

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 5th April 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Present: Simon Goodwin (in the chair)
Vicky Chilcott
Michael Elstob
Andy Samanjoul
Marie Brown
Chris Dauber (Teesdale Marketing Ltd)
Peter Oughton
Robin Lofthouse
Stuart Parry
Bill Pike
Ivan Pratt (Iron Horse)
Mike Richardson
Ian Robson

Apologies for absence were received from Michael Chilcott, Dave & Jill Church, Dave Gelson, Oliver Graham.

1. Minutes of the last meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2004 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

2.1 Insurance An application to IMBA for affiliation and trail building Insurance had been made and a response was awaited. Item carried over. **Action - Vicky Chilcott.**

2.2 Mapping Ian identified having problems contacting Robin to use the Forestry Mapping System for the GMSR. This was to be progressed. Item 2.3 from previous minutes is carried over. **Action - Ian Robson.**

2.3 Cycle Survey on Website The results of the earlier survey were now on the website. Initial response was heavily in favour of the project.

2.4 Forest Shop Cycle Supplies Both the shop and the bike hire provider had been approached by FE and had expressed willingness to do so. Suggestions on stock items and suppliers should be made to Robin Lofthouse who will pass this on.

2.5 Risk Assessments and Health & Safety Policy Andy Samanjoul provided a copy of the risk assessment for trail building.

3. Statement of Accounts Michael Richardson presented a Statement of Accounts for March 2004. No income and no outgoings were recorded.

4. Membership Fees and Registration Form

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed to set the 2004 membership fees at the following rates:

Full Individual (min age 17): £15
Family Membership: £20 (2 adults and 2 children)

It was decided that no independent junior members would be allowed at this stage because of the need to have an adult to act as a chaperone on all activities. Junior members would form part of any family membership and could take part if accompanied by a full member who would be responsible for their safety and supervision at all times.

The committee was presented with a draft membership form (Michael Richardson & Dave Church. After a short discussion it was decided that the form should be amended and re-

submitted at the next committee meeting. Both contributors were thanked for the excellent quality of the submission. Item carried over.

The issue of corporate membership was discussed. It was decided that corporate membership fees for 2004 should be set at zero. Web-site advertising fees should be set on a case by case basis.

5. Phase I Funding and Design Work Quotes

Vicky outlined the progress to date and talked through the work done with Sue Berresford (Economic Development Officer, Teesdale District Council).

A quote had been received from Pete Laing for the design work. It was suggested that 3 quotes should be obtained from suitable experienced and qualified individuals. Further nominations were sought as to who should be approached.

6. Funding Meeting – 15th March

Following the meeting Bill Pike and Ollie Graham had explored a number of small funding possibilities and had submitted funding applications. Bill asked the group to prioritise the spending from any possible award. It was decided by the committee that funding from these sources should be allocated to set up costs, training and volunteer expenses. Item carried over. **Action – Bill Pike & Ollie Graham**

7. Charitable Status

Bill Pike explained the benefits of the group seeking charitable status. It was agreed that this would better serve the needs of the group and that Bill should progress the application process and report on the next available meeting. **Action – Bill Pike**

8. Adoption of Policy Documents

The group discussed the proposals for policy documents submitted by Bill Pike;

1. Committee Standing Order
2. Code of Conduct
3. Accounting Policy
4. Equal Opportunities
5. Volunteer Expenses

It was decided by the committee to adopt the policy documents with immediate effect.

9. Local Ward Partnership Meeting

The following meeting had been scheduled for the week beginning 11th April. Due to unavailability of the Village Hall it has been postponed with a date to be confirmed.

Presentation content was discussed and it was felt that FE should lead the presentation, outlining the wider development plans for the forest before the Trailblazers input. It was agreed that the content of the Trailblazers presentation should concentrate on the Health and Social Inclusion benefits of the project. Simon Goodwin and Andy Samajoul volunteered to co-present.

10. Publicity Item carried over.

12. Website Members were asked to submit articles and photographs for inclusion on the website to Dean Grindle as soon as possible.

11. Calendar of Events

Saturday 17 April 2004 Swaledale Outdoor Centre to help with Trailbuilding in return for organised cycle ride later in year.

Sunday 25 April 2004 Cycle ride from Broompark, Durham to Parkhead, Stanhope (postponed on 29 February because of snow) Approx 15 miles along dedicated cycle trails – lunch at Parkhead. Meet 10 am, Broompark.

Friday 30 April – Monday 3 May 2004 Cycle weekend at Aviemore – email www.gritmtb.co.uk for details

Sunday 9 May 2004 Iron Horse bike demo day and barbeque (Rocky Mountain bikes) Hamsterley Forest. Pre-register with Iron Horse

Saturday 15 May 2004 Marking out of Great Milk Stout Ride course followed by evening get together with food at Grove, Hamsterley Forest.

Monday 10 May 2004 Trailblazer monthly meeting 6.30pm, Classroom, Visitor Centre

Sunday 16 May 2004 Second Great Milk Stout Ride in Hamsterley Forest for Macmillan Cancer Relief – David Bellamy to start at 10 am. Choice of 3 rides – Green 10km, Blue 18 km, Red 25 km. Telephone 0191 3781188 or email cbroadfoot@macmillan.org.uk for further details or to register. Iron Horse Cyclery will provide free bike doctor session and Gary Fisher demo bikes will be available for trial.

Sunday 30 May 2004 Bike ride from Guisborough – details later

Monday 7 June 2004 Trailblazer monthly meeting – 6.30pm Classroom, Hamsterley Forest Visitor Centre

Sunday 13 June 2004 Trail building Hamsterley Forest – meet 9.30am Visitor Centre

Sunday 27 June 2004 Trailblazer bike ride – details later

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 10th May 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.