

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 5 September 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Present: Ollie Graham (in the Chair)
Vicky Chilcott
Dave Church
Peter Cook – Dale Bike Hire
Kathryn Gander
Neil Gander
Bill Pike
Martin Stock
Neil Taylor – FE

Apologies for Absence: were received from Marie Brown, Chris Dauber, Robin Lofthouse, David McKnight and Andy Samanjoul.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2005 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Charitable Status It was noted details of the computer programme to calculate Gift Aid were still outstanding and **Ollie would forward these to Dave.**

2.2 Website **Ollie said he would forward a Phase I Progress Report to Dean.**

2.3 Cycling For All Ollie and Dave reported that some 9 – 10 children had attended a very successful cycling skills session during the holiday. The children had been given the opportunity to try out the new cycling trails and Skills Loop and had received instruction in mountain biking techniques.

2.4 Parish Paths Funding Initial indications appeared to show this funding bid was likely to be successful.

2.5 Fell Runners & Trailblazers It was noted the suggested date of 25 September clashed with another event and **Gerry was looking at alternatives.**

3. Statement of Accounts and 05/06 Membership Dave presented the Statement of Accounts for the end of August 2005 together with latest membership details. It was noted the end of August was the Financial Year End for Trailblazers. **Dave said owing to work commitments, Bill Pike was temporarily taking over the accounts on his behalf.**

4. Phase I Progress Report and Launch Event Ollie reported that outstanding work on the Skills Loop was now being completed with the help of volunteer trailbuilding sessions and that the North Shore, see-saw and shelter were in place. Posts and signs were still awaited. Cycle counters were now available to locate at suitable positions on the Skills Loop and Grove Link Trail. Work on Risk Assessments was continuing. It was noted Teesdale Council and Teesdale Marketing were anxious to progress a Launch Event for funders and 1 October 2005 was being considered. Discussion took place on proposed details of the launch event, prepared by Sue Berresford, and various amendments and comments made which it was agreed Vicky forward to Sue.

Discussion took place on temporary signage for the Grove Link Trail and Neil agreed to speak to Robin on this matter.

5. Volunteers It was noted the volunteer trailbuilding day on 11 September clashed with a planned ride but that this was unfortunately unavoidable.

6. Trail Vandalism Ollie drew attention to the recent spate of serious vandalism on parts of the new trails. He said that Robin, Michael Chilcott and himself had organised trail watching sessions and had successfully identified the person responsible. The police later interviewed the man and he had confessed. The police also recovered a number of tools belonging to Trailblazers from the man's house.

As it was a first offence, the person had been let off with a caution although Ollie understood that he would be writing to Trailblazers to apologise. Ollie was also looking for financial compensation for the damage, which amounted to several hundred of pounds, including 2 extra days of contractor time. Members thanked Ollie and all concerned for the excellent result in apprehending the individual responsible.

7. Phase 2 Talks on funding Phase 2 were ongoing and Ollie said the meeting with Helen Goodman MP had now been arranged for 7 October 2005.

8. Trailguide Book Neil said that his Trailguide book was progressing well and he had some good photographs for the 23 rides featured in the book.

9. Ripon Motor Club A request had been received from Ripon Motor Club for Trailblazer members to man car parking for the rally on Sunday 13 November. This involved taking parking money from spectators, handing out information and making sure cars were correctly parked. The £5 parking fee would be split 3 ways so that Trailblazers could receive a substantial amount from this popular event. Dave Church, Neil Gander, Bill Pike and Ollie said they could be available and it was also agreed to ask other Trailblazer members.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was AGREED the next meeting be held on Monday 3 October 2005 at 6.30pm.

