

**Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting
of the
Dales Way Association
held at 2:00pm on
Saturday 11th Nov 2017
in
The Flying Duck, Church Street, Ilkley**

Before today's AGM 21 DWA members joined Chairman Colin Speakman for an autumnal walk around Ilkley to celebrate the special history of the town where so many Dales Way walkers start out , but never have time to explore.

Introduction

Colin warmly welcomed Dales Way Association (DWA) members to the 25th AGM and reflected that it didn't seem like 12 months had passed since we were cutting the lovely 25th anniversary cake for the Dales Way Association. . He explained that Ilkley has a rich history in its own right and was known for many years as The Heather Spa. Highlights of the walk included an ascent of Mill Gill to pause at Darwin Gardens opposite Well House, which was originally a Hydropathic Spa where Victorians took ice cold baths to improve their circulation and continued towards White Wells, the 18th century bathing establishment to where gouty patients were carried by donkey for the water cure. The walk then skirted the edge of iconic Ilkley Moor, symbol of much that is special about Yorkshire and scene of many ramblers' activities, including open air protest rallies in the 1930s and 1950s for public access. Its history in the walking movement made it a very appropriate place to start the Dale Way. Returning down picturesque Heber's Gill a natural Pennine ravine whose pathways and bridges were constructed by the Victorians to encourage walking as a way of improving health – anticipating modern medical science and along Grove Road pausing to see Heathcote, the magnificent Edwin Lutyens Italianate villa which belonged to a former Bradford wool magnate, before returning to central Ilkley via the Memorial Gardens, relics of the old town spa in small park , and the Victorian Arcade to finish the walk at The Manor House, the fascinating medieval building at the heart of ancient Ilkley, whose foundations lie on the remains of the Roman fort – Olicana.

Present:

Colin Speakman (Chairman - Ilkley), Alex McManus (Footpaths Officer - Harrogate), Donald Holliday (Treasurer/Cumbria Rep - Windermere), Chris Grogan (Secretary - Saltaire), Tony Grogan (Webmaster- Saltaire) Kath Doyle (Minutes & eNewsletter- Yeadon), Gordon Tasker (Committee Member -Yeadon) Eileen King (Member – Great Dunmow, Essex) , Julia Jardine (Member- Ellesmere, Shropshire), Terry Coombes (Member – Stoke Golding, Buckinghamshire) , Ros Langdon (Member- Sunbury, Surrey), Barbara Macbeth (Member- Leeds), Chris Grimshaw (Member- Ilkley), Jill and Martin Collison (Members – Ilkley) , Michael Williams (Member- Wakefield), Pippa Hudson (Member- Wetherby)

Apologies:

Frank Sanderson (President), Tony Hill (Committee Member- Accommodation Providers), Fleur Speakman, Carol Crossland, Judith Smith,

Minutes of the AGM Saturday 15 October 2016 were passed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Chris Grogan
Seconded: Martin Collison

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Annual Report

In his chairman's address, Colin highlighted how much of our work in 2017 had been dominated by the 2015 Storm Desmond and Boxing Day flood damage to the Dales Way in Cumbria. It had taken until this spring to get the Way fully opened and paths and footbridges restored. The Association continues to flourish, with an excellent, enthusiastic and efficient committee, very good newsletter and website that had been brilliantly adapted for use on held IT devices. Of especial value is the close working relationship the Association has with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The Association will take note of the fact that commercial companies now using the Dales Way for package walking holidays ought perhaps also to be contributing towards its future maintenance.

Footpath Officer's Report

Alex presented his comprehensive Footpath Officer's Report reflecting that the worst of the flood impact was over and the Dales Way restored with five new bridges. In the YDNPA the DWA donated towards the new Birks Mill Bridge and attended the official opening. He stated we had agreed further donations towards the cost of Smithy Beck Bridge and Fishermans Bridge. In Cumbria DWA had contributed towards the flood improvements at Greenhead Farm.

