



**Minutes of the meeting of the DSWA Trustee Board meeting held
on Sunday 5 March 2017 at the Mount Cook Adventure Centre, Derbyshire**

- Present:** R Stockall (Chairman), T Blackwell, A Brown-Jackson, N Coombey, B Jones, A Loudon, R Love and L Noble. **ACTION BY**
In Attendance: C Hardman, Mrs L Clarkson (Items TB17.01 to TB17.13) and Miss A Shaw.
Apologies: Lord Cavendish, P Dolphin, J Hanson.
- TB17.01** **Opening Remarks**
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular to L Noble as a new Trustee.
- TB17.02** **To confirm minutes of previous Trustee Board meeting – 3 December 2016**
There were no corrections or amendments and the minutes were therefore signed as a correct record of the meeting.
- TB17.03** **DSWA Brand**
C Hardman had requested this item was placed at the top of the agenda.
- C Hardman read from a prepared statement, which would be circulated with the minutes. In it he expressed his disappointment that a new DSWA logo/brand had not been launched at the Members' Weekend/AGM, which he considered a missed opportunity. He felt the rebrand of the Association should have been in place ahead of the 50th anniversary and by this not happening, the Trustee Board had somehow failed the membership. **A SHAW**
- He also pointed out that on more than one occasion he had taken issue with the choice of wording and factual inaccuracies within Trustee Board minutes when he was referred to. The situation whereby he had not been contacted directly about his trusteeship term falling due for renewal was not considered acceptable.
- He further expressed his concerns that the Trustee Board did not appear willing to accept change and due to fundamental questioning of the rebranding process he found the current situation untenable and would not therefore be pursuing this matter. He would submit a short piece for the Waller & Dyker and contact branches to explain the situation. Furthermore, he did not wish to accept co-option to the Trustee Board, as had been suggested at the December meeting. **C HARDMAN**
- The Chairman asked if he would reconsider this decision but that was not the case. C Hardman was therefore thanked for his work as a Trustee and at this point C Hardman left the meeting.
- Discussions continued about the need to move things forward and it was agreed that a draft project brief would be drawn up by N Coombey, A Loudon and T Blackwell by the end of March and circulated to the Trustee Board for comment. **N COOMBAY/
A LOUDON/
T BLACKWELL**
- It was further agreed that an article would be included in the Waller & Dyker confirming that work on this subject would continue with a view to being finalised in time for the 50th anniversary. **R STOCKALL**
- TB17.04** **Co-options to the Trustee Board**
There were no co-options made at the present time although it was noted that consideration should be given to any specific skills gaps that become apparent during the year. **ALL**
- TB17.05** **Matters Arising not Otherwise on the Agenda**
TB17.05a **Durham Legacy:** No further idea had been received from the branch to date although a suggested pro forma for possible projects had been submitted. It was acknowledged that such large sums of money do offer excellent match funding opportunities for largescale projects but it was also important to consider smaller projects that could be achieved relatively easily. N Coombey would continue to liaise with the branch regarding potential ideas. **N COOMBAY**
- It was noted that it may be possible for the Association to submit HLF grant applications to regions other than where the main office is based, which was something that would be followed up. **L CLARKSON**
- TB17.05b** **Professional Register:** Following a suggestion at the last meeting to look at reducing the size of the Professional Register to an A5 size, it was noted that this would not be practical and would not produce any savings in terms of postage costs. The register would therefore remain as an A4 sized document. **A SHAW**

TB17.10c Stone Trust Professional Members: A suggestion had been received from the Stone Trust that consideration might be given to offering its professional members an enhanced membership package that would include professional membership of the DSWA. A brief discussion took place and it was concluded that this could be difficult to administer and was unlikely to have significant benefit to UK professional members. It was therefore agreed not to pursue the suggestion, which would be conveyed back to the Stone Trust.

A SHAW

TB17.11 Craft Skills Group

The minutes from the last Craft Skills Group meeting held in January had been previously circulated. The following points were noted.

- It was very pleasing to note that two new Master Craftsman certificates had been issued to Laurie Lambeth in the north east and Brian Post in Vermont. Congratulations were extended to both wallers on their achievements.
- The Examiner Standardisation course will take place on 21-23 April 2017. Volunteer wallers had been identified to build sections of wall and planning was underway.
- The Craftsman Certification Scheme booklet has been reprinted. Minor changes have been made to the wording in some sections. Thanks were recorded to South Wales Branch for its generous support towards the reprinting costs.
- An Instructor Training Course has now been scheduled for 6-7 May and details have been sent to branches seeking their nominations for attendees.

TB17.11a Understanding Dry Stone Walling: Slight delays had arisen in finalising this piece of work but it was anticipated that it would be available ahead of the Examiner Standardisation course in April.

A LOUDON/
N COOMBEY

TB17.12 Training & Education Update

A report had been previously circulated and the following points noted.

- It was encouraging to note that three of the original bursary trainees were now working as professional wallers and the replacement trainee was currently working towards the Level 2 qualification.
- An application to the HLF Skills for the Future grant programme is currently being considered. If successful this would provide eight training bursaries throughout the UK for a period of twelve months to enable young people to be trained up to the Level 2 qualification. A key element to the success of the project would be to secure suitable placement providers for trainees. As with the current HLF grant, there would be a Development Stage ahead of the formal project during which time detailed costings, etc would have to be provided for all aspects of the submission.
- A suggestion was made that the current HLF training bursary project should be considered for external recognition in some way, highlighting the success of the project. Contact would be made with A Banford from the local LEADER office to see if there were any suitable opportunities.
- DSWA has been accepted as a partner within the Forest of Bowland Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership project. One of the key aspects of this role would be to manage a programme of funding for the repair of boundaries (walls and hedges). Final details of this project are still being considered by the AONB as to how best it could operate. The project is not due to start until 2019 although some preparatory work will be required ahead of that date.

