

**Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting
of the
Dales Way Association
held at 2:00pm on
Saturday 13th Oct 2018
in
The Flying Duck, Church Street, Ilkley**

Prior to today's AGM a small group of DWA members joined Chairman Colin Speakman for an autumnal walk around Ilkley to White Wells and back via Heber Ghyll .

Present:

Colin Speakman (Chairman - Ilkley), Donald Holliday (Treasurer/Cumbria Rep – Windermere), Chris Grogan (Secretary - Saltaire), Tony Grogan (Webmaster- Saltaire) Kath Doyle (Minutes & eNewsletter- Yeadon), Gordon Tasker (Committee Member -Yeadon), Julia Jardine (Member- Ellesmere, Shropshire) , Ros Langdon (Member- Sunbury, Surrey), Barbara Macbeth (Member- Leeds), Pippa Hudson (Member- Wetherby), Ryk Downes (Member- Old Pool Bank), Judith Smith (Member- Ilkley), Mary and Mike Shaw (Members –Rugby), Moo Ping and Jolyon West (Members- Ilkley), Barbara and Paul Henderson (Invited contributors- Ilkley),

Apologies:

Frank Sanderson (President), Tony Hill (Committee Member- Accommodation Providers), Fleur Speakman, Carol Crossland, Alex Mc Manus, Eileen King, Terry Coombes, Rowan Brockhurst, Eileen Hartigan, Elaine Gibson, Kath and David Coulson.

Introduction and Chairman's Report

Colin warmly welcomed Dales Way Association (DWA) members to the 26th AGM and reflected that with so many worrying situations in the world today- global warming, air pollution, obesity, Brexit and American politics- to name but a few, it was great to identify the Dales Way as a source of hope.

Colin stated that the Dales Way (DW) is recognised as something very special, whilst not officially recognised as a National Trail the DW is hugely important both nationally and internationally. He told a tale of meeting two Americans in a pub in York by chance, who asked if he had heard of the DW as they were going to walk it. The very next day Colin joined them for the first few miles of the walk and is pleased to report that DW is now going viral around Washington DC!

He said that Tony Hill our accommodation officer had reported the huge popularity of the DW with 9 companies vying for booking accommodation on the route months ahead. We even know of a rival guide to Colin's book that's priced in dollars!

The association runs on a tiny team and Colin took time to mention each committee member and the valuable contribution they make to the association.

Colin then went on to speak about Alex McManus's retirement from the DWA Committee and the enormous contribution he had made to the DW over the past 15 years as Footpaths officer, becoming "Mr DW", with such energy, drive and enthusiasm, building excellent relationships with the National Parks and landowners, handling issues and problems on the route and Colin stated how very much he would be missed. Alex was the heart and soul of the DW and such was Alex's contribution it would now take several people to do his work! Colin stated that we couldn't just let Alex disappear and his wish to create an Honorary Life Membership of the DWA for Alex. This being only the 2nd such accolade, the previous recipient being Arthur Gemmell, environmentalist and campaigner, who saved Otley Chevin.

Proposed; Colin Speakman

Seconded: Tony Grogan

Action Colin to let Alex know about this and to arrange to meet him in his favourite pub for a glass of wine and to present his certificate.

Minutes of the AGM Saturday 11th November 2017 were passed as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.

Proposed: Chris Grogan

Seconded: Judith Smith

Footpath Officer's Report

Alex had kindly provided the AGM with his final report and stated that Bradford MDC were reviewing and replacing some high stiles on the DW Link Route.

In Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) Discussions regarding the chipping staithe at Bolton Road continue and Gordon reported that the finer detail is to be worked through. Alex reported that Fisherman's Bridge opposite Hole House was officially reopened on 23rd Feb 2018 and Donald Holliday had attended on behalf of the DWA. We await further developments on the Burneside Initiative.

Cumbria County Council (CCC) have replaced an ancient stone step stile with a swing gate and a proper footbridge for a damaged plank crossing between Burton House and Oak Bank Road under the Flood Recovery programme.

Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) have upgraded finger posts and invited individuals to adopt a sign post. DWA will pay for any finger post not adopted at the end of the walking season.

The DW DVD will no longer be updated and will be placed on YouTube for everyone to view.

Start of DW to Bolton Bridge : Gordon provided a verbal update that the high stiles between the start of the DW and Lob Wood House should be replaced before the winter. Resurfacing work between Bark Lane and High Mill Addingham and replacement of rotten fencing at Bark Lane to complete to the same timescale. Gordon identified an issue with the kissing gate at Ilkey Tennis club where the fence is down and dog walkers and others have created an unofficial path across the broken fence bypassing the gate. The landowner has now been informed and fencing contractor to look at reinstating boundary fence in the next few months.

YDNPA: Tony G reported that at Gap Wood, Dent a wall had collapsed. Rangers immediately brought in a group of volunteers who have repaired it

Lake District: Donald stated that working relationships were excellent and that the Storm Desmond money had now been spent.

