

MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

8 August 2023

Present:

J Gwalter	M Fuller	G Walker	Mrs G Thomas
A Tremlett	Mrs S Blackford	JA Davies	J Gravelle
A Ellis	M Davies	Mrs C Gravelle	

1. Apologies: L Willicome, J Donovan, A Williams, G Thomas, Mrs S Ellis, C Morris, Mrs V Fuller
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.
3. Treasurers Report
 - a. The Treasurer requested a formal decision on whether the society should sign up for business ricing with Amazon. This is to be further investigated.
 - b. The combination of the Transforming Towns and Shared Prosperity Fund grants has moved the society into the Charities Commission's full audit bracket for finances. This has implications, so the society needs to be meticulous over endorsing invoices with a trustee's signature stating that the goods or service has been received. In addition, al expenses slips must be counter signed as valid by a trustee other than the treasurer.
4. Education Officers Report
 - a. The Education Officer has tendered his resignation. A vote of thanks goes to John Donovan for the work that he has done in the post as Education Officer.
 - b. John has stated that he will work with the person who takes over the job from him, so there is a turn over period. Sharon Blackford has volunteered, which was approved by the trustees at the meeting.
5. Grants and Funding
 - a. The Society has been granted £2,400 for Pirates Day through COAST funding..
 - b. The society has been approved for a large amount from the Shared Prosperity grants. This grant will be used for Phase two of the Buried Lock site and the Swansea Canal Centre. The society now needs to raise the match funding that is required.
 - c. It was suggested that we ask CRT if they can assist, with the funding from their Heritage Lottery Funding.
 - d. A vote of Thanks goes to John A. Davies for the work he has done in getting the grants for the society so that work can be completed on the various projects.
6. Canoe Hire
 - a. All going well.
 - b. We have had two group hires this month, one on the 21st and again on the 22nd. The one on the 22nd is during the day, so will need personnel from the Work Pary to assist with it.
 - c. Pirates Day is going ahead, subject to the weather. The society has received the Coast Grant, but if the day does not go ahead then this has to be returned.
7. Clydach Lock.
 - a. Work is progressing well, with the wall of the by-wash.
 - b. The planting of trees is going well, with the area where they are being planted looking good.
 - c. there will be some contractors in to burn the girders so that the new section of the canal can be opened to water.
8. Coed Gwilym Slipway.
 - a. James Daley is awaiting the word to go ahead with putting in the slipway, but has been told to wait at the moment.
 - b. The CRT Chief Engineer is be contacted to confirm the removal of the tree that is next to where the slipway will go into the water.
 - c. Still short of £15K, however bids have been put in for grants and decisions are awaited.
9. Hebron Road.
 - a. A business plan is required which will show how the building will raise funds to cover all overheads. A sub committee is to be formed with this in mind.
10. SC225
 - a. Waterfront Museum exhibition has been very well received.
 - b. It has been stated that the 225 work is running down, this is not the case and the 225 committee are as busy now as they were in the beginning of the year with events such as lighting up the canal on Saturday November 18th. This event will take place in the evening where it is planned to have lights (lanterns) lighting up the park at Coed Gwilym and the canal. 4 very large lanterns (horse, Swan etc) are being made by contractors and there will be four community workshops for people to

- make lanterns for the event. There will be approximately 20 lanterns made at each workshop.
- b. The Exhibition is going on tour, firstly to the Welfare Hall, Ystradgunlais, then to Pontardawe Heritage Centre and then to |Craig Y Nos.
 - c. Bridge 8 – CRT are looking at repointing the stonework at Bridge 8. Scaffolding will be placed around the bridge, so that the public can get involved.
 - d. A step by step – two-mile guided walk leaflet is to be produced.
 - e. There are to be information boards produced. These will be provided by Active Travel.
 - f. There is to be further schools' engagement throughout the year.
 - g. The 225 Paddle challenge is ongoing. Further certificates have been provided by CRT.
 - h. Bridge name plaques are being produced by CRT on selected bridges.
 - i. Gala Dinner – CRT are looking at a buffet style dinner to keep the cost of tickets at a reasonable price.

11. Work Parties.

- a. Tuesday work parties working well. Next week back at Riverside to continue working on the wash holes.

12. Web site and social media

- a. Nothing further to be reported. However, the society is shredding links with the previous host of the website as this will be a financial saving.
- b. New information panels placed on the website will have QR codes attached.

13. AOB

- a. The SC225 team of 7 has been depleted with the resignation of John Donovan and Veronica Fuller. Our thanks, from the 225 Committee and the Society, go to both of them for the work they put into making the 225 anniversary a success.
- b. Horse – GW to liaise with the Council and CRT about the position of the Horse.
- c. Mural – the mural on the side of the canoe store has been completed and looks very good. Our thanks go to Carys for undertaking the work.

14. DONM.

Tuesday 5th September 2023, 1900 at New Inn, Clydach.

Signed on Original

M FULLER
Secretary