A SHAW

Thanks were recorded to L Clarkson for her continued hard work and commitment to the success of these projects.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Association was delighted to learn that the Skills for the Future grant application has been awarded First Round approval, one of only 19 projects out of over 80 applications to be successful.

TB17.13 Staffing Requirements

An update was given following a staffing meeting held in January. It was noted that £5,000 had already been agreed in order to cover the costs of the Training & Education Coordinator for one day a week for a period of up to twelve months. However, it was noted that the outcome from the above mentioned grant applications may affect the work of this role.

With regard to a Development Officer, it was acknowledged that this post was necessary in order to promote the Association, increase membership and pursue fundraising opportunities. Contact had been made with Voluntary Services offices in Cumbria and Lancashire to identify possible sources of funding for such a role although there had been limited success in the options available. A suggestion had been made about the possibility of applying to the Prince's Countryside Fund but it was noted that it has very specific criteria for funding, which a Development Office would not fit at present although consideration would be given to future funding from this source. A further consideration might be if the post was arranged on a self-employed/contract basis.

For information the staffing sub-committee comprises R Love, B Jones, A Loudon and R Stockall with L Clarkson and A Shaw in attendance.

TB17.14

DSWA and the Protection of Dry Stone Walls

The paper submitted by S Addy had been previously circulated and brief email discussions had also taken place prior to the meeting. It was noted that the existing charitable aims for the Dry Stone Walling Association “To advance education in the craft and heritage of dry stone walling for the public benefit.” would already encompass the protection of walls so it would not be necessary to amend the constitution. In terms of being proactive towards the protection of walls, the Association would need to take a more active role in lobbying relevant organisations and central Government departments. A suggestion was made to revisit and update the old leaflet, “Walls Need Friends” which could be made available through branch displays and events. The updated information could successfully tie in with the HLF Built Landscape Heritage Awareness Campaign.

It was further suggested that members of the public could be encouraged to join through better use of social media sites. It was agreed that L Noble would look at this potential resource and report back to the June meeting.

L NOBLE

R Stockall agreed to report back to S Addy on the discussions.

R STOCKALL

TB17.15

Coordinator Reports

TB17.15a

Grants: B Jones had not had any response to the article about grants post Brexit in the last Waller & Dyker. It was noted that grants often favour the wildlife aspect of work but do not reference the heritage side of things, which was important, as identified above.

B JONES

There is currently a funding opportunity within the Countryside Stewardship Capital Grants for Hedgerows and Boundaries, which is open until the end of April.

In Scotland the main funding stream appears to be from Leader although the criteria for applications seem to change on a regular basis.

TB17.15b

International: French agricultural students would be visiting the DSWA at the beginning of April as part of a study tour, which would include a talk, visit to the display panels and some practical walling.

A SHAW

The next International Dry Stone Walling Congress would be held in 2018 in Menorca. A brief discussion took place on how to encourage UK delegates to attend, including specific action by the Trustee Board. A suggestion was made that the success of the HLF training bursary project should perhaps be presented/showcased at such an event.

R LOVE

TB17.15c

Pinnacle Awards: There are no current applications to consider.

TB17.16

Working Party Reports

Archives: Some responses from branches had been received in terms of what material there was and in what format. It was interesting to note that Cheshire Branch already has all its information stored electronically, which may form the template on which to base the project. B Jones would collate the responses and continue to move the project forward. A Loudon advised that within Kendal Archives there were a large number of dry stone walling photos which might be of interest.

B JONES

TB17.17

DSWA Members’ Weekend and AGM

TB17.17a

2017 de-brief: Thanks were recorded to Emma Yates for her hard work in organising the event, which had been enjoyed by those attending. Some slight concerns had initially been raised in relation to the accommodation but generally there were no problems.

TB17.17b

2018 Update: Cally Palace has been agreed as the venue for the Members’ Weekend/AGM which will take place on 3-4 March 2018. N Coombey is currently looking at ideas for visits, etc but if anyone has suggestions please let him know. A Loudon is currently working on plans for a walling event to be held at Crooklands, probably sometime in May. Further details in due course.

N COOMBHEY/
A SHAW/
A LOUDON

The idea of an anniversary book was still considered favourable and sample costs on the production of 500 copies of a “coffee table” type of book had been received. Following a short discussion a vote was taken and agreement given to allocating up to a maximum of £6,500 for the production and printing of such a book in time for the anniversary. Copies would be available for sale. It was agreed that A Shaw, A Loudon, L Noble and B Jones would progress this.

A SHAW/
A LOUDON/
L NOBLE/
B JONES

Eligible To vote	For	Against	Abstain	Not Voting
8	8	0	0	0
Proposer	R Stockall		Seconder	A Loudon

TB17.18

Any Other Business

TB17.18a

CPRE Protecting Dry Stone Walls Campaign: There had been no response to date about the possibility of CPRE launching a dry stone walls protection campaign, similar to the one launched for hedgerows.

B JONES

TB17.18b **TCV Practical Guide to Dry Stone Walling:** It was noted that TCV would no longer be printing hard copies of this book, which was considered an extremely useful publication. DSWA currently has the remainder of the stock. Suggestions were made to investigate whether DSWA could in fact acquire the copyright or arrange to reprint future copies. This would be followed up with TCV.

A SHAW

TB17.19 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 3 June at the Westmorland County Showground.** Agenda items and papers should be sent to the office by Friday 5 May 2017 at the latest for full circulation.

SignedR Stockall.....

Date3 June 2017.....

A Shaw/17 March 2017

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