

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

Present: Andy Samanjoul (in the chair)
Marie Brown
Vicky Chilcott
Dave Church
Jill Church
Chris Dauber
Neil Gander
Simon Goodwin
Ollie Graham
Gerry Hehir
Robin Lofthouse
Bill Pike
Chris Wright

Apologies for Absence: were received from Kathy Gander, Dean Grindle, Pete Oughton, Mick Richardson, Ian and Yvonne Robson and Kevin Shevels.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September and 4 October were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Risk Assessments: Simon presented finalised documentation for use at future trailbuilding sessions.

2.2 Insurance Vicky said that since BCTV had been the funder requesting extra insurance cover and that since their funding was now overspent, no action had been taken to alter existing insurance arrangements.

2.3 Charitable Status Bill said this matter was still being progressed.

2.4 T Shirts It was agreed to order 50 T shirts and that Simon also obtain samples of other clothing.

2.5 Website Dean had recently updated the website but was still awaiting articles from members.

2.6 Appointment of Independent Examiner It was agreed to appoint Mike Roberts as Independent Examiner and to ask him to look at the end of year accounts.

3. Primary Care Trust

Jill and Simon reported on the Primary Care Trust Cycle for Life meeting they attended and discussion took place on possible future Trailblazer involvement in promoting healthy aspects of cycling for all ages. Bill suggested Trailblazers look at running courses or instruction sessions – possibly buying in appropriate expertise and making a management charge to cover costs. This would raise the profile of Trailblazers and bring in revenue funds. It was

agreed Bill, Ollie and Simon examine this in greater detail and report back at a future meeting.

4. Statement of Accounts

Dave presented a Statement of Accounts for the end of October 2004.

5.Design Work and Phase I Pete Laing's proposals for work on the Black and Red routes were discussed together with plans for the Family Route and Skills Area. Spreadsheets and maps outlining the proposals together with cost estimates had previously been circulated. Members were asked to forward comments prior to the December Trailblazer's meeting, including views on prioritising work. It was noted Single Programme funds would need to be spent by the end of March 2005 so that work would need to start in January. It was noted Pete could attend an FE Design Review Meeting on 25 November.

6.Funding Bids It was noted the funding bid to Leader for £20,000 had been successful and a further £10,000 had been granted by the Countryside Agency. It was agreed, further to a request from Teesdale Council, that £2,000 from the CA grant be used towards the new Walney to Wear Cycle Route going through the Forest. Ollie was completing a £25,000 bid to Barclays. As previously noted, BCTV had run out of funds, so the £10,000 hoped for from this source was now unavailable. Chris said underspending on ERDF funding (European money) was another possibility together with Single Programme money.

7. Publicity Chris said that Derek Foster MP would be happy to appear in a photoshot with Trailblazers and it was agreed this would be valuable publicity.

8. Closure of Single Track above Grove Discussion took place on the closure and logging of a previously very good section of single track above the Grove. This was regretted, although the reasons for it happening were understood. It was noted, however, that Pete Laing felt this area could form an ideal free-ride or skills area and this would be easier to achieve if the area was already harvested.

9. Calendar of Events Andy asked members to forward suggestions for 2005 Trailblazer rides to himself so that a Calendar of Events could be compiled. It was agreed the next Trailbuilding session be held on Sunday 21 November starting at 9.30am.

10 SMBLA Discussion took place on the Mountain Bike Leader course being organised by SMBLA on 10,11 and 12 December and anyone interested was asked to give their names to Simon. Chris said Teesdale Marketing Ltd might be able to access funding for this course.

11.Date and Time of Next Meeting It was agreed the next meeting be held on Monday 6 December at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom.