

The Dales Way Association
Committee Meeting – Thursday 21st April 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 14 January 2016 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

3-Matters arising. Colin commented on the positive responses of members to the Spring Newsletter, particularly as it provided walkers with the latest information regarding the flood damage on the Dales Way. He thanked everyone for their contributions.

4- Accommodation, Web and Membership Reports. Tony H. was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments.

It was reported that sadly Netherghyll no longer offers B and B facilities. However they still provide a stop for tea/coffee and toilets, we have also lost Eastgate Farm. However Swarthghyll do offer b and d plus a bunk barn and two walkers apartments .The White Lion at Cray has been refurbished and reopened as has the Devonshire and they are very enthusiastic about the DW.

Action: Chris to get in touch with Dave Eggleton at the Devonshire.

Gordon asked where there may be gaps in the DW route for accommodation and Chris said the sparsest area was after Sedbergh and before Burneside. As Mosedale Hall has gone and there are no hotels and pubs in the area to provide evening meals.

Chris suggested it would be more manageable if the annual request for changes and updates to the website regarding accommodation could be provided once and for all so that a single update could be made.

Action: Chris to liaise with Tony H to discuss and agree.

Tony G reported that the website is up to date and the news section is proving very popular. Chris reported that there was lots of activity this month as the 3/2/1 year DWA membership expired on 31st Mar 2016. So renewals are all due at once. Chris reported that we drew down the PayPal monies at the end of the financial year. Since 1st April another £375 deposited in the PayPal account. There have been 7 new memberships in 2016 so far, with current membership around 400.

5- Finance Report. Donald stated that the annual report would be produced when the latest bank statement, just received, had been added to the system. Currently the account stands at £5639 and there is no committed expenditure. Chris reported that we had received £200 contribution from Hawkshead from the issue of DW certificates.

6- Footpath Officers Report and update on impact of floods.

Alex reported that that the footpath which fell into the river Rawthey at **Briggflatts** had now been repaired in record time and everything is back to normal thanks to Alan Hulme.

Action: Colin to write to Alan to express our thanks for handling this so promptly.

Work has started at the isolated bridge at **Chapel Beck** which will take approximately six weeks to complete. The current diversion avoiding the farmyard via “the postmans road” will continue until work is completed.

Sprint Mill Footbridge is still closed and work will commence when the landowners insurance claim is processed. **Sprint Road Bridge** remains officially closed though it is

reported that pedestrians are crossing **at their own risk**, which is clearly stated on the DWA website. Alex said that it is unknown when repairs will begin and he has written requesting notification when this happens so he can update walkers. Additional diversion notices for walkers to clarify the changing scenarios with maps, have been produced by Alex. Donald will be arranging their installation at the bridge. Alex reported that the DW DVD has been updated to include the storm damage and that 6 copies have been sold since October 2015. The Committee recorded their grateful thanks to Alex for his terrific work in managing the communications surrounding the floods.

7- AGM The provisional date for the DWA AGM was agreed as Sat 15 October 2016. Several ideas were mooted for location. However it was agreed that Ilkley provided the best location for DWA members, particularly those travelling from outside the local area. Venues were discussed and after some debate it was agreed that we would approach the Flying Duck to see if they can accommodate us and do something about the squeaky door and rearrange the furniture slightly!

The AGM will be preceded by a walk from Burley in Wharfedale Station over Burley and Ilkley moors finishing in Ilkley.

Action- Chris to speak to Nick at The Flying Duck and once agreed will confirm date and venue to members via the website.

Colin to agree the logistics for the pre AGM walk.

8- Burneside Visit

Colin confirmed that the DWA Committee Members would meet with Mark Cropper, owner of Croppers in Burneside, to discuss the Burneside vision. The objectives of this meeting are two fold: to seek agreement to an Interpretive Panel near the Croppers factory and in the longer term to discuss the potential for rerouting the Dales Way by the riverside through Burneside village. The meeting will take place on Monday 20th June at 2pm and include a tour of the mill.

Action Colin to speak to Tony H to request him to lead on this and to suggest that Committee Members tour Burneside that morning to understand the wider aspects of the vision.

9-Date of next Committee meeting. It was agreed the next meeting would take place on Thursday 25th August at 11am in Settle.

Action- Chris to confirm booking of Friends Meeting House.

10-Any other business. DWA Autumn Newsletter – discussion took place on the timing of contributions for the newsletter so that it can be issued mid September 2016.

Action- Committee Members to provide contributions for the Autumn Newsletter to Kath by 25th August 2016

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12:45pm