

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Dry Stone Walling Association
held on Saturday 2 March 2019 at the Rendezvous Hotel, Skipton**

Present: Mr R Stockall (Chairman), Ms T Blackwell, Mr N Coombey, Dr B Jones, Mr A Loudon, Miss L Noble, Mr R Love and 24 members as recorded in the attendance book.

In Attendance: Miss A Shaw (Office Administrator), Mrs L Clarkson (Training & Education Coordinator), Mrs H Robinson (Admin Assistant)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and recorded his thanks to the Otley & Yorkshire Dales branch for hosting the weekend and arranging an interesting programme of activities, which had included a visit to Skipton Castle earlier in the day.

AGM19.1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Lord Cavendish and 5 members as recorded.

AGM19.2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 May 2018 be adopted was proposed by R Stockall and seconded by A Loudon. There were no amendments and there was a returned vote of 25 in favour, with 1 against. The minutes were therefore agreed and signed.

AGM19.3 Annual Report

That the Annual Report for 2017/2018 as presented by the Chairman be adopted was proposed by R Stockall and seconded by C Stephens. Copies of the report were available.

A summary of the Association's work over the last year was given and the following points noted.

It has been another busy year and grateful thanks were recorded to everyone who has given their time to help raise awareness of dry stone walls in whatever way. As the Association's 50th anniversary year a number of special events and activities were organised, including the largescale walling competition held at Kirkby Lonsdale and gala events hosted by Otley & Yorkshire Dales and South West Scotland branches. DSWA took this anniversary year as an opportunity to update its logo, which is steadily being rolled out across leaflets and merchandise.

A new book, *Walls in the Landscape – celebrating the craft of dry stone walling*, was produced as part of the anniversary celebrations and has proved very popular, so much so that a reprint is likely.

The Association was privileged to be represented at a garden party to celebrate the 70th birthday of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, DSWA's Patron, and it also took part in the celebratory Prince's Countryside Parade at the Royal Cornwall Show, made up of 58 of HRH's rural patronages.

Young people are continuing to work their way up through the Craftsman Certification Scheme qualifications and congratulations were extended to Cuthbert and Lydia Noble who have both achieved the Master Craftsman certificate, made even more remarkable as they join their Father, Bill, in holding this highest level of qualification. Laurie Lambeth and Jared Flynn bring the total to four new Master Craftsmen over the last eighteen months.

The Association has been fortunate enough to receive further support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Skills for the Future programme is well underway, offering bursary training opportunities for eight young people throughout the country.

Donations from members and branches have been received during the year, whether for specific projects such as reprinting leaflets or of a more general nature to be used to further the charitable

aims of the Association, all of which were much appreciated. DSWA was also very pleased to receive donations from The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation which has enabled the Association to appoint a Development Officer to look at ways of increasing membership and funding within the organisation.

Members continue to be an important part of the Association and it is encouraging to see new members coming along and getting involved in activities whether through the branch network or with initiatives arranged from the office.

Demand for training courses continues to increase and includes community projects, beginner courses and taster days. The residential training courses run at Crooklands are gaining popularity and there are three such events lined up for this year.

The report was approved and adopted by a majority vote of 25 in favour with 1 against.

A total of 27 voting papers had been returned although one was invalid for want of a mark. Thanks were recorded to Mrs Patricia Bell, EU Election Observer, for acting as Returning Officer for the voting forms.

AGM19.4 Accounts

That the inspected accounts for the year ended 31 August 2018 as presented by the Chairman be adopted was proposed by T Blackwell and seconded by R Love. Copies of the statement of financial activities and balance sheet were available at the meeting. These figures are taken from the full Charity Commission accounts which are prepared in accordance with Charity SORP guidelines.

A summary of the accounts was given by B Jones. The charity had total incoming resources of £291,855 for the year compared to £227,953 for the previous year, including branch activities. Resources expended totalled £255,780 for the year compared with £215,009 in the previous year. Overall the charity had a net surplus of £36,075 compared to £12,944 last year. The charity's total funds at the year end were £361,181 of which £140,276 was held by the branches.

There were no questions about the accounts, which were approved by a majority vote of 25 in favour, with 1 against.

AGM19.5 Election of Trustees

Trustees are elected annually for a three-year period. Retiring Trustees are eligible to apply for re-election. Four nominations had been received this year so no vote was necessary. The elected and/or re-elected Trustees were as follows:

Cuthbert Noble, Ray Stockall, Jack Taylor and Trevor Wragg.

Thanks were recorded to Messrs Brown-Jackson and Coombey for their work on the Trustee Board during their time of office.

AGM19.6 Appointment of Independent Inspector/Auditor for the annual accounts

That Stables, Thompson & Briscoe, Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors be thanked for their services and be re-appointed for 2019/2020 was proposed by R Love and seconded by L Noble. Unopposed, no vote necessary.

AGM19.7 Subscriptions

Subscriptions - to note that these will remain unchanged for 2019 but a small increase will be made in January 2020, new rates as follows:

Open £38	Overseas Open £43	Professional £115	Corporate £175
Joint Open £60		Full-time student £22	Junior £5

AGM19.8 Any Other Business

There was no further business to add. The formal meeting was therefore declared closed.

Branch of the Year Competition

The winners of the Branch of the Year Competition were announced as follows. S Atkinson accepted the trophy on behalf of Cumbria branch.

Small Branch

1st South Yorkshire
2nd Northumbria
3rd Cheshire

Large Branch

1st Cumbria
2nd Otley & Yorkshire Dales
3rd joint Derbyshire & Wales

Hundred Club

The first draw was made as follows:

March 2019

2% M Roberts (109)
1% B Bond (13) and D Cope (6)

Half Yearly

4% D Cope (6)

Training and Education Coordinator Update

A presentation by L Clarkson offered an insight into some of the training and education activities currently underway. As mentioned earlier, the Heritage Lottery Fund Skills for the Future programme is progressing well with all eight trainees working towards their Intermediate qualification in May. They have been able to take advantage of short-term placements with different wallers and working with different stone as well as completing courses in emergency first aid, health and safety and business management. Thanks were recorded to the placement providers, whose involvement is key to the project.

Other activities that are underway include the DSWA being a partner in the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme with responsibility for delivering the Traditional Boundaries Project, which includes the maintenance and restoration of walls and hedges in the Pendle Hill area. A Project Coordinator has been appointed by DSWA who will manage that aspect of the scheme.

Work on the training site at Crooklands is underway to replace the stone in some of the walls and extend the range of features available for candidates to work on and a series of display panels has been erected on the site identifying the different features within the Craftsman Certification Scheme. New interpretation panels have been added to the display walls at Crooklands, aimed at children and young people and it is hoped that the information can also be made into a leaflet, adding to the education resources now available from the Association.

An application has recently been submitted to The Princes' Countryside Fund to offer training to young people from rural backgrounds, which if successful would commence later in the year.

With the appointment of a Development Officer, plans are being put together for regional workshops for members to share ideas and best practice and look at ways of boosting membership numbers and income generating ideas. Further information will be sent out in due course.

Guest Speakers

A very interesting talk was given by Fred Hartley and Bill Froggatt from the Canal and River Trust, looking at the development of the canal network in the north west and highlighting some of the features that exist along the network and the challenges facing the maintenance and repair of these structures.

Signed

Date