

The Dales Way Association
Minutes of the Committee Meeting – Thursday 14 May 2015
11am – 1pm
in the Friends Meeting House, Settle

Apologies for absence were received from Frank Sanderson, Tony Hill, Gordon Tasker and Kath Doyle.

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of Jan 15th 2014 were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from these minutes not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda: The Spring walk will go ahead although there are only 6 of us planning to go. There is still no Dales way information board on Shipley Glen but this is not a problem as the previous site was not actually on the Dales Way route.

Footpath Officer's Report.

Complaints from members about high stiles and broken steps between Bolton Bridge and Addingham have been taken up with Bradford Metropolitan District Council. The steps have been repaired but nothing can be done about the high stiles, as they do not contravene any regulations.

Burneside Footpath:

The footpaths which are due to be repaired are to be closed from May 1st, as and when the contractor feels that walkers could be in danger from machinery etc. Geoff Fewkes (Cumbria County Council Ranger) has arranged for the appropriate notice for an alternative route to be displayed when the main footpaths are closed. Two Ramblers groups, Lake District and Kendal, have contributed funds to the Burneside footpath project. It was agreed that plaques would be displayed at each end of the definitive path to acknowledge their contributions. Donald, Geoff and the 2 Ramblers groups will agree the exact locations.

Path by A643:

The footpath through the grass verge is now completed. This includes 360m of aggregate path surface 1.2m wide on two sections of verge. The path is waymarked with Dales Way discs. The work also involved renewing 340m of sheep wire fence. During the work large amounts of fly tipped rubbish was collected and removed. The footpath is being used and has been well received locally and by DW walkers. It was agreed that the walkers on the Spring walk would visit the site. No attempt has been made as yet to resume negotiations with the landowner owning the land that links the 2 sections of new path. This will resume this year.

Bolton Road:

In November 2014 a complaint was received from a group of 4 walkers who reported some apprehension on walking on the DW section between Bolton Bridge and the permissive path at the top of the hill. Verges are overgrown and sections require walkers to negotiate the narrow road which is busy with cars and cyclists.

After extended meetings, site visits, MP's involvement, newspaper articles and multiple emails North Yorkshire County Council has agreed to carry out improvements. It is hoped that a meeting can go ahead between NYCC and Bolton Abbey Estates to discuss creating a walkway through the staithe to the DW gate behind the wall, giving walkers 100% safety for 50% on this section of road. Alex reported that he had visited the area on the morning of the meeting and the work had been carried out and was very successful. It was agreed that Alex would thank NYCC and publicise the project. Well done, NYCC.

Additional Funding:

Alex reported that Geoff Fewkes had access to a further £1,000 to be spent on the Dales Way if we are able to match fund it. It was agreed that we should. Our preference for a project to spend the money on is for work to be done at Greenhead Farm to prevent the annual flooding. Geoff has been asked to put forward a plan.

Bradford Link route:

Darren Hinchcliffe from Bradford Council got in touch with DWA re house building over the DW link route. Colin and Tony met Darren on site. A cycleway has being created just off the line of the link route at Shipley end. It will be waymarked as DW link. The rest of the route will be worked out as the building progresses with green ginnels where possible. Tony has supplied waymarks. The link route at the Bradford end will continue to go through the nature reserve.

Finance Report.

It was agreed that Chris and Colin will meet at the bank in Ilkley to transfer £4,000 from the savings account to the current account. This will leave £2,600 in the savings account which will form the DWA reserves. We will consider all requests for funding on their merit. Chris will write a report of the projects that the DWA have funded since the decision was made not to print and post handbooks and newsletters and use it as the basis to appeal for donations.

Autumn Newsletter.

It was agreed to send out an Autumn newsletter in time for it to include the notice of the AGM on Sat Oct 10th. Contributions for newsletter to Kath by end of August.

AGM 2015.

Kath and Chris to check out Bar T'at and other venues.

Colin will lead a circular walk from Ilkley to Addingham, returning on the Dales Way.

Date of next Committee Meeting.

Thursday August 13th from 11am to 1pm in the Friends Meeting House, Settle.

Any other business.

John Disney has written an article for Friends of Settle Carlisle line about walking the Dales Way using public transport which has been reproduced on the Dales Way website.