

**The Dales Way Association  
Committee Meeting – Thursday 17 July 2014  
11am Friends Meeting House, Settle**

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

**Apologies:** Frank Sanderson, Tony Hill,

**Minutes** of the Committee Meeting of January 16 2013 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

**Matters arising** from these minutes not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda.

**Action-** CF from previous minutes for Tony H to approach Kevin Smith at YDNPA Colvend re a supply of DW leaflets.

Colin reported that he and Fleur had enjoyed their walk with the Safe Hands for Mothers group who had successfully completed their adventure raising substantial funds for their charity and spreading the word about the Dales Way.

**BBC Radio 4 - Ramblings with Clare Balding Programme** – Chris was pleased to report that the DWA had been approached by the producer of the radio show to say they intended to devote a whole series of 6 programmes to walking the Dales Way. They have publicised and appealed for people with an emotional connection to the Dales Way to walk with Clare on the various stages of the walk which will be recorded in early August. Colin Speakman and Chris Grogan will be involved as they took part in the original one off recording transmitted in October 2011.

**Action-** Chris to seek to promote as a local news story.

**Footpath Officer's Report.** Alex has walked several stretches of the Dales Way since the last meeting. He reported that the new gates at Ilkley were looking very good and were a great example of how we work together with the authorities. It was agreed that no action would be taken on the Burton House diversion until it has been completed. Discussion took place around the alternative footpath at Sprint Mill cottages. It was agreed that we would consult with Cumbria CC and bring to the next meeting.

**Action-** Alex to approach Geoff at CCC re their view

Alex reported that the planting of 40,000 saplings on land at Swarthghyll was providing 20% more efficiency than mature trees in the elimination of carbon monoxide.

He stated he was still receiving reports of walkers getting "lost" along the DW. This equates to about 5% of the total of those walking the route each year. He commented that walkers could not walk the whole Dales Way solely following Dales Way way marks but a combination of finger posts and public footpath discs too.

**Action** – Chris to update facebook to remind walkers to get the latest versions of DW guides and to check the website for diversions etc to reduce the risk of getting lost.

Colin commented on the Cam High Road/ Forest development Section 106 promising new rights of way and wondered what the implications were for the Dales Way

**Action** Chris to ask for this to be on the agenda for the meeting at Colvend.

**Action** –Alex to speak to the agent Ted Downes and establish where paths are that will lead up to the Pennine Way.

Alex provided an update on the Hebden Suspension Bridge. Work will be completed at end of next week and wording for the plaque has been agreed with Eileen King

**Action-** Alex to arrange to involve the local press once the plaque is in place.

**Finance Report.** Donald presented his report and stated that the annual accounts had been discussed and agreed, awaiting formal return from the accountant. Main future expenditure will be determined by the Burneside decision due on 31 July. This will require further ratification/application and is also weather dependent so may be some time before matched funding required. Chris reported that we were awaiting our 2nd payment of Gift Aid.

**Action-** Colin to prompt Yorkshire Dales Society to check they have the correct PO box number for the DWA as we have not received request for membership fee.

**Membership Report.** Chris reported that membership remains steady at around 600 members. Facebook activity has really taken off. Hawkshead are regularly posting photos of walkers who complete the Dales Way and collect their certificates from their shop.

**Action** – Chris to prompt Gill at Hawkshead Head office re potential to promote and sell Dales Way DVDs.

Chris had emailed the YDNPA to ask why the DWA had not been asked to comment on the Cam Planning Application

**Action** – Committee to raise this issue again at the Colvend meeting in October 2014

**Website Report.** Tony G reported that problems that had arisen with our Dales Way website proved to be a commercial rather than a technical issue. He was pleased to report that after weeks of seeking to resolve the issue we were able to transfer the domain name **dalesway.org.uk** back under our control. In the interim we established a new name **dalesway.org**. So we now hold 2 domain names and the issue is resolved and our website secured. The chair recorded a vote of thanks to Tony G for all his hard work in resolving this.

**Accommodation Providers Report.** Tony H provided a written update to say that it had been an excellent season so far. The weather had helped enormously. Very few walkers passed through during the Tour de France as accommodation booked up by cycling enthusiasts. Several new walking package companies are stepping onto the Dales Way route –there are now at least 10.

**Action** – Tony H to arrange improvements to the accommodation providers listings

**Date of next Committee Meeting.** Prior to Colvend meeting on Wednesday 1st October. Time to be agreed.

**Any other business.** The Dales Way Association AGM will take place on Saturday 25th October 2014 in Ilkley. Prior to the AGM it was agreed our AGM walk will be from Barden Tower To Bolton Abbey.

**Action-** Kath to request contributions from the committee by 9th August to an e- newsletter which will be issued w/c 18 August with the invite to the AGM.

**Action-** Chris to write to those members who do not currently have an email address to remind them papers are on the website and request them to provide an email address

**Action-** Chris to investigate the cost of the hire of a mini bus from AS Coaches to transport members to the start of the walk and back to Ilkley for the AGM meeting.

**Action-**Chris to review venues and finalise arrangements for the AGM meeting in Ilkley

## **AOB**

**Information Boards** - Alex reported that the Burnside board was in place thanks to Tony Hill. He had also been in touch with Rick Hill at Bradford Council seeking suggestions re the board at Shipley Glen which is in a state of disrepair.

**Waymark inserts** were discussed.

**Action** - Tony G to get a range of quotes to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Colin reported that Wharfedale Brewery had been in touch with him re working more closely to promote the Dales Way and the Ales Way and he was very encouraged at their enthusiasm to work with us. Further discussions are to take place.

**Frequency of committee meetings** It was agreed that we should meet Jan/ May/ August and October (AGM) in future.