNPA

Website/Membership Report

Tony had no new information to report on the website. Chris stated we currently have 211 members with plenty of activity on Facebook page 3,800 and Facebook Group 5,000.

Accommodation Report

Kath presented the accommodation report - see attached.

Action- Kath to look at Sherpa Van entry to see if it makes clear that their season covers 31/3 to 19/10 and contact them to clarify if this requires amendment.

2025 AGM

Chris confirmed she had booked the Octagon Room at the Devonshire Institute for our AGM on Sat 26th April via Cathy Doyle.

Action- Kath to confirm arrangements with Cathy Doyle

Action- Colin to ask Peter Katic from National Trust next Thursday if he would be the guest speaker at the AGM.

Action- Colin to lead a walk at 11:15 from the NP visitors centre – a Grassington Circuit via Linton and Threshfield back via Linton Church -there are stiles on this route.

Action: Tony to produce a new poster and copy to Ryk and Kath. Ryk to produce copies and laminate one to take to Devonshire Institute for their notice board and issue other flyers to local businesses. Kath to email copy to Cathy Doyle to be entered on Devonshire Institute website.

Date of Next Committee Meeting

To be agreed at the AGM in April- please bring your diary

AOB

Otley Greenway- Colin raised the issue of the proposed Otley Greenway following the route of the DW between Ilkley and Addingham. Concern raised over walkers and cyclists sharing a path which is very well used by both DW walkers and local dog walkers- probably the heaviest foot traffic of anywhere on the whole DW route.

Action -Colin and Gordon to visit the route when a formal contact/request from the Greenway group has been made.

Footpath Report Ilkley to Bolton Bridge DWA Committee Meeting, 11am Zoom Call 24 January 2025

Success ... Woo hoo

With all the hard work done by *Burley Walkers are Welcome Group* the off road Permissive path which continues on from the bit off road walking behind the Chatsworth Estate Chipping Staithe on the busy B6160 was up and running from August 2024.

Issue 1

In September 2024 asked Bradford Council for help to remove a fallen tree, aftermath of Storm Lilian around August time. Very low to ground with some big branches overhanging large wooden gate with an adjacent large wooden kissing gate as you drop downhill from the upgraded footbridge beyond the Pump House opposite Ilkley Golf Club. Gate post has an affixed circular "*Millennium Way Circular Walk 14*" blue waymarker.

Action taken: Ilkley Golf Club, who own this land cut back low hanging branches

Issue 2

Again September 2024, asked Bradford Council for support following my path review and the issue raised by walker into our email address. Not a collapse as such, some field drainage some water something has impacted the path, very muddy and a big depression the path. Of course, not helped by cattle drinking at that stretch of the river and churning wet fields... many hooves make a muddy worn mess. Location, half a mile from Olicana, after the 40 steps down to walk beside the River Wharfe

Action taken: Bradford Council were aware from earlier in 2024 but didn't deem a major issue. Council Works Team to review and improve where appropriate.

No further issues to report

Additional information

1. Darren Hinchliffe, Bradford Council Area Rights of Way Officer is leaving at the end of January 2025 and Fiona Plane Area Rights of Way Officer and my main contact for many years may also be moving
2. Section last walked 13th September 2024 ... needs another review

Gordon Tasker
24 January 2025

National Park report for cttee meeting 24 Jan 2025 - (Tony Grogan)

(1) Hubberholme new path opening

The official opening of the new path at Hubberholme will take place on Thursday, Jan 30th. The plan will be to meet at Buckden Village Hall at 10am, which should allow people to get the bus that arrives in Buckden at 9.35. We'll walk from the village to the new path, Colin will give the opening talk and then return after the opening and walking the full length. The plan after the opening was to go back to the Village Hall for some tea and biscuits.

