

MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

2 May 2023

Present:

G Walker	J Gwalter	M Fuller	JA Davies
A Tremlett	Mrs S Blackford	T Morris	M Davies
Mrs V Fuller			

A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of Bryan James Moss, a society member who passed away on 28th March 2023.

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

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

3. Treasurers Report

a. The overall surplus of over £5k in the profit and loss account for this month arises from the reversal of a provision made in January for the clearance of the remaining planning conditions for the restoration of Clydach Lock.

b. The Society has received 70% of the £49,999 Landfill grant for the Clydach Lock which was obtained last month. This was included in last month's Profit and Loss so does not appear this month.

c. A cash flow forecast will be produced once information on the invoices from James Daley, and the grant receipts have been received.

d. Operating surplus of £188.95 is healthy.

e. A detailed analysis sheet for the payment of invoices to James Daley has been produced. After some discussion it was decided that a meeting of the following personnel, GW, JAD, JGw, JGr, AT and MF would be called to discuss further.

4. Education Officers Report

a. In April 2 sessions on the 225 were delivered at Knelson Primary School in the Gower

b. Arranging dates for the annual Canal walks for St Joseph's School, Clydach

c. Eliza Botham at CRT, Leisa Williams at the Waterfront Museum and our Education Officer are putting together a week of activities for schools in June, culminating in the launch day for the 225 Exhibition on 23 June 2023.

5. Grants and Funding

a. The Society hopes to hear next week on whether it may get further funding from Transforming Towns (Swansea Council) for the Clydach Canal Centre.

b. The society is hoping for more funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund for the next phase of the Clydach Lock restoration.

c. Part of the conditions for the WCVA Grant was attendance at a Safeguarding Course. Mrs VF attended and is working on Safeguarding Policies for the Society. A further meeting with AT, and SB will be arranged to discuss these policies further. Once completed policies to be distributed to all trustees.

6. Canoe Hire

a. All going well, first group hire s Wednesday 3rd May for 1st Neath Beavers.

7. Clydach Lock.

a. Work is progressing well, to allow the side to be opened and filled with water. This would be arranged at an official opening event.

b. There are 8 bags of stone to be delivered to the site from the quarry.

8. Coed Gwilym Slipway.

a. GW to discuss this with James Daley, as there is nothing further to report.

b. JGw to contact the Canoe Foundation ref funding for the slipway.

9. Hebron Road.

a. The new rear wall has been built, and the roof trusses are ready to go on. It is anticipated that the building will be dry inside in a month.

10. SC225

a. Waterfront Museum exhibition opened on 1st April. It is approximately 99% completed and is being well received.

b. Party in the Park. Mrs VF is working on a Management Plan. The music is sorted with groups playing between 1300 and 1800 (1 – 6 PM). Beer Tent. The Friends of the park and the Football team adults will run the beet tent. Volunteers will be required to assist in setting up the park on the

Saturday 27th and taking it down again on Monday 29th May as well as at the event on Sunday 28th May. The BBC are interested in covering the days event, so be aware that there may be a camera crew at the park. Posters are up at the park and have been placed in the local magazines and evening news paper.

c. AT has been interviewed about the 225 Anniversary and the exhibition. This was for an online TV station

d. Ospreys event. Further information at the next meeting.

e. Fluellen Theatre – no response at present for the planned August events. There has been an email to Fluellen but there has been no response. If nothing is received, David Morgan from CRT should be contacted as he may have an alternate theatre group available.

11. Work Parties.

a. Tuesday work parties working well. Next week in Hidden Lock site to continue on the by-wash. However, it was suggested that we mix up where we are working, so that more people see that the canal is being restored/renovated.

b. Had an enquiry from HSBC about coming to work with us. This has been replied to in a positive manner. It was suggested that the Society contact Admiral Insurance to see they would wish to volunteer. It was also suggested that we use possible offenders who are due to be released from their sentences.

12. WRG Sumer Camp.

a. JGw to discuss with IWA(WRG) to see if there is anything they could undertake as weekend work this year

13. Web site and social media

a. Nothing to report

14. Historical Brief

a. CRT are to carry out an archaeological survey of the Mond Lock, using ground penetrating radar. After discussion it was decided to write to CRT (Morgan Coles) to see what the point of this survey is and whether the society can assist.

15. AOB

a. CRT are due to charge third parties for the use of the canal £95.00 Administration fee from June this year. The society is to query this as there is an email that states we have an agreement with CRT over the use of the canal.

b. NPT Local Development Plan. An email has been received stating that there are to be a number of zoom meetings to discuss the revised LPD. There are possibly two of these meetings that could concern the society, The first one is Pontardawe Spatial Planning Area on Tuesday 16th May which Mrs VF will attend, the second Swansea Valley Spatial Planning Area, which may be discussing the Northern end of the area, which at present there is no one to attend.

c. Reception at Abergavenny. CRT are hosting a reception in Abergavenny on 24th May. SB, AT JGw have accepted with MF and Mrs VF also attending if invitations are received.

d. Culture and Heritage Volunteer Fair 5th June. The society has been invited to attend this Volunteer fair to be held in Victoria Gardens, Neath between 11am and 3 pm. SB stated she would attend.

e. Pontardawe Road Bridges are currently too low to allow a boat to go under them. It has been suggested that the bridges be reinstated as lifting bridges which would then allow boats to travel underneath them.

f. In the latest edition of the Waterways Magazine it shows that the WRG will be having a summer camp on the Neath Canal.

16. DONM.

Tuesday 6th June May 2023, 1900 at New Inn, Clydach.

Signed on Original

M FULLER
Secretary