

**The Dales Way Association
Committee Meeting – Thursday 17 Aug 2017
11am – 12.45pm in the Friends Meeting House, Settle**

Minutes

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

Apologies for Absence: Frank Sanderson, Kath Doyle, Gordon Tasker, Tony Hill

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of Jan 19th 2017 were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising from these minutes not dealt with elsewhere:

Metal gate near Yockenthwaite reported as hard to open. Ranger said he couldn't find it but Colin says it is there. Alex to take it up with Phil Richards. Update: Phil says it has been fixed.

Gordon is contacting Buckden Parish Council re Buck Inn

Footpath Officer's Report: Alex gave a comprehensive report and explained that he has updated "Where Did It all Go Wrong George? And is uploading videos of gates, stiles and bridges along the route of the Dales Way to help walkers identify exact locations.

The Colvend meeting is on Oct 11th at 10.30am. Someone from LDNPA will be attending. Alex to ask Paul to invite Geoff from CCC too. Items for the agenda should be sent to Alex.

Donald had heard from Kendal Ramblers that there were 2 "bad" stiles after Burton House. Donald to pass this info on to Geoff.

Finance Report: The accounts to March 2017 are ready for the AGM. The current balance is £6289.55 with £283.72 in PayPal.

We have almost no physical mail so the PO Box is expensive. Agreed to phase out its use over the next 3 years and ask the Yorkshire Dales Society if we can use their office as a mailing address.

Hagg End: We support the green route providing good signage is put in place for walkers and care is taken not to put stock in the field.

Fisherman's Bridge: Agreed to donate £500. Kendal Ramblers will match it.

YDNPA Management Plan: Chris responded on behalf of the Dales Way Association and Friends of A Dales High Way making the following points:

We urge that support and promotion of long distance footpaths will continue as walkers on these routes bring significant economic benefit to the communities they pass through.

We would like to see more support for public transport to the Dales.

We hope that the National Park will support small hill farms, especially if they are affected by the withdrawal of European grants and subsidies after Brexit. Much of the landscape and culture that bring visitors to the Dales is as a result of farming – dry stone walls, lambs in fields, village shows etc.

We'd like to see more Rangers out and about in the Park.

Autumn Newsletter: Items for the Autumn Newsletter should be sent to Kath by October 2nd. We are planning to send it out by October 14th so it gives a months notice of the AGM. Photos will be especially welcome.

Website: Tony demonstrated our new mobile friendly website. He was thanked for all his hard work which has saved the DWA a considerable amount.

AGM: Colin will lead an Ilkley Town Walk, meeting at the railway station at 10.30 am and getting to the pub for lunch at 1pm. Alan Hulme will speak at 2pm and we will hold a short business meeting after that.

AOB: Sustrans may be considering suggesting a shared cycle track/footpath on the first stage of the Dales Way from Ilkley. Fiona Plane has given Alex as contact. We will discuss it further if we are formally approached but general feeling was that starting the Dales Way on a tarmac path is not a good idea.

Date of next committee meeting Jan 18th 2018

Meeting closed at 12.45