

MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY ZOOM MEETING

13 April 2021

Present:

G Walker J Gwalter M & V Fuller J Davies
G & G Thomas A Tremlett A Williams J Donovan
M Davis A Ellis

1. Apologies: L Willicome, Mike Clarke, Sue Ellis

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. Tai Tarion offered assistance with the Happy to Chat benches. Andy to liaise with Tai Tarion. The flat bed will be needed to transport the benches.

3. Treasurers Report

a. The bottom line of the 5 April 21 Profit and Loss accounts shows a surplus of £91,585, however this needs to be put into perspective. £45K is caused by the purchase of 42 Hebron Road and £48K is restricted grants which we have received or been promised this year but not yet spent. This leaves a deficit of £1,319 on the basic running costs of the society. This loss has been running for several years, last year being the only one which showed a surplus. This deficit has been covered by drawing on the depreciation fund, but this cannot continue indefinitely.

b. The cash position of the society is reasonably healthy with £25K available to cover immediate expenditure on our running costs and expenditure on projects for which we have grants which pay against receipted invoices.

c. In addition there is £15K of restricted funds for book publication earning a small amount of interest in the building society account.

d. The annual accounts for 19/20 have been returned from the auditors, and need to be accepted. Vote taken and agreed. A signed copy will be sent back to the auditors prior to being sent to the Charity Commission.

4. Education Officers Report

a. DBS and Safeguarding training completed.

b. Attending a meeting at St Josephs in due course

c. Nellie has been taken to Craigfelen School for their Land Ahoy topic with year 1. Looking into the school using the canoes and walking the tow path.

d. Vote of thanks to John Donovan and the team for organising the boat and liaising with the school.

e. John to check with the school about using the children's images on social media.

5. Grants and Funding

a. Notes from conversation 10 March with CF at Swansea Council. Spending the £10K – provided no planning consent required, just 3 tenders, but CF will need to see invoices and Bank statements. The £3K (30% match funding) can be used more flexibly, though I will give CF regular updates. I checked that legal costs for the purchase will have to come from the £3K.

b. Media release to announce the purchase of Hebron Road site. As WG funding is involved, a draft will have to go to CF for WG approval. As I have worked previously with the Communications and Marketing Officer at Swansea Council, it was agreed that I should contact him direct, c/c to CF.

Andy produced an excellent article for the Clydach and Pontardawe community magazines, Sou'Wester and the NPT Heritage Network.

A full media release (with quotes etc) went to Swansea Council and was put on the council website (bilingually) and was sent out to the media.

Carly at Vale was a bit disappointed that they had no mention, but we can cover this with the signage or school's mural project. I sent her Bryans artist impression.

c. Financial management of the Clydach Canal Centre project. A system has been adopted where proposed spending is approved as "eligible" by the project coordinator. Some spending may also have to be approved by the funder (eg Swansea Council). A printed "Job Sheet" will be completed by GW, signed off as eligible by JAD and then passed to JG to arrange payment.

Andy has offered to check for possible funding to install solar panels on Centre roof.

d. other items: 17 March – heard from Swansea Council that the £36K PEDG grant had been approved, but WG require a progress update. I prepared this report.

23 March – met GW at Hebron Road to discuss. Signed off PEDG grant offer.

24 March – heard LDTCS EOI had failed, as planning permission not in place.

29 March – Community Changemakers Fund – £998.42 bid was submitted on behalf of AFA Canoe group.

Tried on several occasions to ascertain progress on CRT Hebron transfer.

e. Planning consent – GW got me contact details which I followed up. Waiting to hear. Also made enquiries about Swansea Councils Capital Funding, as active travel routes will include Swansea Canal.

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| <p>6. Canoe Hire</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Training day will be on April 25th with a view to opening the Canoe Hire on 2nd May. b. Advert has been placed in three places for volunteers to assist with the canoe hire. c. Skiff almost completed. A document on the skiff has been produced. The skiff to be named the Alan Laws. Naming ceremony to take place on Tuesday 4th May. <p>7. Clydach Lock.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Patricks drawing to go to Swansea council. GW to talk with Patrick. <p>8. Coed Gwilym Slipway.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mark Evans is chivvying CRT to get round the embargo on the tow path as this is the only access point on the stretch of the canal. IWA will do the drawing. <p>9. Hebron Road.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Planning permission is the next stage – tenders required. Tenders needed for the wall and gates. b. Suggested having a mural project for the covers. c. Knot weed has been treated d. Facebook and Twitter logos to be added to the signage. Quote for signage due tomorrow <p>10. QAVS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Award handover will be in Coed Gwilym Park at 1130 prior to the Skiff naming ceremony. b. Lord lieutenant QAVS presentation will be low key with a grander ceremony later on. Cannot have a large ceremony at present. <p>11. Work Parties.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 30 people will be allowed in a couple of weeks time (26th April) prior to that working in small groups. b. Glantawe Lions collecting litter over the next 12 months. Need to liaise with them. <p>12. WRG Sumer Camp.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Awaiting further information as cannot guarantee the hall. <p>13. Web site and Social Media</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nothing to report <p>14. AOB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Super School Pontardawe. Shouldn't encroach on the Canal, but need something in writing. Clive to be asked to liaise with the council to secure the green corridor. Secretary to ask Clive to act on behalf of the society. b. AT to assist Toby with future drone videos. c. 100 Club. Being put forward, by Alan Lewis, to Pontardawe Golf Club. He would like to discuss with the Society. It's a type of lottery. To be invited to attend a meeting in due course. d. Magnets – a lot has been taken out of the canal using large magnets. A van full of metal was taken away. e. Security of Hidden Lock Site. Looking online there is a range of cameras powered by solar panels. Cameras with motion sensors that can send alerts to mobile phones. The cost would be approx. £200. AT to investigate further. f. Green Flag – yes to obtaining another flag. g. AGM being planned for 1 August, possibly in the Vardre Marquee h. Trusteeship – Ms M Davidson. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Ms Davidson with regards to her trusteeship, as it is up for renewal at the AGM <p>15. DONM.</p> <p>Tuesday 11th May at 1900 via Zoom. Zoom meeting details to be issued via email.</p> | |
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Signed on Original

M FULLER
Secretary