

**Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>  
December 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom**

**Present:** Andy Samanjoul (in the chair)  
Oliver Graham  
Mat Clark  
Peter Cook – Dale Bike Hire  
Ivan Pratt (Iron Horse)  
Robin Lofthouse  
Neil Gander  
Stuart

- 1. Apologies for Absence** were received from Marie Brown, Jamie Butcher, Kathryn Gander, Dave Church, Vicky Chilcott, Chris Goldsworthy, Alex Maclennan and Pete
- 2. Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2005 were approved as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes**
  - 3.1 Vandalism** A letter of apology had still not been received, Olly and Robin agreed to chase.
- 4. Statement of Accounts** The Statement of Accounts for the end of November 2005 was presented together with latest membership details.
- 5. Skills Area & Grove Link Snagging Work** Works to be undertaken on the 11<sup>th</sup> were discussed. Concerns were raised over poor signage from the car park to the start of the loop. Robin agreed to put up temporary signs to help resolve the issue. It was highlighted that the cycle maps had been updated to include the loop and the grove link. Discussion took place on various ways to help promote the new trails including downloadable maps, glossy flyers and maps. Unfortunately the Forestry Commission can not currently provide downloadable maps but are looking in to it. Mat and Neil agreed to look into putting a downloadable map on the trailblazer's web site. Robin will email Neil a copy of the map.
- 6. Descend** This item was postponed pending a representative from Descend being able to attend the meeting.
- 7. Phase 2 and Future Funding** Discussions took place about future funding for cycling development. These centred on the potential of attracting County Durham Environmental Trust Funding. Concerns were raised about the lack of consultation between Forestry Commission and Trailblazers over future development. Robin assured the group that the group will be consulted and explained that the Forestry Commission had

set up a building sub group who were currently working with a landscape architect to develop plans for a new visitor centre.

- 8 Bike Count – to consider survey questions** To date 2,694 had used the Loop. Discussions took place about repeating the questionnaire we undertook in February 2004. Andy agreed to develop a revised questionnaire. Olly agreed to speak to Alex about FC involvement.
- 9 Ripon Motor Rally Marshalling Report** The club will receive about £600 for providing marshals to this event. A debrief meeting was still to be held so an exact figure was yet to be agreed. Robin will have money by the next meeting. It was agreed that the club would provide marshals for the event next year; however more volunteers and information would be needed. Robin thanked all volunteer marshals for there efforts.
- 10 Child Protection Policy** Andy proposed that the draft policy that was circulated on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November should be adopted and this was AGREED.
- 11 Calendar of Events** It was noted that the next club ride would be in Hamsterley Forest on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December and a night ride would take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December.
- 12 Date and time of next meeting** It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2006