

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 7 February 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Present: Ollie Graham (in the chair)
Vicky Chilcott
Dave Church
Jill Church
Dean Grindle
Robin Lofthouse
Bill Pike
Ivan Pratt
Mike Richardson
Kevin Shevels

Apologies for Absence: were received from Matthew Clark, Stuart Ferguson, Simon Goodwin, Gerry Hehir.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2005 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 2.1 Charitable Status** Bill Pike said we had verbally been advised we could have charitable status. Members thanked Bill for his work in this respect.
- 2.2 T Shirts** were now ready for collection. It was agreed they be brought to the next meeting for sale
- 2.3 Website** Dean presented proposals for the Discussion Forum for uploading – these were discussed and agreed.
- 2.4 Cycling For All** – Andy and Marie had attended the (free) training day on 27 January. Bill was looking at the insurance position for events and equipment.
- 2.5 Parish Paths Funding** – Bill had an application in hand for work on the brideway up to Eggleston moor. It was agreed he liaise with Robin over the amount.

3. Statement of Accounts

Dave presented a Statement of Accounts for the end of January 2005.

4. Phase I

Progress report given by Ollie, Robin and Vicky. Total funding now available was £150,000 including the recently awarded £26,000 from Barclays. Pete Laing had marked out the whole of the Grove Link and Skills Area and contractors were now on site roughing out the trails. FE had made a major contribution towards bridges, stone and felling trees in terms of funding and help. It was agreed to put up a laminated board and/or posters near the site informing people what was happening (action – Ollie and Robin.)

5. Funding Bids Ollie and Simon Goodwin were meeting the 'Living Spaces' enabler on 10 February to discuss a £25K funding bid. Ollie said Barclays could have another £20K revenue funding available over a 3 year

period for hosting events etc., and it was discussed and agreed Ollie and Robin attend a Development Fund Workshop on this on 22 and 23 March 2005 in Bolton.

6. GMSR It was noted help would be needed for preparing and marking out the course on Saturday 14 May 2005 and it was agreed to ask for names of volunteers.

7. Publicity A 7 page spread on cycling in Hamsterley had appeared in the March edition of MBR further to Mick and Simon's meeting with journalists. Mick said a further article could be included in the April edition of MBR on the £150K funding. It was agreed Ollie send Mick a breakdown on funding and that Robin ask the FE Press Officer to liaise with Mick over the press release which could then be circulated for comment. Discussion took place on trying to find a celebrity to help promote the scheme and Mick agreed to speak to the police press officer on this matter.

9. Calendar of Events Next ride – 27 February – Broompark to Parkhead – other events on website.

10. Bill Burlton Robin said that FE officer, Bill Burlton, who had been instrumental in helping the cycle trail scheme get off the ground, was retiring shortly and wanted to donate £2,000 from his 04/05 budget to Trailblazers. Ollie and Robin agreed to discuss how best to spend this money.

11. High Shipley Campsite It was noted High Shipley campsite was looking for support in a grant application to improve access to the campsite (existing access was extremely poor) and it was agreed Trailblazers write giving their support to this.

12. AGM It was noted the AGM would be held in April and appropriate notice would need to be sent to all members. It was agreed to follow up the AGM with a celebration evening ride.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 7 March 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.