

MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY ZOOM MEETING

8 December 2020

Present:

G Walker J Gwalter A & S Ellis M & V Fuller
G & G Thomas A Tremlett A Williams

<p>1. Apologies: L Willicome, J Donovan, Martin Davis, John Andrew Davies, Michelle Davidson, Mike Clarke</p> <p>2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.</p> <p>3. Treasurers Report</p> <p>a. The overall financial position of the society is still reasonably sound with the two major forthcoming expenditures well covered.</p> <p>b. AE has been successful in obtaining funding towards the book publication to enable us to meet our obligations without bankrupting the society, and is still hunting further grants to cover the entire costs.</p> <p>c. JAD has obtained sufficient grant funding from Vale (Mond) to cover the purchase of the Hebron Road site, with enough left over to cover the costs of securing the building and preliminary work tidying up the site. JAD now actively pursuing funds for the initial surveyors and architects' fees.</p> <p>d. Canal and River Trust have indicated that they are willing to part with the other half of the site containing the stone boat.</p> <p>e. VF made a remarkable success of the canoe hire operation, with gross income within £600 of that achieved in two previous full seasons, despite opening late and the problems of the pandemic.</p> <p>4. Education Officers Report</p> <p>a. Nothing much to report, other than have signed up to teach a session with CRT Education in Brecon in late June.</p> <p>5. Grants and Funding</p> <p>a. Book. Mark Fitch fund application was declined; however, CRT has granted funds towards the publication of the book. Three more applications are still in progress. The publication has been delayed because of the pandemic.</p> <p>b. Amazon Smile. It was suggested that promotion of the Amazon Smile account should be made through the Community Magazines, the Clydach forum and the local papers. MF to draft an article for GW to give to the local papers.</p> <p>6. Canoe Hire</p> <p>a. The Christmas Video and articles in the local Magazines have been well received, especially by the Clydach Forum.</p> <p>b. Storage is urgently needed in Coed Gwilym Park to store additional equipment for "Can Do Canoes" where safety equipment and other items for accessibility need to be stored.</p> <p>c. Funding. The society meets the criteria for funding from Canoe Foundation, which is given to assist with access to the canal, and conservation. It was suggested that safety rails and more steps could be placed at Trebanos to allow canoeists/Kayakers access to the waterway at Trebanos. A site meeting is to be arranged in due course, but items such as these could be funded by the society prior to the receipt of grant funding. VF to contact Canoe Foundation prior to application to discuss whether the funds could be used to purchase storage for our safety equipment.</p> <p>d. Skiff. JG has taken the donated Skiff home to complete the boat. Once ready it could be used from the Canoe Store.</p> <p>e. Notice Board. A notice board will be attached to the front of the Canoe Store, once it has been painted. All notices will be standardised, and updated regularly.</p> <p>f. Stand up Paddle boards. Have been asked by Canoe Wales and the local public, if it would be possible to run SUPs from the canoe store. VF to discuss with Cerris as she is a Paddle Board instructor.</p> <p>7. Clydach Lock.</p> <p>a. The Society has received an email from Patrick Moss, which stated there are two items to get on with. The first an agreement with CRT/Swansea Council with reference to a partnership for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund so that work can be commenced at the lock site. The second was what should be done when as far as Patrick is concerned. The email has been acknowledged, but decisions are being left with JAD.</p> <p>b. There may be volunteers from local companies that could assist with work on the by wash in the hidden lock site.</p> <p>c. It was suggested that the canal centre proposed for the hidden lock site would be better at Hebron Road as access to the building would be better.</p> <p>8. Hebron Road. The purchase has been under rejuvenation funding from Community first. The</p>	<p>MF</p> <p>VF</p> <p>VF</p> <p>VF</p>
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<p>Society is waiting for funding to be released then the building can be signed over to us.</p> <p>9. Work Parties.</p> <p>a. No further work parties will take place until the New Year due to the current high level of Covid 19.</p> <p>b. There is a feeling that there is not always sufficient work for all of the volunteers to do each week, when we are all in one place. It was suggested that work parties be split to work at different locations, where more work could be achieved. Unfortunately, this would also mean transporting tools to the various sites unless storage could be found. There is a site for a possible tool shed in Pontardawe. A site visit is to be arranged.</p> <p>c. During the pre-season the canoe team will be preparing/repairing the boats and safety equipment ready for an Easter start.</p> <p>10. WRG Sumer Camp.</p> <p>a. WRG are all in favour of having a summer camp around the same time of year as was proposed for 2020. This would mean a camp in July 2021</p> <p>11. Web site and Social Media</p> <p>a. Zoom meetings are definitely the way to go at present due to the pandemic.</p> <p>b. Website is working well; however, it is not mobile friendly. It was suggested we discuss this with a local website designer to see what could be changed to make it more mobile friendly.</p> <p>c. It was suggested that our website should be linked to the Clydach Forum site.</p> <p>12. AOB</p> <p>a. AW to liaise with Steve Williams – Swansea Valley History Society ref guided tours.</p> <p>b. The names of various parts of the canal were discussed. The site at Hebron Road and the Hidden Lock site. Hebron Road to be called Swansea Canal Centre, and Hidden Lock to be called Clydach Lock. The names to be voted on at the next meeting.</p> <p>c. AGM. JG to investigate the rules on AGM's during the pandemic and report back at next meeting</p> <p>15. DONM. Tuesday 5th January at 1900 via Zoom. Zoom meeting details to be issued via email.</p>	<p>VF/MF</p> <p>AE</p> <p>JG</p>
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Signed on Original

M FULLER
Secretary