

The Dales Way Association
Committee Meeting – Thursday 14 January 2016
11am Friends Meeting House, Settle

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

1- Apologies: Frank Sanderson, Tony Hill.

2-Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 13 August 2015 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

3-Matters arising. Colin remarked on the highly successful AGM held in October 2015, marred only by the interruptions of the squeaky door from the food preparation area in the venue. 2016 will mark the 25th AGM of the Dales Way Association and the committee agreed to consider the location and venue in May for the October AGM and walk.

4 – Accommodation, Web and Membership Reports. Tony Hill provided a short written report in his absence. He will be sending his annual email to accommodation providers requesting any changes at the end of the month, the onus being for providers to tell us of changes. There are new providers – Sunny Hills in Burneside has re opened for business and the Jolly Anglers has new owners who he hopes will raise the standards.

He explained that there were a number of issues in the Burneside area following the flooding which he will be keeping a close eye on. This flooding has made the revitalisation of the village by means of the Burneside Vision even more vital. His message to guests is “the Dales Way is open and walkers will be supporting local communities along the route”

5- Cloth Badge. The committee were asked to consider a request from a Cub Scout Leader who had walked the Dales Way in aid of Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue. He had noted an absence of a cloth badge and had produced one based on our route marker design. He asked if we would promote the badge on our website for Dales Way Walkers to buy (£2 per badge plus 50p for postage) every £2 will go to Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue. The committee agreed to this proposal.

Action: Chris to respond to the enquiry .Tony G to advertise on the website.

6- Croppers of Burneside. Colin stated that 2015 had marked the 170th anniversary of the opening of the company who produce high quality paper and carbon fibre for the aerospace industry. The Burneside Vision is to see the Dales Way come through the centre of Burneside on Cropper family land. The Dales Way reflects the ethical and environmental values of the company. The vision includes an Interpretive Centre and shop and they hope to have a Dales Way Information Board at the back of the factory. Colin stated that the partnership between the Dales Way and Croppers in Burneside was very positive. Colin has written to Mark Cropper asking about the interpretive board and asking if a meeting with the DWA committee could be arranged to discuss our closer cooperation.

7- Spring Walk- the committee agreed, as there had been little take up last year, that there would not be a walk this Spring . This would be replaced by the potential Committee visit to Burneside.

Action: for Colin to discuss with Tony Hill and ask him to lead on this.

8- Newsletter The committee agreed this was essential to highlight the post flood issues/ resolutions and alternatives. The date is brought forward so we can promote the message that the Dales Way is open for business and provide the latest information to members.

Action: Contributions to Kath by 11th March 2016. Kath to ask Tony Hill for his contribution. Colin to provide an update on the Dales Bus. Newsletter to Tony Grogan for publishing by 18th March 2016

9- Finance Report Donald reported that the cashflow relating to the Burneside work was completed in October 2015 leaving a current balance of £5309 of which £2000 was committed expenditure. This was to resolve the flooding problem at Greenhead Farm monies for which may now be diverted to the more urgent requirements for Sprint Mill Bridge repair.

The committee discussed and agreed that we should make a donation to the Lake District Flood Appeal of £250.

Action: Kath to provide Chris and Donald with the web link to the Cumbria Community Foundation who are leading the flood appeal. Chris to add details to DWA webpage and Facebook to urge DWA members who wish to make a contribution direct to do so via the link. Kath to include in the newsletter in March.

10 -Footpath Officer's Report Alex was pleased to report that the new sign post, (pedestrians/ slow down) on the busy Bolton Road was installed last Autumn. Chris and Alex have met with Bolton Abbey Estate's agent to discuss the staithe restoration and path through the wood and this is with Ben Heyes to progress. Hebden Suspension Bridge is repaired and repainted. The committee were reassured at the Colvend meeting that YDNPA are in complete control of monitoring procedures for the Cam Forest log wagons. Harvey Maps requested updates for their next edition which Alex provided.

Much of the discussion centred on the impact of the floods and the alternative routes in place until repairs are completed. The diversion notices at the landslip on the Rawthey near Briggflatts was discussed, which includes the A683. Colin raised concerns about the public safety issues on this busy stretch of road.

Action: Colin to write to Alan Hulme to support Paul in seeking a better route in discussion with the landowner.

The closure of the road bridge and footbridge over the river Sprint mean that a major diversion into Kendal is now required or continuation to Oak Bank with minor road to Mint Bridge

Action: Donald to contact the appropriate MP to seek support in prioritising the repair of these bridges. Colin to write to the County Council/ Highways Authority Councillor Stan Collins copying in to the Burneside Parish Council stressing the importance to Burneside of repair to these vital routes for the village and its major employer. Tony G to produce maps for these diversions. Tony G to add link to Flood alternative routes to the Accommodation/ Services page on our website. Tony H is looking at Gurnell Bridge and Alex will need to check with Geoff Fewkes before DWA can make any recommendation for its use.

Colin recorded his thanks to Alex for all his work on this issue and recorded his thanks to all the National Park Rangers who have responded so promptly to highlight the DW issues and provide sound alternatives for walkers.

11-Date of next Committee Meeting Thursday 21st April at 11am either Settle or Burneside. To be confirmed.

12- Any other business Gordon asked Alex if he would like support from himself and Kath in walking any flood affected sections of the Dales Way route, to update and inform members and walkers. **Action** Alex to let Gordon and Kath know where they can be of assistance. There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 1pm.