(2) Dales Way Bradford Link

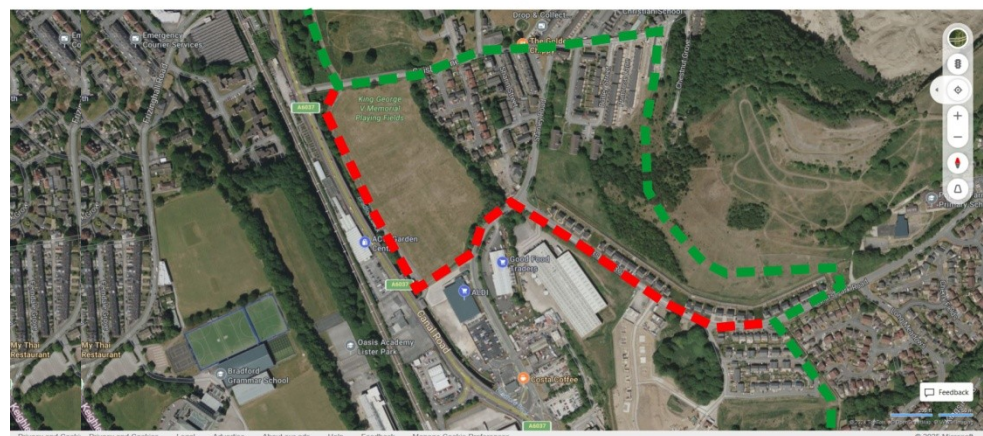
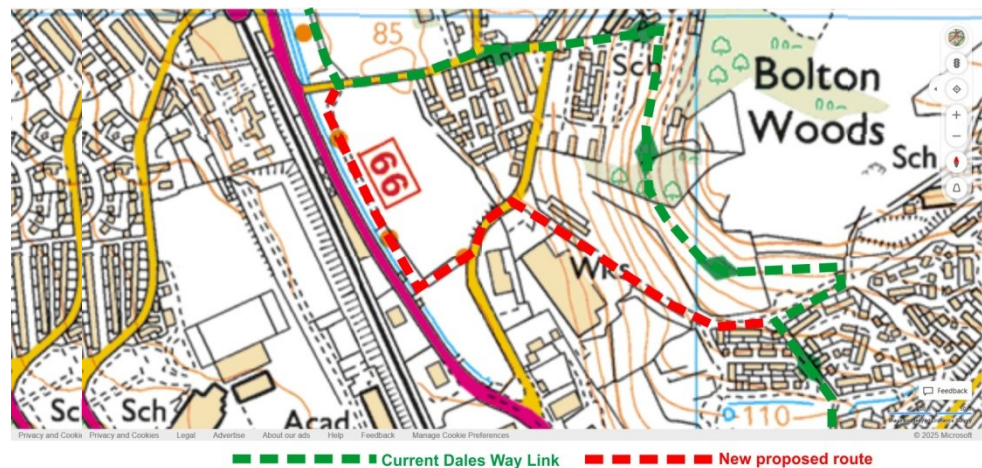
In December Darren Hinchcliffe (Area Rights of Way Officer, Bradford) got in touch about revisions to the Bradford Link route between Bradford and Shipley. The current route as agreed is the one shown in Colin's book.

There were 2 proposed changes - the main one involved moving the high-level section at Bolton Woods lower down to join the Bradford Green Way at an earlier point (see attached map).

I thought these had been agreed by us on an on-site walk through for the "Heritage Way" with Colin and Chris in attendance. I jumped the gun and agreed to the changes, but after consultation asked Darren to hold fire until we discussed this at our cttee meeting. (My apologies for all this).

As it turns out, Darren thought the suggested changes had come from us in the first place! It turns out that the culprit is a guy called Ben Jennings (Bradford Uni), who none of us know!

So, we can stick to the current route as agreed as of 2009, where the high level route drops down Livingstone Lane and Gaisby Lane to join the Bradford Green Way right through to Shipley railway station.



Suggest we inform Darren and perhaps arrange a face-to-face meeting, with perhaps Colin and someone from the Heritage Way to finalize the route before Bradford make changes to the OS map.

(3) Grassington Campsite

We received a request from Jason at Grassington campsite to support their application submitted to the YDNP.

"The application seeks permission to build a permanent facilities block, including showers, toilets, and a reception area, as well as to extend the site's operational period from the current 60 days to a full camping season, from spring through autumn. This would give your members the opportunity to enjoy Grassington Campsite and a stop point near Grassington for longer each year."

The site is just off Hebden Road, close to Grassington, with the Dales Way crossing just beneath.



<https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/yorkshiredales/application-details/40458>

There is a need for a decent campsite in Grassington.

(4) Denthead road closure

A landslip near Denthead has led to the road being closed, and likely to remain so for a long time (over a year). The road is officially closed to ALL traffic (including walkers).



We have put up an alternative route (part of the watershed alternative) on the website.

Finance Report

DWA Committee Meeting, 11am Zoom Call 24 January 2025

Capital

Bank statement balance at 29 November 2024 was £15k. Following National Trust donation in early January 2025 and continued subscriptions, estimated balance £14.2k.

