

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 9 May 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Present: Andy Samanjoul (in the chair)
Jamie Butcher
Vicky Chilcott
Dave Church
Mat Clark
Neil Gander
Chris Goldsworthy
Ollie Graham
Gerry Hehir
Robin Lofthouse
Pete Oughton
Bill Pike
Ivan Pratt
Mike Richardson
Ian Robson

Apologies for Absence: were received from Richard Bower, Marie Brown, Jill Church, Stuart Ferguson, Kath Gander, Kevin Shevels, Norman Thompson

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March and 4 April 2005 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Charitable Status Bill said Trailblazers at now been granted formal charitable status. It was noted donations would attract Gift Aid and the membership form would need amending accordingly. A formal vote of thanks was given to Bill on behalf of Trialblazers for all the work he had done to achieve charitable status.

2.2 Website It was noted the website required further updating and Vicky **AGREED** to liaise with Dean over this.

2.3 Cycling For All Further information was still awaited

2.4 Parish Paths Funding Results of the funding bid were awaited

2.5 Trail Guide Neil reported he had been successful in raising £6,500 from various sources for the trail guide. A rough outline of the guide was circulated.

2.6 Insurance Ollie said trail building insurance through IMBA had been renewed for one year.

2.7 Local Access Forum Neil **AGREED** to complete the application form to join the Local Access Forum

2.8 Simon Goodwin It was noted Simon was settling well into his new life in Australia.

3. Statement of Accounts and 05/06 Membership Dave presented the Statement of Accounts for the end of April 2005 together with membership details.

4. Phase I Progress Report Ollie said Phase I work was nearing completion with the Grove Link route practically finished and one more loop of the Skills Area to do. Opening was being delayed, however, because bridges were not now being delivered until the end of May. Some 400 trees had been planted, areas had been seeded and a water feature made. An early June opening was projected. **Further volunteer trailbuilding days had been arranged for 19 May, 21 May and 4 June.**

5. GMSR Arrangements for Sunday 15th's GMSR were discussed and it was **AGREED** to meet at 10am Saturday 14 May to start marking out the course.

6. Teesdale Family Fun Day Gerry outlined details of the Teesdale Family Fun Day on 22 May and it was **AGREED** Trailblazers put up a stand advertising Trailblazers' activities and have a skills area where visitors could practise mountain biking skills.

7. Raising Trailblazers Profile Marie had made various suggestions for raising Trailblazers Profile and whilst it was **AGREED** the majority of these should be discussed when Marie was present, in the short term Robin suggested Trailblazers use one side of the large noticeboard in the car park to publicise activities. Information could include – who we were, what we do, future proposals, programme of events and rides, how to join and latest cycle route maps. Mick **AGREED** to action this and said he would contact Pete Laing to obtain an up to date pdf of the Skills Loop and Grove Link trail.

8. Publicity Mick said MBR had published another article on Hamsterley and were keen to visit as soon as the new trails were open. Singletrack were also planning to run a feature and had promised to mention Hamsterley on their website. Bike Magic had not responded to press releases so far and Mick was following this up. Other recent articles included features in the Darlington & Stockton Times and the Police Magazine. It was **AGREED** to organise a formal opening of the Skills Area and Grove Link Trail for later in the year.

9. Teesdale Gateway Website Discussion took place on including Trailblazer's details on the Teesdale Gateway Website and it was **AGREED**

Trailblazers sign up for free entry and that Mick follows this up to discuss number of hits etc.

10. Calendar of Events Andy and Matt circulated a new calendar of events and it was **AGREED** this be forwarded to Dean for publicising on the website.

11. Discussion Forum Mick suggested including a disclaimer on the forum that views expressed were those of individuals, not Trailblazers Committee and it was **AGREED** Marie and Jamie liaise with Dean over appropriate wording.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was **AGREED** the next meeting be held on Monday 6 June 2005 at 6.30pm

