

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 1 March 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Present: Andy Samanjoul (in the chair)
Carole Atkinson (Hamsterley Riding Assoc)
Vicky Chilcott
Dave Church
Chris Dauber (Teesdale Marketing Ltd)
Oliver Graham
Julia Howells (Hamsterley Riding Assoc)
Pippa Kirkham (Forest Enterprise)
Stuart Parry
Bill Pike
Ivan Pratt (Iron Horse)
Mike Richardson
Ian Robson
Yvonne Robson
Dave Tully (Woodcraft Folk, Hamsterley)

Apologies for absence were received from Marie Brown, Michael Chilcott, Jill Church, Michael Elstob, Dave Gelson, Simon Goodwin, Robin Lofthouse.

Welcome Carole Atkinson and Julia Howells from Hamsterley Riding Association and Dave Tully from the Woodcraft Folk, Hamsterley Forest, were welcomed to the meeting. General discussion took place on problems that could arise through lack of appreciation of other user needs and lack of communication and it was agreed that the formation of Trailblazers represented an attempt to address this issue and work co-operatively together for the benefit of all.

1. Minutes of the last meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2004 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

2.1 Insurance IMBA policy documentation had been received and was circulated. Members were asked to send in comments to Vicky, subject to which it was **AGREED a policy be taken out as soon as possible.**

2.2 Tools Tools to the value of £360 had been purchased and used for the first time on 22 February. In addition, Michael Elstob had made a McCloud tool that was found to be extremely useful. **It was hoped Michael could make more of these.** Ollie had supplied a cabinet for use within the storage container. **Bow saws and grubbing mattocks were still needed.** Dave Tully said the Permaculture Association also made McClouds that could be purchased through www.Fredshed.com.

2.3 Mapping Ian had seen the Forest Enterprise Mapping System and thought it very good. Stuart still needed to see the system and it was hoped he could contact Robin on his return from holiday to organise this. Vicky asked if either Ian or Stuart could assist in mapping the GMSR route for the 16 May ride and both agreed to help.

2.4 Website It was noted Dean's website was up and running and looked very good. Pictures were required for the Gallery together with articles on favourite trails. Members were asked to forward pictures and articles to Dean. Discussion took place on links to other websites and it was agreed to include a link to the Woodcraft Folk, the Hamsterley Horse Riding Association and West Hoppyland Trekking Centre.

2.5 Pete Laing The quote from Pete Laing was still awaited. Mike and Robin had asked for clarification on certain aspects of proposed survey work and it was felt a further meeting with Pete could be necessary. Further details were expected on Robin's return from holiday.

2.6 Forest Shop Cycle Supplies It was agreed the Forest approach the Cycle Hire Shop in the first instance to stock cycle supplies.

2.7 Membership List A full list of members names, addresses, telephone numbers and email contacts was still required. It was agreed to post the Membership Registration Form on the website and ask people to register fully as soon as possible. Dave Tully asked that consideration be given to a Corporate Membership category and it was agreed to look into this.

3. Statement of Accounts Dave Church presented a Statement of Accounts for February 2004 that reflected the purchase of tools.

5. Cycle Survey Andy presented the results of the Cycle Survey on 7 and 8 February 2004. 182 people had been interviewed over the weekend (cyclists and non-cyclists) and there was near unanimous support for the cycle trail development. It was agreed to publish the results of the survey on the Trailblazers website, as well as forwarding it to Sue Berresford. Many people had requested further information on Trailblazers and it was agreed to email these people with further details and a Membership Registration Form. It was also agreed to formally record thanks to everyone who took part in the survey including Trailblazer members, Robin and members of the public.

6. Phase I Funding Approval in principle to the Phase I funding bid had been received and more detailed funding forms completed. Further details were required on the economic benefits of other schemes such as Glentress and Coed y Brenin to support the funding bid. Mike said he had information on Glentress that he would email to Vicky. Discussion took place on funding arrangements if grants were received in arrears. Chris explained bankrolling and suggested this possibility be explored with Forest Enterprise. An alternative would be to seek a bank overdraft. Discussion also took place on VAT registration and Ollie agreed to check how this had been tackled by other trail building organisations eg Moray.

7. Other Funding A paper prepared by Bill Pike was circulated detailing various funding sources that could be approached. It was agreed that members of the Steering Group formed last November meet to discuss this at 7pm on Monday 15 March 2004 at Bill Pike's house.

8. Risk Assessments and Health and Safety Policy Andy presented Risk Assessments for Trail Building that he and Mike had formulated and went over procedures for briefing workers beforehand. Dave Tully said he would email one of his Risk Assessment forms to Trailblazers for comparative purposes.

9. Publicity Details were circulated via Bill Pike of a free Media Skills Training Course for Voluntary Organisations on Monday 22 March 2004 at Darlington and it was agreed that a member of Trailblazers should attend if possible. Mike agreed to see if he could attend along with Ollie. It was noted the Trailblazer's article had been published in the March edition of the Hamsterley Parish Magazine. It was agreed to hold a local presentation of the proposals as soon as possible and contact Sandra Moorhouse over this so it could be done through the Ward Partnership.

10. Membership fees Pippa said the Forest had agreed to give half price annual parking permits to Trailblazer members. (£10 instead of £20.) In the light of this and because of the need to pay for insurance it was agreed to look again at the question of membership fees. Mike and Dave Church agreed to examine this matter.

11. Calendar of Events

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| Saturday 6 March 2004 | Cycle trip to Glentress. Meet 9.30am, The Hub, Glentress |
| Sunday 7 March 2004 | Trailbuilding at Hamsterley. Meet 9.30am Visitor Centre. |
| Sunday 21 March 2004 | Trailbuilding at Hamsterley. Meet 9.30am Visitor Centre. |
| Sunday 28 March 2004 | Cycle ride from Reeth - Dave Church to supply details. |
| Saturday 17 April 2004 | Swaledale Outdoor Centre to help with Trailbuilding in return for organised cycle ride later in year. |
| Sunday 25 April 2004 | Cycle ride from Broompark, Durham to Parkhead, Stanhope (postponed on 29 February because of snow) Approx 15 miles along dedicated cycle trails – lunch at Parkhead. Meet 10 am, Broompark. |
| Friday 30 April – Monday 3 May 2004 | Cycle weekend at Aviemore – email www.gritmtb.co.uk for details |
| Sunday 16 May 2004 | Second Great Milk Stout Ride in Hamsterley Forest for Macmillan Cancer Relief – David Bellamy to start at 10 am. Choice of 3 rides – Green 10km, Blue 18 km, Red 25 km. Telephone 0191 3781188 or email cbroadfoot@macmillan.org.uk for further details or to register. |

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 5 April 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.

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