

Dales Way Association Committee Meeting
Saturday 8 Dec 2012
12.30pm at St Chad's Centre, Headingley

Present: Colin Speakman (Chair), Alex McManus, Donald Holliday, Kath Doyle, Tony Grogan, Chris Grogan

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Frank Sanderson and Douglas Cossar. Colin passed on Douglas' resignation to the Committee and suggested making him an honorary life member of the DWA in recognition of all he has done. Everyone agreed it was a fitting tribute and it was decided to hold a celebratory event which would include a Spring walk.

Action: Colin to talk to Douglas and agree a suitable date and section of the Dales Way.

2. The Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Tony pointed out that walkers around Cam forest should take the alternative path round the forest not the Watershed Alternative. Minutes of Aug 4th were corrected and signed as a true and correct record.

3. Matters arising

Cam High Road timber extraction. The company that put the planning application in to build a road withdrew it because they've sold the forest to another company. Colin has written an article for YDS Review and one for the Dalesman setting out the threat to the Dales.

Action: We should all watch out for a new application and continue to fight this issue.

4. AGM feedback

It was agreed that Ilkley was a good location though we still didn't manage to attract accomodation providers. There was good attendance from members.

Action: The 2013 AGM should also be held at the Riverside Hotel in Ilkley. A walk to be agreed later.

5. Re-structure and Charity application update

Chris reported that the Charities application had been completed and was with the Inland Revenue. It was agreed that we should write to members in the spring to keep them up to date.

Action: Chris to progress. The letter should include: the dates of the Spring Walk and the 2013 AGM; a request for email addresses; a request for everyone to pay by Bankers Order (form to be included) and any news.

6. Website Report

Tony presented the Website Report. Our new service provider does not autmatically provide user statistics but Tony asked for some background stats and reported that the site had 1,221 unique visitors in August and 609 in September. He has set up a Google Analytics account which showed that in the first week in December the site had 136

unique visitors which were broken down into how the visits had been referred and from where in the world. It was agreed that this would be useful information in future.

7. Finance Report

Donald presented the Finance Report. It was agreed that the highlighted items of income on the bank statement were generous donations from our members.

8. Footpath Officer's Report

Alex presented the Footpath Officer's report. There was discussion about what might be a good use of the £2000 donation made at the AGM. It was agreed that we should wait for Mark Alum from the National Park to get back to us but if no useful suggestions came from them we should progress it ourselves. Suggestions included resurfacing the path alongside the Dee in Dentedale or planting a copse of trees – possibly on National Trust or the Duke of Devonshire's land – in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

It was agreed that the meeting with the YDNP and CCC rangers at Colvend had been very successful. The proposed meeting to discuss funding has not yet happened. Some of the Dales Way Information Boards need updating. Alex has prepared a report (attached). All the boards are inaccurate as they have the Harrogate to Bolton Abbey link. The text is still good but we need new photos. It was agreed we will update the artwork then plan to replace 2/3 a year and add one at Sedbergh.

Action: Alex to contact Alan Hulme about funding meeting.

Action: Alex to send picture of the boards to everyone to suggest changes then begin work on the updates.

Action: Donald to find out where the Bowness TIC board has got to.

9. Blog Competition

We had a split decision on the blogs so agreed to make Watson Walks and the Anxious Gardener joint winners with David and Bridget's video third.

The Committee liked Steve Watson's humour, photos, and the fact the blog was very informative so would be good for anyone planning to walk the Dales Way. The Anxious Gardener's blog had beautiful pictures, celebrated winter walking so was unique.

Action: Chris to contact winners and send them prizes of signed 1st and 10th editions of Colin's Dales Way guide – donated by Skyware Press.

Action: Alex to send dvds with personalised covers.

10. Date of next Committee Meeting

Saturday March 16th 2013. 12 for 12.30 at St Chads.

11. Any other business

Everyone was reminded to include Kath in emails.