

MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

5 March 2024

Present:

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

<p>1. Apologies: L Willicome, A Williams, Mrs S Ellis, C Morris, A Grenfell, T Morris, M Davies, D Howells</p> <p>2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.</p> <p>3. Treasurers Report</p> <p>a. One of the invoices outstanding from CRT has been paid. Two remain outstanding.</p> <p>b. The Landfill Grant, has a deadline of March 2024, but in recent conversations this may be able to be extended to coincide with the SPF Grant.</p> <p>c. The first invoice from DHL, for work in the Hidden Lock phase 2, has now been paid.</p> <p>d. A stock take (books) need to be undertaken prior to 5 April.</p> <p>e. £1,315 has been received from the Co-op for furnishings for Hebron Road.</p> <p>4. Education Officers Report</p> <p>a. Water Safety education has taken place at St Josephs and Neath Beavers.</p> <p>b. CRT has a new Risk Assessment for taking groups on the Tow path.</p> <p>c. The Society has been signed up, to provide a stall, for the Green Gathering at Riverside on 9th June 2024.</p> <p>d. The society has been signed up for the City Nature Challenge on 27th April 2024 to provide guided walks along the canal looking at nature and spotting wildlife.</p> <p>5. Grants and Funding</p> <p>a. The application to Coalfield Community Grant for £7K for the slipway has been completed.</p> <p>b. An application for £50K is to be made to the National Lottery to finish the restoration of Hebron Road.</p> <p>c. An application can be made to the Swansea Bay Foundation for up to £5K. This is to be taken forward.</p> <p>6. Canoe Hire</p> <p>a. A number of requests have already been received for group hire this season. It was decided that we should accept them and proceed as last year asking for volunteers to man the sessions, but no more than two sessions per week. The list to be sent out as soon as possible.</p> <p>b. The Canoe Hire training day is Sunday 24th March. All volunteers undertaking canoe hire should attend, and anyone else interested.</p> <p>c. It was decided to open the season with a Bunnies in the Park event. As many of the volunteers should attend as possible to get to know what to do. It was decided to charge £5.00 per vessel, for this event.</p> <p>7. Clydach Lock.</p> <p>a. Work has started again, with a vast amount of contaminated soil removed.</p> <p>b. The pipe through the lock has been blocked so all the water is going down the by wash.</p> <p>c. Work on opening the canal has started from the bottom of the site, and should progress by approximately 30 meters a week.</p> <p>d. A retired CRT engineer has stated that the replacement lock gates are going to be more expensive than first thought. Swansea Council are to be asked if they would cover the additional costs.</p> <p>e. An engineer is to draw up a plan of the lock for Daley Homes Limited to work from.</p> <p>f. It was suggested by the Engineer that the society might like go to Newport fourteen locks to watch the new lock gates being fitted. We await the details.</p> <p>8. Coed Gwilym Slipway.</p> <p>a. No progress until funding has been secured.</p> <p>9. Hebron Road.</p> <p>a. Daley homes started work on the outside of the building. The car parking area being readied for tarmacking.</p> <p>b. It was suggested that a stud wall be placed along the end of the site next to the bank at the stone barge and along the side next to the canal. This would make an idea place for a picnic table and chairs.</p> <p>c. With the carpark it was suggested that there may be room to have an entrance, where the gates are currently, and an exit further along by the stone barge. This is to be investigated for cost to lower the kerb.</p>	<p>SB</p> <p>SB</p>
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- d. The EV charger once fitted will be available. The gates would be left unlocked so that people have access to the charging point.
- e. The Kitchen is coming at a cost of £900. Tiling has cost nothing as they have been donated by Liberty Tiles. Both of these items will be fitted by Society volunteers. DHL to remove these items from the invoices.
- f. A dishwasher was offered but declined. Thank you.

10. SC225

- a. Two local schools have requested the exhibition. The first has been set up, with the second being set up later in the month. The By Ere banner to be taken to the school for inclusion in the exhibition.
- b. There are still places available for anyone who wishes to assist with Bridge 8 repointing. Contact CRT to put you name down.

11. Work Parties.

- a. Tuesday work parties working well. Next week in Pontardawe.
- b. Sunday work parties have been rained off on more than one occasion, but there are only two more weekends available prior to the commencement of the Canoe season. Therefore, this weekend it is intended to trial fit the rubber onto one of the canoes to see if it works, and hopefully fit the fenders to the slipway.

12. Web site and social media

- a. Books are being sold successfully via the website, with 6 sold so far.
- b. It was suggested that the Society contact the London Canal Book Shop to see if they can sell some books.

JGw

13. AOB

- a. An invitation has been received to the NPT Heritage Funding Fair. This is open to anyone who wishes to go. Further information can be gained from the society secretary.
- b. Lliw Builders. A letter was sent asking about sponsorship. A reply has been received asking what we could do with. After discussion it was decided to ask for a credit note that could be used on any of our projects, but nominally for Hebron Road.
- c. Cycle rack. An email has been received from Active Travel asking for thoughts on the amount of cycle parking in the area. A survey is attached to the email which will be filled in in due course.
- d. Mr Clive Reed is selling off all his heritage items and has offered the society a copy of the 19th Century map of the canal for £100. After discussion it was decided to continue investigating getting the canal map book copied, and digitised, with the suggestion that CRT may wish to pay for the map from Mr Reed.
- e. On Monday 11th March at 1100, there will be a meeting of Vale and Buffoon Media to film a litter pick in CGP, in partnership with other park users, who have had Vale sponsorship.
- f. The litter piker of the Month from My Green Valley is our own Paul Rapsey. Congratulations Paul.
- g. There will be a Canal Festival on the Neath Canal on 30th and 31st August hosted by Yun Yun
- h. A number of TV interviews have taken place over the last year, with the producer keen to get more on our work on the canal. To that end it is possible that the TV crew may attend Bunnies.
- i. A USB stick has been received from the University with all the interviews and school programmes from the 225 exhibitions.

14. DONM.

Tuesday 2nd April 2024, 1900 at a venue to be decided.

Signed on Original

M FULLER
Secretary