

## **Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 6 December 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom**

**Present:** Andy Samanjoul (in the chair)  
Vicky Chilcott  
Dave Church  
Mathew Clark  
Chris Dauber  
Stuart Ferguson (Durham Fell Runners)  
Simon Goodwin  
Ollie Graham  
Gerry Hehir (Durham Fell Runners)  
Robin Lofthouse  
Bill Pike  
Ivan Pratt  
Kevin Shevels (Durham Fell Runners)  
Chris Wright

**Apologies for Absence:** were received from Jill Church, Kathy and Neil Gander.

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2004 were approved as a correct record.

### **2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**2.1 Charitable Status** Bill said he was still dealing with various queries, but the matter was progressing

**2.2 T Shirts** Simon was going to check the graphics for the T shirt logo on Friday.

**2.3 Website** Dean had updated the website again and articles from Simon and Neil had been included. The Discussion Forum still needed to be sorted out and Kevin Shevels said he contact who might be able to help with this.

### **3. Statement of Accounts**

Dave presented a Statement of Accounts for the end of November 2004. It was noted a cheque for £500 had been received from Teesdale Targetted Wards.

### **5.Design Work & Phase I**

Robin said harvesting work affecting the Family Route and Skills Area had been brought forward from January 2006 to enable Phase I to proceed satisfactorily. Vicky reported that Single Programme funding approval for Phase I was expected in the next few days.

### **6.Funding Bids**

Dave said he had made contact with a 'Do it by Bike' person who might be able to advise on other possible funding sources. Ollie said the Barclays funding bid was looking promising.

**7. Publicity** Andy had recently appeared on Teesdale radio to talk about Trailblazers and work in the Forest. Simon said MBR had come to the Forest on Wednesday and were impressed with plans for Hamsterley. ITN TV were possibly going to do a feature on Hamsterley cycle trail development on Friday 10 December and further details were awaited. Discussion took place on obtaining commercial sponsors for the trails and it was agreed a formal sponsorship package would be needed. Vicky said she would forward ideas to Mick and Jill.

**8. Proposed Cycling for All** Bill presented a report aimed at encouraging involvement in cycling by all members of the community and at the same time, raising awareness of Hamsterley Trailblazers. The report suggested running cycling courses and events and went into detail on how these could be organised and funded. Detailed discussion took place on the proposals and it was agreed members were in favour of the programme and pursuing the matter further. It was further agreed that Trailblazers appoint Bill Pike as Cycling Programme Co-Ordinator and that Andy Samanjoul assist him.

**9. Parish Paths Funding 2005/06** Bill presented a report suggesting a bid be made under the Parish Paths funding scheme for 2005/06 for repairs work to sections of the Red Route (eg Eggleston Moor link path) and this was agreed.

**9. Calendar of Events** It was noted a Calendar of Events covering the next 3 to 4 months had been put on the Website.

**10. Grading of Routes and Assessment of Difficulty** Stuart Ferguson, Durham Fell Runners, gave a detailed talk on a grading system he had devised for trails that assessed how tough routes were and whether they were suitable for people or not. The system was extremely comprehensive and Stuart said Trailblazers were welcome to adapt it for use with cycle trails. The system was particularly valuable for cross country trails. Members discussed the system in detail and felt it would be extremely useful to use. Simon agreed to adapt it for use on cycle trails and it was hoped that it could be put on the Trailblazers website in due course.

**11. Family Fun Day – Sunday 22 May 2005** Gerry drew attention to a Family Fun Day in Barnard Castle on 22 May and suggested Trailblazers could be involved in it. It was agreed Trailblazers and Grit look at putting a stand together for it.

**12. Date and Time of Next Meeting** It was agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 10 January 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.