Income

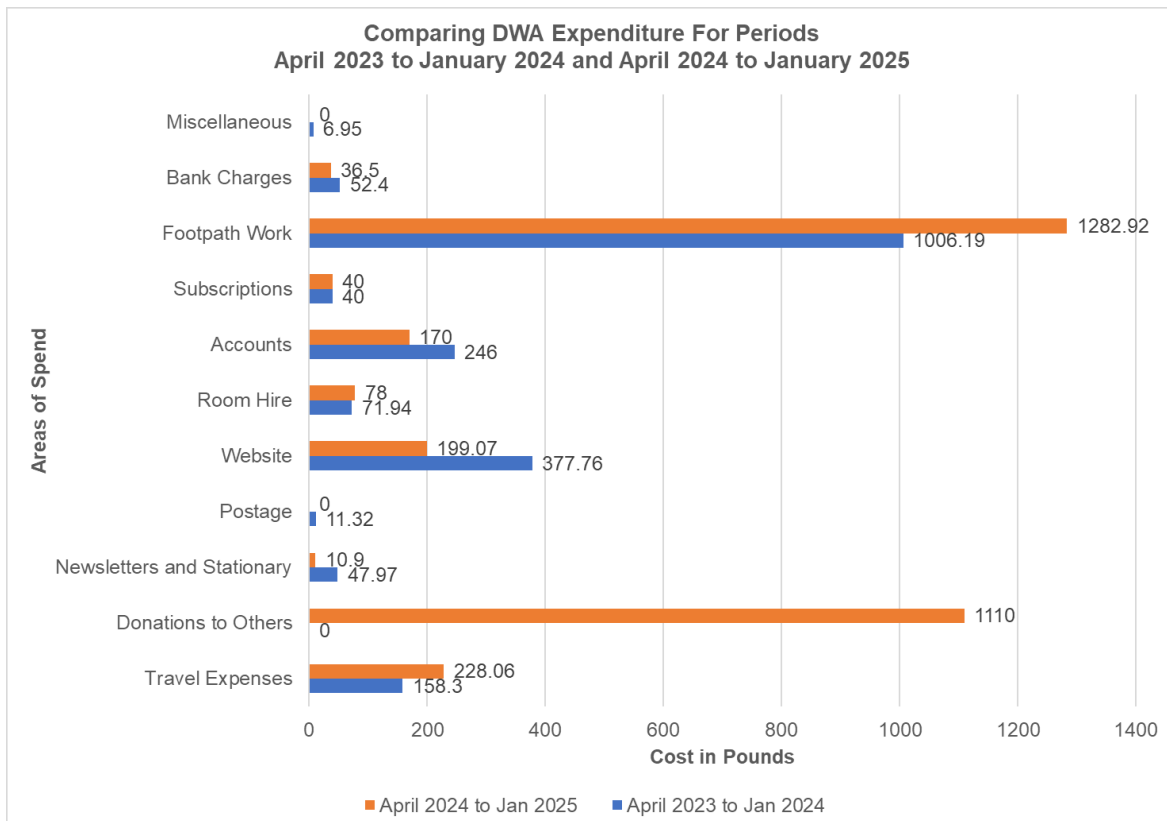
Continues to be solely subscriptions and donations.

- Income between 1st April 2024 and 29 November 2024 = £1252 compared with 1st April 23 to 29 November 2023 = £1962
- Gift Aid received for 2023/24 = £84 (not included in above income figure)
- No major donations this financial year

Expenditure

Standard outgoings continue during 2024/25 including Footpath work, Accountants Fees, Committee Travel Expenses, Annual Web Hosting, AGM costs and bank charges. Key points to note

- Accountant fees, £246 in 2023, £270 in 2024
- Chatsworth Estate Chipping Staithe
 - Estimated a £1000 to complete
 - Actual spend £1492. Reason material costs and included £100 goodwill gesture to Burley Walkers are Welcome Group who did the hard work
- Permissive footpath off road alongside River Wharfe through National Trust land.
 - Donated = £1,000 to National Trust



For information

DWA Committee agreed expenditure and maximum funding of a £1,000 for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 to support landowners (within Lake District National Park Authority) on the Dales Way with furniture repairs to a limit of £200 per furniture item. Lake District National Park Authority will cover 25% of the cost, the Landowners the remaining cost.

- No applications received

Gordon Tasker, DWA Treasurer
24 January 2025

Accommodation Provider Liaison Report- Jan 2025

There have been several changes since the last meeting.

Grayrigg Campsite responded to my letter after a walker notified us of an out-of-date phone number and we now have a mobile number.

Pool House B and B- I received a very positive and friendly response from Liz to my letter and we added their details to the website. They pointed out that they are also on Airbnb so do get booked up.

Liz also identified that **Daleslea** in Sedbergh has ceased trading and having checked on line and by phone have been deleted from the webpage.

No response from **Shepherds Cottage** to my email in September.

Cath passed on the information that Charles Stock at **Holme Park Farm** west of M6 is considering camping pods on the farm. Said we would welcome this addition and Cath passed on information re website. Watch this space.

A new proprietor at the **New Inn** at Appletreewick – Alexa ! Doubles and twins from £120 not including breakfast.

Details for **Howeston Barn** Lambrigg updated with new phone number and email address.

Kath Doyle