

MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

5 September 2023

Present:

J Gwalter	M Fuller	G Walker	Mrs G Thomas
A Tremlett	Mrs S Blackford	JA Davies	J Gravelle
A Ellis	Mrs V Fuller	D Howells	A Grenfell

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

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

3. Treasurers Report
 - a. The society will not be signing up to Amazon Business as it overcomplicates things.
 - b. August has been a relatively quiet month, with three significant movements. Firstly, a donation of £2,000 has been received from the Ethel and Gwyn Morgana Trust, this has augmented the unallocated cash balance and made the day-to-day running more secure. Secondly is the acceptance of a £277,151 quotation from James Daley for the next stage of the Canal Centre build, and the third is the revaluation of the site at 42 Hebron Road in its current state.
 - c. The society has not yet received any formal documentation for the SPF grant
 - d. The society has received a customer information form from the bank asking for information about the society required under Money laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds Regulations 2017. A list of details of the trustees was handed round and all trustees agreed that this information should be sent to the bank. The list of signatures is also out of date and will be sorted in due course.

4. Education Officers Report
 - a. The new Education Officer has held a meeting, with the outgoing Education Officer and CRT where information was handed over, and the EO signed up to the CRT Explorer programme where online training is given.
 - b. No school visits are currently planned
 - c. Career Wales has requested the society undertake a work placement with one or two young people, on a Tuesday throughout the school year. This was agreed in principle, but it was suggested that a review of the work placement occur at the half term break.
 - d. Bryncoch school will be undertaking work on the canal on a Tuesday after the society work party has finished.

5. Grants and Funding
 - a. Although the society has not yet received any news from the SPF grant it has been pointed out to them that the work needs to be done in the dry.
 - b. Transforming Towns grant is still in progress, for this we have to find 30% match funding, which is being sought.
 - c. There are clauses/covenants in the grant fundings that mean that we would have to pay the funds back if Hebron Road was sold. The trustees agree not to sell Hebron Road.
 - d. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Terry Berry to see if he could assist with match funding.

6. Canoe Hire
 - a. All going well.
 - b. We have had two group hires this month, one on the 11th and again on the 27th. These are for Brownies
 - c. Pirates Day was a great success, with over 160 people going on the water.
 - d. The society has applied to the council to run a Spooky event on 29th October

7. Clydach Lock.
 - a. Work is progressing well, with the stone work in the boat basin commencing.
 - b. It was suggested a grand opening be held on Friday October 6th with invites to the MS's and local MP's. The opening would see the boat basin filled with water.

8. Coed Gwilym Slipway.
 - a. The application to GWR for funding has not been successful so other funding is being applied for.

9. Hebron Road.
 - a. James Daley to invoice for the work done so the contractor can be paid.
 - b. it was suggested that the society may like to invest in a couple of Electric Charging points for cars. This is to be investigated by Duncan Howells

10. SC225
 - a. Waterfront Museum exhibition due to complete on 17th September. AT asked if anyone would be

available to assist in its removal from the museum. The Exhibition is then going on tour, firstly to the Welfare Hall, Ystradgunlais, then to Pontardawe Heritage Centre and then to Craig Y Nos.

c. Lighting up the canal on Saturday November 18th. This event will take place in the evening, commencing at 6.30PM where it is planned to have lights (lanterns) lighting up the canal towpath at Coed Gwilym and the canal. 4 very large lanterns (horse, Swan etc) are being made by contractors and there will be five community workshops for people to make lanterns for the event, with a view to creating 200 lanterns. Music and small eats will also be available

c. Bridge 8 – CRT are looking at repointing the stonework at Bridge 8. Scaffolding will be placed around the bridge, of which CRT are asking for sketches.

11. Work Parties.

- a. Tuesday work parties working well. Next week back at Clydach to pull weed and cut down vegetation from the Mond Lock towards Pont John Bridge.
- b. Sunday Work parties will re-commence after the canoe hire finishes. There is plenty of work to undertake

12. Web site and social media

- a. The upgrade has been completed
- b. There has been a message reference canoe hire which has now been answered.
- c. It was suggested that the society canoe hire be put on Trip Advisor – this was rejected.

13. AOB

- a. NPT CVS has sent a request for nominations for board members. There were no volunteers.
- b. Polo Shirts – to be discussed at the next meeting
- c. Book Launch – the book is going to print in October with a proposed Book launch in December.
- d. There has been a number of books on Canals given to the society that can be sold
- e. Friends of Coed Gwilym. At a recent meeting the following points were made – There is no funding for Solar Panels, the playground refurbishment will commence on 25th September, it is hoped to have lines painted in the car park, there will be a bat walk on 19th September, the path around the park is due to commence at Manor Park in October.
- f. IWA/WRG camp in 2024. It was decided to apply for a camp at the buried lock site in July.
- g. Safeguarding – A code of conduct, and Induction Sheet, with the aims of the society, need to be created. Templates for safeguarding policy, data protection, grievance, bullying and harassment, and equality and discrimination have been downloaded for tailoring to the society.

14. DONM.

Tuesday 3rd October 2023, 1900 at New Inn, Clydach.

Signed on Original

M FULLER
Secretary