

Minutes of a meeting of Hamsterley Trailblazers held on Monday 3 September 2007 at 6.30pm in the Forest Classroom

Trustees Present:

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

Members Present:

Gary Ewing
Peter Watson

In Attendance:

Alex Maclennan (FC)

Apologies for Absence were received from Marie Brown, Neil Gander, Ollie Graham, Alison Park and Fiona Simpson.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meetings held on 4 June 2007 were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

- **Trailblazer Publicity Leaflet:** Andy AGREED to look at finalising this.
- **Buzz:** The second edition was now out.
- **Female Coaching Sessions:** 4 new sessions had been arranged with Ollie – 2 beginner sessions on 16 and 23 September and 2 intermediate sessions on 14 and 21 October.
- **Paypal:** Bill said he still needed to sort out IT problems before this could go live.
- **Noticeboard:** Outstanding
- **West Park 4X:** A recent article in the 'Times' had reported on this development.
- **Semi Race Series:** Alex said he was keen this should be developed.

3. Statement of Accounts The Statement of Accounts to the end of August 2007 was presented together with latest membership details.

4. Cycle Trail Development Alex outlined the current situation on funding for cycle trail development. The bid into Single Programme (ONE funding) was progressing very slowly and it was now unlikely that £0.5million, if granted, could be spent by 31.3.08. It was therefore felt more practical to spread this over 2 financial years using £0.25 million on cycle trails and the rest on Visitor Centre development including planning permission, a bridge over the Bedburn and flood plain work. The scheme was still short of cash match funding – the FC budget would not be known until the end of October and whilst they would be contributing approximately £80K in kind (stone, quarry materials and time) actual cash was still needed to secure Single Programme funds.

It was noted the single track descent from 5 Lane Ends should have priority and was ready to go as a stand alone scheme if necessary, to be completed by 31.3.08. It was noted Teedsdale Council had promised £30K in funding and Alex also AGREED to contact the Rural Development Agency to progress a bid for Hamsterley.

5. New section of Red Route & Publicity Alex said he was keen to publicise the newly completed section of the Red Route and offered to commission Mark Pinder for a day to take photographs of this plus the female coaching sessions and GMSR publicity shots (using Peter Watson.)

6. Volunteer Trailbuilding The next session would be held on 15 September 2007. No other sessions had been arranged as yet.

7. GMSR – 30 September 2007 Fiona and Gary offered to take photos on the day and compile a CD of them. FC agreed to provide vehicle support. Alex said equipment for the Mountain Bike Display Team was arriving mid week prior to the event. Vicky said she would contact Richard Darn over publicity.

8. ROW Consultation Comments on this were needed by 8 October 2007. Bill said consideration should be given to routes out of the forest.

9. Parish Paths An invitation was received to attend a 15 year celebration of the Parish Paths Partnership on 29 September. Unfortunately as this was the day before the GMSR, no-one was available to attend.

10. ONE Filming at Hamsterley Alex said ONE were doing some mtb filming at Hamsterley over the weekend.

11. ONE Cycle Website Alex asked that feedback be sent on the ONE cycle website www.visitnortheastengland.com/cycling.

12. Publicity Officer It was noted a Publicity Officer was needed for Trailblazers and it was AGREED to email members on this.

12. Calendar of Events **NB:** All day rides meet outside WoodNWheels unless otherwise stated.

In addition to monthly Sunday rides, **a night ride is held each Wednesday – meet 7pm outside the Information Centre (contact Mat Clark or Gary Ewing for further information.)**

In addition to dates below, it was also hoped to organise an autumn weekend at Glentress – Gary and Andy would look at a suitable date.

- **World Championships – Fort William – 8-9 September** – Trailblazer weekend/week away
- **16 September 10.30am** 1st Beginner Female Coaching Session
- **22 September 10.30am** 2nd Beginner Female Coaching Session
- **5th GMSR – 30 September 10.30am**
- **1 October 7pm** - Informal social meeting, Cross Keys, Hamsterley

- **14 October 10.30am** 1st Intermediate Female Coaching Session
- **14 October 10.30am** Monthly club ride
- **21 October 10.30am** 2nd Intermediate Female Coaching Session
- **5 November 6.30pm** Formal meeting, FC classroom
- **11 November 10.30am** Monthly club ride
- **3 December 7pm** - Informal social meeting, Cross Keys, Hamsterley
- **9 December 10.30am** Monthly club ride.

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 1 October 2007 from 7pm. The next formal meeting would be 5 November at 6.30pm.