

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 8 August 2005 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Present: Ollie Graham (in the Chair)
Vicky Chilcott
Peter Cook – Dale Bike Hire
Chris Goldsworthy
Gerry Hehir
Bill Pike
Ivan Pratt
Neil Taylor – FE

Apologies for Absence: were received from Dave Church, Chris Dauber, Neil Gander, Dean Grindle, Mick Richardson, Chris Wright.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2005 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Charitable Status Ollie said that he had located a computer programme that could calculate Gift Aid and would pass the details on to Dave.

2.2 Website Dean had carried out various updates on the website. Ollie said he would forward a Phase I Progress Report to Dean.

2.3 Cycling For All Ollie, Dave and Gerry had organised a cycling skills session for schoolchildren over the holiday period. Ollie said that he had secured funding from Barclays to develop training over a 3 year period and discussion took place on how this should be implemented.

2.4 Parish Paths Funding Results of the funding bid still awaited

2.5 GMSR Presentations had been made at the Cummins Open Day on 16 July to those raising the most funding.

3. Statement of Accounts and 05/06 Membership Ollie presented the Statement of Accounts for the end of July 2005 together with latest membership details. It was noted there had been a steady, pleasing growth in membership numbers over the last 2 months.

4. Phase I Progress Report Ollie reported that posts and signs for the Skills Area and Grove Link Trail were on order. Delivery had been delayed because the manufacturer was on summer factory holidays. Pete had produced a detailed report on the Phase I scheme and this was discussed in detail. It was noted FE had **AGREED** Robin and Pete complete Risk Assessments for the new trails. It was noted some snagging and remedial

work remained outstanding and Ollie had organised Volunteer Trailbuilding Sessions for Sunday 14 August and 11 September 2005.

5. Phase 2 Discussions on Phase 2 with various funders and FE were ongoing and a meeting with South Durham's new MP was being organised to help raise the funding profile. Cycle counters were being obtained by FE to monitor usage of the new trails and it was **AGREED** Trailblazers record the numbers on a regular basis. Neil **AGREED** to provide information being collected on the pay booth at weekends on numbers of cyclists entering the forest.

Vicky said she had spoken to Singletraction in North Yorkshire as agreed at the last meeting and had invited them to attend a future meeting of Trailblazers. A response was awaited.

6. Trailblazers-v- Fell Runners Race Gerry suggested a friendly competition be organised between the Fell Runners on foot and Trailblazers on bikes using the Orange route - followed by a BBQ lunch. There was considerable enthusiasm for this and a date of Sunday 25 September was suggested, starting at 10am. Gerry said he would **confirm** the date with Vicky.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting It was **AGREED** the next meeting be held on Monday 5 September 2005 at 6.30pm.