Treasurer's Report

Donald presented the annual accounts. He reported that the Dales Way expenditure column were contributions towards two footbridges and concrete through a farm yard, where regular flooding had occurred. Chris stated that we had spent a large amount on postage last year which was our PO box costs. Now that " Friends of the Dales" act as our official address these costs will no longer be incurred.

Membership Secretary's Report

Chris presented the Membership Secretary's Report. The 3 year memberships will be due for renewal in April 2019. Currently there are 303 members this includes families. Our Data Protection policies are up to date .

Website Report

Tony presented his update. In the year there have been 140,000 visitors to the website an average of 400 individuals per day. Using Google Analytics he identified that the top countries using the site are UK, USA, Netherlands, Australia, Germany and Canada. 62% use mobile or tablet and 38% desk or laptop computer. Most popular pages are Home, Route, Accommodation, Public Transport and the Links page. There are currently 1059 Facebook followers. Tony also mentioned his plans to digitise the old newsletters and committee minutes over the next year so they are available to read.

All above reports:

Proposed: Judith Smith

Seconded: Ros Langdon

Election of Officers and Committee

The following people agreed to stand as Officers and Committee Members for the year 2018-19

President	Frank Sanderson
Chairman	Colin Speakman
Footpaths	DW start to Bolton Bridge: Gordon Tasker & Kath Doyle YDNPA: Tony Grogan Cumbria & the Lake District: Donald Holiday and Tony Hill
Treasurer	Donald Holliday
Secretary	Chris Grogan
Web Administrator	Tony Grogan
Newsletters/ Minutes	Kath Doyle
Accommodation Providers	Tony Hill
Archivist	Gordon Tasker
Committee Member	Ryk Downes

Proposed: Judith Smith
Seconded : Julia Jardine

The vote was unanimous.

50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Dales Way in 2019

Colin provided the meeting with an anecdote filled potted history of the development of the DW and the first public walk in 1969. He reflected that 50 years on the DW guide he wrote is now in its 11th edition.

He said we had begun to look at how we should celebrate the 50th anniversary year and that we had already started planning for an exhibition to be held in the Manor House in Ilkley for the month of August 2019 (Gordon Tasker and Kath Doyle to coordinate); a re enactment of the public walk on the first section of the Dales Way (details to be confirmed) and a dinner for invited guests in the summer. He also hoped to involve some of those from Bradford Scouts who had walked the first full length of the Dales Way and those who had completed the first public walk in 1969 and to involve the tourist organisations and the Dalesman publication and other media.

Colin then invited Ryk Downes from the Punk Panthers to speak about the Ultra Marathon he was planning on the Dales Way. This will take place on Saturday 17th August 2019 and will be for up to 200 runners and fast walkers. The event will start in Bowness and finish in Ilkley with checkpoints along the way and entrants will have 36 hours to complete the route. Ryk explained that he would be making a donation to the DWA after the event.

Any Other Business

B6160 campaign Barbara Henderson spoke to the AGM regarding the campaign, which she and husband Paul had begun, to seek improvements to the safety of the B6160 at the Fairfield Meeting House and towards Bolton Bridge. She explained how hazardous this road is to walkers and the need for speed restrictions and better signage before there is a fatal accident. She said a meeting had taken place where signage was viewed as "adequate". However the campaign will continue to push for improvements and already has the support of U3A Ilkley Walkers and Addingham Civic Society. Barbara sought the support of the DWA and this was wholeheartedly agreed. The DWA provided Barbara with details of the changes which were made in 2015 following a DWA campaign seeking improvements to this stretch of the B6160.

**Action: Gordon to contact Barbara following her meeting on Wednesday 17th October 2018 with Paul Ratcliff from Bradford Council and Andrew Mellor from NYCC
Gordon to contact Ilkley and Otley Cycling Clubs to seek their support for the campaign.**

There being no further business Colin thanked everyone for coming, particularly those members who had travelled some distance to attend, the meeting closed at 15:49.

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2018



Spenser Wilson
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

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DALES WAY ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Gift aid		67		100
Subscriptions		1,546		2,020
Donations		426		514
Certificates		150		-
Retail sales		45		63
less purchases		(22)		(37)
		<u>2,212</u>		<u>2,660</u>
EXPENDITURE				
EXPENSES				
Room hire	123		156	
Dales Way expenditure	2,000		500	
Travelling expenses	175		373	
Postage and stationery	322		373	
Subscriptions	35		35	
Web site	72		-	
Accountancy fees	180		180	
Bank charges	30		52	
		<u>2,937</u>	<u>1,669</u>	
(SHORTFALL IN)/SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>(725)</u>	<u>991</u>	

DALES WAY ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

CURRENT ASSETS

Debtors	-	100
Cash at bank	<u>8,197</u>	<u>8,822</u>
	<u>8,197</u>	<u>8,922</u>

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>
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NET CURRENT ASSETS 8,047 8,772

NET ASSETS 8,047 8,772

FINANCED BY:

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance Brought Forward	8,772	7,781
(Shortfall in)/surplus of income over expenditure	<u>(725)</u>	<u>991</u>
	<u>8,047</u>	<u>8,772</u>