

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 2 August 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Present: Simon Goodwin (in the chair)
Vicky Chilcott
Dave Church
Jill Church
Chris Dauber
Ollie Graham
Robin Lofthouse
Bill Pike
Ivan Pratt
Mike Richardson

- 1. Apologies for Absence** were received from Ian Robson and Martin Street
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2004 were approved as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising from the minutes**
 - 3.1. Risk Assessments** Discussion took place on revised Risk Assessments for trail building. It was noted a Build Co-ordinator would be needed for each trail building session and that the Build Co-ordinator would use the Risk Assessment as a check list prior to each session. It was AGREED to appoint a Build Co-ordinator when a trail building session was fixed. Bill Pike suggested a front sheet be attached to the Risk Assessment setting out the procedure to be followed by Build Co-ordinators and this was AGREED. Discussion took place on whether the wearing of eye protection should be mandatory during trail building. It was felt whilst this should be mandatory for certain operations involving the danger of flying debris, but it was considered difficult and unnecessary to enforce for all operations. Simon Goodwin AGREED to organise the purchase of 10 eye shields for use when necessary. It was AGREED anyone involved in trail building should have Risk Assessments explained to them and that they sign to say they had read and understood the Risk Assessment.

It was noted a brief Health and Safety Policy statement was still required and that a Risk Assessment was also needed for organised rides. (For action by Simon Goodwin.)
 - 3.2 Charitable Status** Bill Pike said he needed a Statement of Account for the current financial year together with dates of birth for officers to complete the application for charitable status.
 - 3.3 Website** It was AGREED to look at setting up a discussion forum on the website together with a section listing items for sale.
 - 3.4 T-Shirts** Samples of T-Shirts had been obtained from Armstrong and were passed round for comment. It was AGREED Simon Goodwin obtain a quote and place an order for 25 T-shirts (mixed sizes) in grey marl with a re-usable 5 colour screen logo. It was AGREED these be sold at their purchase price plus a 50% contribution to Trailblazer funds. It was also AGREED the availability of T-shirts appear on the website.
 - 3.5 Weardale Railway** Vicky Chilcott reported that the new Weardale Railway did accommodate bikes.
- 4. Statement of Accounts** Dave Church presented the Statement of Accounts to the end of July 2004 and circulated a list of current members.
- 5. CDENT Award** Vicky Chilcott reported that an application for £20,000 to the Co Durham Environment Trust towards Phase I funding had been successful.

- 6. Teesdale Targeted Wards** Vicky Chilcott reported that Trailblazers had secured up to £500 from the Teesdale Targeted Wards towards group set up costs.
- 7. Chestnut Fund** A cheque was received for £100 from the Chestnut Fund towards trail building costs.
- 8. Other Funding** Applications for funding were being finalised to Leader and Sport England. A Northern Rock funding form needed to be completed and the results of the BTCV application were awaited.
- 9. Phase I Progress Report** It was noted that the design work for Phase I was now out to tender with a closing date for return of 13 August 2004. Chris Dauber said he was meeting Alison Cooke of One North East on Friday 6 August 2004 along with David McKnight from Teesdale Council and Kevin Kaley, the consultant producing the Forest Feasibility Study. The meeting was to further consider Phase I funding through One North East.
- 10. Publicity** A draft Press Release produced by Mick Richardson on recent funding success was considered and it was AGREED Jill Church revise this as necessary in conjunction with Forest Enterprise for release as soon as possible. It was AGREED a second press release be made when the tender for design work was awarded.
- 11. Bridleways** Bill Pike reported that Durham County Council had a grant scheme for improving bridleways and it was AGREED to invite Victoria Lloyd, Parish Partnership Officer, to the next meeting to discuss route improvements and the possibility of producing a leaflet detailing various rides.
- 12. Sustrans** It was noted that Sustrans was looking for volunteers to try out new routes suitable for the occasional or day cyclist. Ollie Graham said his mother could be interested and Bill Pike also expressed an interest.
- 13. Calendar of Events**
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| 15 August | Hard technical ride at Helvellyn – experienced riders only |
| 21/22 August | Gritmtb Skills Course weekend, Hamsterley. 4 spaces available to members at half price - £45 including lunch. |
| 5 September | Nidderdale GMSR – 20 or 12 mile ride starting 10am in aid of Macmillan |
| 12 September | Ripon Motor Club Rally through Hamsterley – members needed to act as marshalls |
| 26 September | Mountain bike orienteering event – Hamsterley Forest – details at next meeting |
| 10 October | Trail building – meet 9.30am Forest Classroom. Then fortnightly sessions. |
- 14. Simon Goodwin – Chairman** Simon said he had just been appointed Police Beat Officer for this area and felt that this could conflict with his position as Chairman of Trailblazers. As a result he felt he should resign as Chairman, but was happy to remain on the Committee. It was AGREED to reappoint the Chair in accordance with the Constitution.
- 15. Date and Time of Next Meeting** It was AGREED the next meeting be held on Monday 6 September 2004 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.