

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 2nd December 2013 at 7pm in the Classroom, Hamsterley Forest

Trustees Present: Neil Gander (Chairman)
Olly Graham (Vice Chair)
Vicky Chilcott (Secretary)

Members Present: James Dods
Kathryn Gander
Dan Gibson
Kaye Graham
Jaymily Halcyon
Paul Holmes
Andy Keaveney
Paul Lowther
Geoff Morson
Rob Myers
Tony Robbins
Shaun Rogers
Dan Small
Paul Stockdale
Alex Talks
Ian Tate
Andrew Walker
Nigel Watson

In attendance: Mark Child (FC)
Neil Taylor (FC)

Apologies for absence were received from Alex MacLennan, David Holmes, Emma Graham and Lindsey Talks.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2013 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the Minute

- **HTB Leaflet** – Still outstanding
- **Website** – Many thanks to Nigel Watson for producing an excellent website that had received a number of favourable comments.
- **HTB Banner** – Final decision re content AGREED to include HTB website and slogan, 'Hamsterley Trailblazers – building and riding mint mountain bike trails since 2003' Agreed to two banners - trailbuilding and generic. Action: Olly and Alex.
- **New Red trail** – Plaque with '4DC' and 'In memory of Dave Church' has been ordered by FC. Action: Vicky to send Nigel information on Dave Church and naming of 4DC for inclusion on website.

3. Statement of Accounts and Membership

Reported £12,637 in bank with just under £10,000 committed for funding. Rob reported approx 190 paid up members.

4. Northern Lands Hamsterley Funding Project In the absence of Alex MacLennan, Olly and Neil Taylor gave verbal reports on this recent funding project for Hamsterley. Noted project was for £162,000 of which £55,000 was for mountain bike trails. Other parts included new bridge, multi-user trail and rally improvements. Project is being funded by DEFRA grant, FC, Trailblazers and Rally and is due to start in January 2014. Completion was due by end March 2015. Of the £55,000 for mountain biking, Trailblazers needed to provide £33,000 in the form of £20,000 cash and £13,000 'work-in-kind' ie trailbuilding. Olly felt most of the £20,000 cash could be raised but we might be c £2,000 short. Neil Gander offered to approach Beamish Oddsox since they had indicated in the past they might be able to help with a funding contribution. The new trail section would be from the end of Pikes Teeth to Metcalfe's House. AGREED Neil Gander prepare HTB press release on project and check detail with Alex MacLennan before release.

Other funding - AGREED HTB ask FC for contribution from car parking receipts for trail maintenance and repair work carried out by HTB volunteers.

5. Night Riding Discussion took place on status of HTB night rides following email enquiries from non-members. James Dods had prepared a new section for website making it clear that these were purely informal rides ie not 'guided' or 'led' and emphasising the high rider technical level and equipment needed for them. AGREED the revised statement should go on the HTB website. To avoid any confusion, Neil Taylor to arrange removal of HTB night rides from FC website.

6. Coaching Max Neilly from Endeavour Coaching (working with Descend) had contacted the club offering to work as a volunteer children's coach for HTB. Max also offered paid adult coaching and guided sessions. AGREED Olly email him to invite him to a meeting for further discussion. Also noted needed to check Endeavour's arrangements with Descend before publicising paid coaching sessions.

Emergency contact details – Olly asked FC for secure, but accessible, emergency contact document storage for times when Kathryn was not at coaching sessions. Neil Taylor said he would look into this.

Noted funding available for further coaching training for those interested. Vicky to email members.

7. Trailbuilding

Pike's Teeth and section to Metcalf's House were the next scheduled sections for trailbuilding using the £55K recent funding bid.

Olly asked Mark Child to let HTB know if FC were doing any quarrying so that sub-base could be got at the same time.

Alex Talks said he had a group of students available for a trailbuilding session on 10 February if this was any good for FC.

Noted harvesting work on Grove Link had now started and a mid-February completion date was being aimed for. After this FC would organise trail re-finishing and restitution work.

8. Calendar of Events 2014

- Formal HTB meetings: Noted Cross Keys pub has reopened but is closed on Mondays. AGREED move formal meetings to first Thursday in month at 7pm – Paul Stockdale to check ok with Cross Keys first. (Next meeting 6 February.)
- New Year Club Ride: Sunday 12th January, to ride from Hamsterley to Eggleston for lunch.
- Monday 13 January 7pm – Alex MacLennan from FC to do presentation on developments at Hamsterley – all welcome. (Classroom)
- Ceilidh - Saturday 1st March 7.30pm Hamsterley Village Hall. Agreed to advertise as widely as possible and open it up – probably £10 per ticket. Press release and posters needed (Kathryn) Olly to produce tickets. Bring a bottle. Vicky to enquire re prices for food.
- AGM – Monday 7 April 6.30pm, Hamsterley Village Hall
- Duck Race and BBQ – Sunday 11 May
- Saturday 6th September: Round 8 North East XC Series – Dan to send Vicky details of rest of series.
- Enduro weekend – summer 2014? James Dods and Olly Graham keen to hold an event this summer – to check with British Cycling
- Tour de France club event at Dales Centre, Reeth – 1st weekend in July? Neil Gander to enquire.
- Normal night rides continuing on Wednesdays at 7pm; Dan's training sessions on Tuesday nights at 6pm; female rides from Easter – to be arranged.
- Monthly club rides – 2nd Sunday each month at 10.30am – noted RIDE LEADERS needed!
- Monthly trailbuilding – 3rd Saturday each month at 10am
- Monthly children's coaching sessions – 1st Saturday each month at 10am.

10 - AOB

- Noted 2014 FC car parking passes for volunteers were needed – action Neil Taylor.
- Vicky said that John Wearmouth was shortly moving from Hamsterley and a collection was being organised by the village to thank him for all his work on various community projects. It was AGREED a donation of £50 be made from Trailblazers as a thank you for his work in helping to fundraise for the Skills Loop, the Grove Link and new sections of the Red Route.
- Neil Gander proposed a vote of thanks to Jane and the FC at the cafe for providing food and drink this evening.

9 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting - Thursday 6th February 2014 7pm in the Cross Keys, Hamsterley.