

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 3 October 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Present: Mr A Samanjoul (in the chair)
Vicky Chilcott
Peter Cook – Dale Bike Hire
Neil Gander
Chris Goldsworthy
Ollie Graham
Ivan Pratt (Iron Horse)
Martin Stout (Specialist Bikes)
Neil Taylor

Apologies for Absence were received from Marie Brown, Jamie Butcher, Kathryn Gander, Pete Oughton, Mick Richardson and Chris Wright.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2005 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

2.1 Charitable Status Ollie said he would forward relevant information to Bill

2.2 Website Ollie had prepared a Progress Report on Phase I that he would email to Dean

2.3 Vandalism It was noted no apology letter had been received to date. It was understood Forest Enterprise was writing to the person in question and Ollie said he would contact Alex over this matter.

3. Statement of Accounts Bill presented the Statement of Accounts for the end of September 2005 together with latest membership details. Bill said draft accounts had now been prepared for 04/05.

4. Phase I The Launch Event had been finalised for 31 October 2005 and Ollie had arranged volunteer trailbuilding days for 9 and 30 October to help put up signage and finish off the trails. Discussion took place on a Trailblazers party to celebrate the opening of the trails and it was agreed this take place on 6 November with a bike ride in the morning and a BBQ at 2pm in the afternoon.

5. Phase 2 Ollie reported on a recent meeting with Sport England to discuss funding. It was also noted a meeting had been arranged with Helen Goodman MP to discuss the scheme in greater detail. Funds had now been raised to enable the Whinlatter economic impact assessment study to be transposed to Hamsterley. Forest Enterprise had set up a Project Committee to look at Hamsterley and further information on this was awaited.

Discussion also took place on cycle links with surrounding areas such as the West Auckland to Barnard Castle railway line, the Packhorse route (through

the Forest to Middleton) and the redevelopment of the Lefarge site at Eastgate which could present opportunities for future cycle development.

6. Fell Runners Ollie said Gerry had hoped to be present to report on various issues including funding for children's sports and that this matter would now be discussed at a future meeting. The Fell Runners were holding a Christmas social event at the Cross Keys, Hamsterley and had suggested Trailblazers join in – Ollie said he would find out further details.

7. Ripon Motor Rally Around 10 marshals were needed for this event. Volunteers included Andy, Dave Church, Neil and Kathryn Gander, Bill, Ollie, Kay. Three other possibilities were Chris Goldsworthy, Jamie Butcher and Michael Chilcott.

8. Durham Tourism Partnership Vicky outlined details of this organisation and Ollie agreed to speak to Sue Berresford and Alex over the matter.

9. Calendar of Events Apart from the BBQ to celebrate the opening of the Skills Area on 6 November, it was agreed to hold a ride in Hamsterley on Sunday 4 December with Swaledale Outdoor Centre starting at 10.30am. It was also agreed to hold a Night Ride starting at 3pm on Wednesday 28 December followed by a food and drink at Vicky's house ('bring a bottle..') The New Year Ride to Eggleston was fixed for Sunday 8 January starting 10.30am – with lunch at the Moorcock Inn.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 7 November 2005 at 6.30pm