

The Dales Way Association
Committee Meeting – Thursday 19th January 2017
11am Friends Meeting House, Settle

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

1- Apologies: Frank Sanderson, Tony Hill

2-Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 25 August 2016 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

3-Matters arising. There were none.

4- Footpath Officers Report. YDNPA - Alex reported that four committee members attended the opening of the new bridge at **Birks Mill**. He commented on the very successful meeting with YDNPA in October where we were brought up to date with the work carried out on the route in the past 12 months. In Cumbria the new **Mint footbridge** was erected in October 2016 with excellent cooperation between the landowner and the contractors. **Sprint Road Bridge** is open to pedestrians, cyclists and local traffic from November 2016. Large vehicles currently prohibited as the bridge in Burneside has still to be repaired. The repair of **Sprint Mill footbridge** has begun, no date for completion as yet. DWA informed CCC we would contribute £1000 towards the flood scheme at **Greenhead Farm** and we await their approach for funds, work scheduled for the end of summer.

Action: invoice for contribution to Donald via Chris

The footbridge at **Grayrigg Foot** has been replaced and the definitive line officially diverted over the bridge. The highest metal stile on the DW between **Burneside and Bowston** has been replaced by a gate at the landowners' request.

Alex reported we are still waiting a response from Ben Heyes on the staithe restoration on **Bolton Road**.

Alex stated that since he has upgraded his PC he is unable to update the DW DVD, currently 500 images. We can copy the existing version and will continue to offer this as an historical record. 6 sold since October including 1 to Australia.

5- Finance Report. Donald reported the current balance as £5346.06. Chris confirmed around £900 in the PayPal account which will transfer on 31/3/17.

6- Smithy Beck Bridge. Chris reported that we had received an approach from Steve Hastie YDNPA Area Manager Western Dales seeking a contribution towards the rebuilding of the damaged footbridge at Smithy Beck north of Hole House. The committee discussed and agreed unanimously to providing £500 towards the cost of repair.

7- Feedback 2016 AGM and planning ahead for 2017. Feedback from the AGM was that some members had felt that the walk was a little treacherous in the conditions and the committee agreed to seek a walk for the 2017 AGM which would suit all members better. Discussion took place about the timing of the 2017 AGM, taking into account school holiday weeks, Literary Festival etc . It was agreed the 2017 AGM would be held on Saturday 11th November in Ilkley.

Action : Alex and Chris to publicise date via website and facebook etc; Alex to approach Alan Hulme to see if he or one of his YDNPA Rangers would be a guest speaker at the AGM; Chris to check date with Flying Duck.

8- Newsletter It was agreed that a Spring Newsletter would be produced.

Action: Contributions to date as follows: Colin to provide a Chariman's Introduction and request a short article from Nick Cotton , National Park Authority Recreational Access Officer- Cumbria; Alex to write part 2 of the Enclosures Act; Tony G to write Christmas Day on the DW; Donald to write a Lost Footpaths article about Briggflatts; Kath to ask Tony Hill to contribute an Accommodation article.

Action: Contributions to Kath by 31 March 2017. Kath to produce final version to send to Chris/ Tony by 10 April 2017 for publishing that week.

9- Dales Way Guidebooks Tony G provided an informative update on the wide range of route guides available to the DW and the trend towards publishing a route guide with maps and a separate book containing all the additional information and background to the walk. This format is proving to be very popular with walkers.

10 - Accommodation, Web and Membership Reports. Tony H provided a short written report in which he said that the Burneside Neighbourhood Plan was proving all consuming at present. He stated that Bowston Brewery was now operating out of Bowston Bridge from the old garage premises, producing Handsome Beers. They aim to open a small bar/cafe and an outside terrace, perfect for DW walkers as they pass the premises. The Jolly Anglers is heading in the right direction and gaining a better reputation. Tony said the village needs another B&B as they cannot cope with the volume of walkers, most of whom have to go to Kendal.

Colin reported that sadly the Buck Inn had closed and it was hoped it would reopen soon. The White Lion at Cray warmly welcomes walkers and is only a minor detour from the DW route at Hubberhome . The Tennants Arms at Kilnsey had also closed.

Discussion took place as to how we might simplify the notification of changes to accommodation provider details on the DWA website. It was agreed to explore options and discuss at the next committee meeting.

Action- Tony G and Gordon to discuss prior to next committee meeting and liaise with Tony H; Chris to add to Agenda for April meeting.

11-Date of next committee meeting Thursday 6th April 2017 at 11am in the Friends Meeting House, Settle.

12- Any other business Donald introduced the discussion regarding Lost Footpaths and Briggflatts stating that in order to be considered for reinstatement they will have to prove 20 years of uninterrupted use. As reported earlier in these minutes Donald will provide an article for the Newsletter to raise awareness and seek evidence.

Colin stated that he continues to have sporadic problems receiving emails. Alex asked committee members to provide an OK response when they get his Footpaths report.

Action : Chris to reissue committee members email addresses.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.45 pm