

MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

4 April 2023

Present:

G Walker	J Gwalter	M Fuller	JA Davies
J Gravelle	A Tremlett	Mrs S Blackford	T Morris
M Davies	P Rapsey	A Ellis	Mrs G Thomas
Mrs S Ellis	Mrs V Fuller		

1. Apologies: L Willicome, A Williams, G Thomas, Mrs S Ellis C Morris, J. Donovan

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

3. Treasurers Report

a. The receipt and defrayment of the Brilliant Basics grant from the Visit Wales part of the Welsh Assembly Government is now completed and has been accepted.

b. The claim for the balance of the Gower Society Grant towards Clydach Lock has been received and was allocated to the match funding for the Brilliant Basics defrayment evidence.

c. The most conspicuous change from last year is the swing in our overall result from a surplus of £149,00 to a deficit of £65,000. This is of no concern as it shows the funds raised being spent on the restoring of the Clydach lock, the Clydach Canal Centre and the Coed Gwilym Slipway.

d. There has been a swing in our operating surplus from £3,000 last year to £800 this year. The main change being the cost of the IWA Camp, where scaffolding was a large expense.

e. There has been a new mobile phone contract of £4.90 monthly to allow the card reader to be used for canoe hire.

4. Education Officers Report

a. In march sessions were delivered at Trebanos and Cribarth Schools.

b. Visiting Knelston School this month.

5. Grants and Funding

a. The Portage Ramp, paid for by The Canoe Foundation is completed and the £5K can be claimed.

b. The final reports are to be sent to the Post Code Lottery, and wind farm for completion of their grants.

c. Written to the Shared Prosperity Grant for phase 2 of the Clydach lock site and outside works at Hebron Road.

d. The Society may get further funding from Transforming Towns (Swansea Council) for the Clydach Canal Centre.

e. There is £50K from Landfill, which could be used for match funding for the Shared Prosperity Grant if it is approved, or could be used for other projects if the Shared Prosperity is not approved. Part of the Grant application for Shared Prosperity is that the society needs to undertake Safeguarding training. One member plus the person applying for the grant need to attend. Mrs VF has agreed to undertake this training with JAD.

f. The Monmouthshire Building Society has approved our application for gardening equipment and have granted £775.

6. Canoe Hire

a. A Staff training day was held on 2nd April, with the first open day of the new season being Sunday 9th April.

b. There has been an email received from Georgina Wood of CRT with regards to there being a letter of agreement between CRT and the Society to state the society does not have to pay for a license to run the canoe hire. The email asked for a copy of our insurance and risk assessments/operating instructions. These have been sent on to Georgina.

7. Clydach Lock.

a. Contractors have completed the first phase of work, and can commence lining the by-wash.

b. 20 Lorry loads of clay is to leave the site at a cost of £6K.

c. James Daley would charge £5K for the stone mason to undertake the work on top of the blocks in the piece of the canal already completed. GW is to chase the £24K promised from Swansea council. This would allow the work by the stone mason to commence.

8. Coed Gwilym Slipway.

a. James Daley is ready to undertake the work of putting the slipway in at Coed Gwilym Park, but have been held up by CRT. GW to chase.

9. Hebron Road.

a. The rear wall of the building is unsafe and needs to be knocked down and rebuilt, with the bricks being recycled.

b. There has been an enquiry about taking a colony of bats from a house in the nearby estate. A

meeting is to be arranged to discuss this.

10. SC225

- a. Waterfront Museum exhibition opened on 1st April. It is approximately 95% completed and has been funded by the museum. The official opening for the exhibition has been delayed until June
- b. Funding for the 225 events is being organised by those putting on the events so not costing the society any funds. However, there may be items that need funding later in the year.
- c. Party in the Park. CRT have stated they will fund all the canoe hire for the day. Vale has stated they will help with the event, by paying for First Aid and helping with car parking and there has been a £1,000 grant from the wind farm, and £4.500 from the National Lottery Fund. Vale is also undertaking the advertising for Party in the Park.
- d. Ospreys event. The football pavilion will be open, car parking is being organised, but the 225 team will need assistance with stewarding and car parking.
- e. A vote of thanks was given for the 225 Committee for their hard work.

11. Work Parties.

- a. Tuesday work parties working well.
- b. Next week in Hidden Lock site to commence on the by-wash.
- b. Sunday work parties are now complete until the end of the canoe season. Great work has been achieved. Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the work.
- c. NPTVS wish to see if firms can come and work with us.
- d. Members of the society would like to see a forward plan of work to be conducted. Not with dates as some of the work would be weather dependent.
- e. It was suggested that one work party day we undertake a walk of the proposed canal route down to Fenrod lake and beyond.
- f. A list of standard jobs is to be created, e.g. clearing fallen trees, weeding, keeping the tow path clear, renovations to the canal sides and how we dispose of the debris. A meeting to be arranged at the next work party to discuss this list.
- g. A letter is to go to CRT with regards to the fallen tree at Trebanos.

12. WRG Sumer Camp.

- a. The letter with reference to CRT obstructiveness has been sent to CRT, unfortunately there has been no reply as yet.
- b. WRG is to be invited to see if there is anything they could undertake as weekend work this year rather than as a week camp. MF to invite Mikk Bradley down to view the work.

13. Web site and social media

- a. The new website has been completed is live and working. There have been a few teething troubles but these have been corrected where possible.
A large Thank You to the 97Tteam who have produced the new website.
- b. Email addresses. New email addresses are up and running.
- c. SB to write an article for the May editions of the local magazines.

14. Historical Brief

- a. Nothing to report.

15. AOB

- a. Grant Carlson has enquired about putting tourist accommodation on the canal. This would be in the way of floating homes moored permanently on the canal. He has been advised that he needs to contact CRT and discuss his proposals with them, but that the Canal Society would back his proposals.
- b. Brian Moss – a long term member of the society has passed away. A minute's silence will be held at the beginning of the next meeting in his remembrance.
- c. Tea/Coffee rota. It was suggested that the person undertaking the Cakes duty also be the person who brings the Tea/Coffee and water. A trial is to take place over the next few weeks to see if this would work.
- d. POST MEETING DISCUSSION. Could we place a boat along the canal that is filled with flowers? As you enter some seaside towns, they have boats half filled with soil and flowers that look very good at their entrance ways. Could we do this on the canal at various points to highlight the canal? Those involved with the discussions thought this a good idea. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

16. DONM.

Tuesday 2nd May 2023, 1900 at New Inn, Clydach.

Signed on Original

M FULLER
Secretary