In order to improve walkers difficulties in finding their way in Cumbria Alex has produced 3 videos, now on YouTube, detailing the route by gate, stile and fingerpost. He reported that the staithe on Bolton Road will be turned into a verge and continued as a path through woodland to take walkers off the very busy and hazardous section of road. A request, by the landowners at Hag End Farm to divert the path away from their buildings has been supported.

Treasurer's Report

Donald presented the annual accounts. He commented that the Dales Way expenditure column showed money we had provided for bridge renovation.

The Accounts were agreed and accepted

Proposed: Chris Grogan

Seconded : Eileen King

Membership Secretary's Report

Chris presented the Membership Secretary's Report. There have been seventeen new members this year. Because some members pay three years at a time there are peaks and troughs in payments. Eileen King asked if reminders were sent out to members and Chris confirmed this was the case.

Website Report

Tony presented his update. In the year there have been 124,000 visitors to the website an average of 10,000 individuals per month, with peaks in the summer. It became apparent that more people were using phones rather than desktops to access the site and there was a need to make the website mobile friendly. This required a rebuild of every page, a significant undertaking and Tony launched this quietly with very few issues. He explained that 15% of visitors come through Google search - in the last 28 days 1,516 people with 88% from the UK Of these the majority were using mobile devices or tablets. He commented that Chris deals with most Facebook updates and news and we have currently 920 followers.

All above reports:

Proposed: Alex Mc Manus

Seconded: Eileen King

Election of Officers and Committee

The following people agreed to stand as Officers and Committee Members for the year 2017-18

President

Frank Sanderson

Chairman	Colin Speakman
Footpaths Officer	Alex McManus
Treasurer	Donald Holliday
Secretary	Chris Grogan
Web Administrator	Tony Grogan
Newsletters/ Minutes	Kath Doyle
Accommodation Providers	Tony Hill
Committee Member	Gordon Tasker

Proposed: Mike Williams

Seconded : Ros Langdon

The vote was unanimous.

Guest Speaker. Colin welcomed our guest speaker Alan Hulme Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Head Ranger. Colin reflected on the success of close working between the DWA and the YDNPA. He stated we have a great friend in Alan and thanked him for all he has done. Alan's talk was entitled "A walk in the Park" and he provided a fascinating and informative account of his 32 years with the YDNPA and the issues and challenges which the Park Authority currently face.

Any Other Business

Eileen King reflected on the difficulties of walking the route during the days of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. Alan Hulme commented on the requirement of all National Parks to deliver on the Health Agenda. One member asked if it would be possible to have more details of the route in advance of the next walk. Julia Jardine and Ros Langdon asked if we could provide the date of the next AGM as soon as practicable and asked if this could be before the clocks go back.

There being no further business Colin thanked everyone for coming, particularly those members who had travelled some distance to attend, the meeting closed at 3:40pm.

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2017

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

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DALES WAY ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	2017		2016	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Gift aid		100		98
Subscriptions		2,020		1,544
Donations		514		355
Bank interest		-		10
Certificates		-		200
Retail sales	63		36	
Less purchases	(37)		(20)	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		26		16
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		2,697		2,243
 EXPENSES				
Room hire	156		144	
Dales Way expenditure	500		2,000	
Travelling expenses	373		353	
Printing and stationery	373		349	
Subscriptions and donations paid	35		280	
Web site	-		392	
Accountancy fees	180		276	
Bank charges	52		20	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		1,706		3,834
		<hr/>		<hr/>
SURPLUS OF/(SHORTFALL IN) INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		991		(1,591)
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	2017		2016	
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Other debtors	100		—	
Cash at bank	8,822		7,781	
	<u>8,922</u>		<u>7,781</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Other creditors	150		—	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>8,772</u>		7,781
NET ASSETS		<u>8,772</u>		<u>7,781</u>
FINANCED BY:				
ACCUMULATED FUNDS				
Balance Brought Forward		7,781		9,372
Surplus Of/(Shortfall In) Income Over Expenditure		991		(1,591)
		<u>8,772</u>		<u>7,781</u>