

# MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY ZOOM MEETING

## 9 March 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 with the following amendments: - The "Be happy to chat benches" have not been fitted, however the bases have been laid for them. Gordon will try to sort the positioning of the benches, with Martin doing a press release. The trees have been donated by Keep Wales Tidy.

### 3. Treasurers Report

a. The year 19/20 Accounts have been sorted, awaiting them being returned from the Auditors.  
b. The society is still solvent having bought 42 Hebron Road which I have capitalised at the purchase price of £45,000. This has increased the gross worth of the society to a totally amazing figure which is only £2,500 under £100K. However, we still must not be extravagant as over half of this figure is represented by our fixed assets such as land, equipment together with its depreciation and all the remainder is in restricted funds leaving us over £4,000 in debt to our fixed asset depreciation fund. This is not a total millstone round our necks as we have usually been able to get grant funding to replace worn out capital equipment, but we must still be sensible in our spending.  
c. The PEDG agreement is to go to the treasurer and the secretary for their files and awaiting to sort the accounts for Hebron Road.

### 4. Education Officers Report

a. DBS nearly completed. Completed Health and Safety training. Have one piece of training left to undertake.

### 5. Grants and Funding

a. On 2<sup>nd</sup> March Swansea Council transferred £38,500 of PEDG (Property Enhancement Development Grant) funding, which is 70% of the purchase price of £45,000 and £10,000 to cover "Surveys and Fees". I phoned Vale to enquire about their grant and was informed that £15,000 had been paid to the Society on 10<sup>th</sup> February. We also had £500 from Clydach Community Council, so will need to raise £1,000 to meet the 30% match funding requirement. Also, the legal fees for the purchase (approx. £400) which are not eligible for PEDG funding. The PEDG regs require "Competitive Tendering", so I'll need to keep a close check on all spending, for the monitoring reports.

b. On 24<sup>th</sup> February, Swansea Council offered the possibility of a £36,000 grant towards the refurbishment, but wanted costings at a very short notice. Thanks to Gordon, estimates were submitted on time. I've been looking for the 30% match funding of £15,429, in case we get offered the grant for the next financial year. There are some possible funders.

c. WCVA "Landfill" grant. I responded to several queries about the EOI, but no news yet whether SCS will be invited to submit a full application for £50,000.

d. Community Facilities Programme and Transforming Towns are probably the best prospects for funding both the Canal Centre and the next phase at Clydach Lock. Conversations with Swansea Council staff indicate that it may be possible to link the two projects in a joint bid. Otherwise, it may be difficult to secure funding for the basin and by wash at the "buried lock" site. The subsequent phase – reinstating Clydach Lock 7 – should be more straight forward, if the Society can convince either Glandwr Cymru or Swansea Council to become the lead organisation for a NLHF (heritage lottery) bid.

e. Taking this programme forward is going to require a lot of time and energy. I'm happy to continue working on this, but as I said when agreeing to undertake some fund raising, I need to do the job in my own way. In view of the substantial amounts of grant funding involved, which will require ongoing monitoring, I have requested that the Society sets up a separate bank account, with myself as a joint signatory with the Treasurer. I don't want to make extra work for other people, but I do need the peace of mind that this arrangement would bring, so I can get on with the job – control of the funds. Discussions followed re setting up new accounts/access to information. A solution was not found at this meeting, but will need to be found that enables both JAD and JG to work together on the Hebron Road project.

f. VF has attended a webinar on Funding and is applying to Sports Wales for funding for the repairs to the canoes and access for the slipway. Has asked for funding for 2 Beginners Kits for Stand-Up Paddleboards.

g. VF has received letters of support for the slipway from the local MP and MS.

h. VF has also contacted Vale with regards to funding for Access for All, but has so far not had a response.

i. VF is also undertaking a funding request through the Post Code Lottery.

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| <p>6. Canoe Hire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Still awaiting doing the repairs, subject to Welsh Government.</li> <li>b. Foundations for extension have been laid, with the shed being built in the next couple of weeks.</li> <li>c. Skiff. JG is continuing to work on the Skiff, varnishing has commenced.</li> </ul> <p>7. Clydach Lock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No change.</li> </ul> <p>8. Coed Gwilym Slipway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Mark Evans is very keen on the slipway especially now we have the backing of our MP and MS.</li> <li>b. At a zoom meeting next week will include an IWA Engineer and someone from CRT. The meeting take place on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> March at 1215.</li> </ul> <p>9. Hebron Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sale completed.</li> <li>b. Bryan Moss come up with ideas, and a drawing of the outside of the building.</li> <li>c. The garden wall can be repaired at £40.00 per meter, the roof about £15K.</li> <li>d. A vote of thanks was passed to John Andrew Davies for the work he put in, in gaining the funds for the purchase of Hebron Road.</li> <li>e. Swansea RDP grants of £30K could be applied for.</li> <li>f. There are a group of ladies that live opposite the Hebron Road site that would like to plant flowers in the area next to the stone boat. They have been told that if they joined the Society they would be able to work under our insurance.</li> </ul> <p>10. Work Parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No further work parties will take place until the Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted then a phased return to work.</li> </ul> <p>11. WRG Sumer Camp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Awaiting further information.</li> </ul> <p>12. Web site and Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sou'Wester magazine – article on the purchase of Hebron Road with mention of the funders.</li> <li>b. NPT Heritage article to be done as well using the same article, and the local magazines.</li> </ul> <p>13. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Newsletter not yet started.</li> <li>b. Mike Clarke has a friend that has two Calor Gas Bottles – do we want them – Yes</li> <li>c. Aberdulais Aqueduct. A year ago, during Storm Dennis the houses on Canal Side in Aberdulais flooded. The blame has been put on the aqueduct. National Resources Wales and NPT Council want to destroy the aqueduct. The IWA has become involved with NRW, NPTCBC and CADW to try and resolve the problem. Letter have been received from those living in Canal Side and from Jeremy Miles supporting the destruction of the aqueduct. The local MP and MS have been informed that if the destruction goes ahead then the local inland waterways project to create a 35-mile waterway would be null and void. The project is in need of support from the local councillors. There is a study group working with CADW trying to gain funding to repair the aqueduct, however, NRW have refused CADW permission to view the aqueduct from the river. It was proposed that the SCS send a letter of support to the local councillors.</li> </ul> <p>14. DONM.</p> <p>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 1900 via Zoom. Zoom meeting details to be issued via email.</p> |  |
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*Signed on Original*

M FULLER  
Secretary