

**Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 8
January 2007 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom**

Trustees Present:

Andy Samanjoul (**Chairman**)
Ollie Graham (**Vice Chairman**)
Bill Pike (**Treasurer**)
Vicky Chilcott (**Secretary**)

Members Present:

Marie Brown
Dave Church
Mat Clark
Gary Ewing
Kathryn Gander
Neil Gander

In Attendance:

Martin Stout (WoodNWheels)
Neil Taylor (FC)

Apologies for Absence were received from Mick Richardson, Ashley Scott and Alex MacClennan.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2006 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

- **Cycle Jerseys:** It was noted Marie was waiting payment for certain cycle jerseys and was following this up. It was **AGREED** to list the jerseys for sale on the website - (**Action – Marie to contact Craig**)
- **Youth Engagement:** Meeting still awaited – (**Action – Vicky to email Mick.**)
- **Children in Need:** Dave Church said he had raised approximately £70 through his extreme ironing event at the Climbing Wall.
- **Night Rides:** Matt and Gary had been taking out regular forest night rides.
- **Trailblazer Publicity Leaflet:** Gary circulated a revised leaflet that took into account various comments received. Further comments were for the back of the leaflet include an application form, location map and available routes. Trailblazer's Charity Registration number also needed to be included. Olly **AGREED** to try and obtain written permission for a picture to be included of one of the children taking part in the GMSR. Gary also **AGREED** to look at designing a large Trailblazer's poster that could be displayed outside. (**Action – Gary and Olly.**)

3. Statement of Accounts The Statement of Accounts for the end of December 2006 was presented together with latest membership details.

4. Membership 2007/08 It was noted membership fees had remained the same for 3 years and discussion took place as to whether these should be increased for 2007/08. After discussion it was **AGREED** that they should be unchanged for 2007/08 but reviewed next year.

Bill said he had arranged a Paypal account for Trailblazers and said he would forward information through to Craig for inclusion on the website. It was also noted the membership form would require amendment accordingly. **(Action – Bill)**

5. Red Route Olly said FC were funding Pete Laing to come up to Hamsterley in the next few days to do a detailed map of the Red Route. Discussion took place on funding bids for the Red Route and it was noted that a date was still awaited for the first meeting of the Area Tourism Partnership. In the meantime it was **AGREED** to progress the Northern Rock funding bid. **(Action – Olly.)**

6. Blue Route It was noted Alex had asked priority be given to mapping a new blue route as soon as possible – in the event of funding becoming available. It was **AGREED** Andy, Olly, Matt, Gary and Neil look at this.

7. Volunteer Work Days Detailed discussion took place on volunteer work days for 2007 and in particular, organisational aspects of running them. It was very much hoped Cummins would run another series of work days in 2007. Olly said FC had given money for completion of some trail building, including necessary machine time. Completion of machine work was needed before any more volunteer trail building could be done.

8. Cycle For Health Project Olly gave a detailed report on the first year of the Cycle for Health Project that was being supported by Trailblazers. Some 900+ people had so far taken part in this 3 year programme with specific projects to date including:

Wheelies Young People's Club
Tow Law Cup
Volunteer Trailbuilding
Biking to Health
Darlington College
Macmillan Charity Ride
Back to Biking
PCT Social Inclusion Project
Dirt Devils Project
DVD workshop

Discussion took place on Trailblazers involvement with the project and it was proposed by Vicky, seconded by Andy and **AGREED** by members that Trailblazers formally request nomination of a Trailblazer representative to the Board of Community Cycling Group (involving the Primary Care Trust, Teesdale Council and Grounwork.)

9. Trailer and Bike Theft Oilly reported on the theft of the bike trailer and bikes from the storage compound. Oilly had obtained quotes for replacement and was waiting for the insurance company to progress the claim.

10. AGM – 2 April 2007 Discussion took place on the format of the 2007 AGM and it was **AGREED** to try and organise a speaker for the meeting. **(Action – Neil and Kath Gander.)**

11. Charity Commission Bill drew attention to the need to change the format of the Annual Report, minutes etc to comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission. This included the need for Trailblazers to adopt a formal Reserves Policy. **(Action – Bill, Vicky.)**

12. First Aid Course Teesdale Council were offering sports club members the opportunity to take a free of charge First Aid Course. Several Trailblazer members expressed an interest in doing this and it was **AGREED** to apply for up to 6 places. **(Action – Vicky, Oilly.)**

13. GMSR 2007 It was noted the date of the 5th GMSR had had to be changed to 30 September 2007 owing to other commitments. It was also noted that it was hoped to extend the event to include a greater walker involvement and also to invite the Fellrunners and Horse Riding Association to participate. **(Action – Oilly, Andy Vicky)**

14. Signposting – Skills Area Vicky drew attention to several requests for better signposting to the Skills Area. Neil said this matter was being discussed at the next Project Team meeting. **(Action – Neil)**

15. Buzz, Hamsterley Newsletter Vicky said the article on Trailblazers had not been included in the first edition of Buzz. Neil said he did not know why it had been missed out.

16. Female Specific Coaching Sessions Dave suggested organising female specific mountain bike coaching sessions during 2007 in response to a number of requests for such courses. It was **AGREED** this matter be progressed as quickly as possible. **(Action – Dave, Oilly, Vicky.)**

17. Calendar of Events & FC 'What's On'
Forthcoming events included:

Night Ride – meeting each Wednesday night, 7pm – Bike Hire Car Park

11 February – monthly ride – 10.30am, Bike Hire Car Park

Female Coaching Sessions – 22 & 29 April

Possible Glentress weekend – 5 – 7 May

Morzine 30 June – 14 July

World Championships – Fort William – 8-9 September – Trailblazer weekend/week away

5th GMSR – 30 September

Vicky **AGREED** to forward details of relevant events for the FC 'What's On' guide.

17. Date and time of Next Meeting It was **AGREED** the next meeting be an informal social at the Cross Keys Pub, Hamsterley on Monday 5 February from 7pm.