

MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

2 April 2024

Present:

G Walker	Mrs V Fuller	M Fuller	P Rapsey	T Morris
A Ellis	J Gravelle	A Tremlett	S Blackford	C Gravelle
M Hobbs				

1. Apologies: L Willicome, A Williams, Mrs S Ellis, C Morris, A Grenfell, M Davies, D Howells, Mrs G Thomas
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.
3. Treasurers Report
 - a. The problem releasing funds from the Societies Pay Pal account has now been resolved, and membership subscriptions and book sales have now been accredited to the accounts.
 - b. The outstanding sum of £510 payable by CRT relates to a very recent invoice in respect of material purchased for canal maintenance work.
 - c. As previously reported, the Landfill Grant for £50K, had a deadline of March 2024. Following discussions with WCVA a request for an extension until January 2025 has been submitted.
 - d. As a reminder, the remaining £42K of the SPF grant is for external work at Hebron Road Canal centre. The balance sheet shows an existing estimated deficit of £78.5K under the heading of "Restricted Canal Centre Funds/Quotations not invoiced" but it appears that this does not reflect the £42K grant, as referred to in the Balance Sheet explanatory note.
 - e. It is important to recognise that the society's operating expenditure is increasing. For example, insurance and accountant's fees alone came to c£5k this year and the imminent opening of the Canal Centre will bring extra running costs (utilities etc). The society's current level of unrestricted funds will therefore need to be carefully conserved, until such time as the funding situation for Hebron Road project is resolved.
 - f. The current balance sheet and income and expenditure reports are to be placed monthly on the website, but only issued to Trustees for a quarterly meeting. The New briefing note is to be issued to members for monthly meetings as it is easier to read.
4. Education Officers Report
 - a. 2 more Water Safety education sessions have been put in the diary for Beaver groups. One in April another in May.
 - b. 2 Primary Schools and a Secondary school are to be invited to witness the opening of Bridge Plaques by CRT, with emphasis on bridge building.
5. Grants and Funding
 - a. The application to Coalfield Community Grant for £7K for the slipway has been refused, but may be able to be used for Hebron Road, if it can be shown the building will be used by the community. To that end it was stated that the building will be used for Education and water safety briefs for local schools and youth groups.
 - b. The application for £50K to be made to the National Lottery to finish the restoration of Hebron Road, will also include part of the slipway funding.
 - c. Need an updated quotation, from Daley Homes, for the remaining internal work at Hebron Road, for these bids, as so much has changed.
6. Canoe Hire
 - a. Bunnies was a great success. We raised £215 which at £5 per boat means that we had 43 boats on the water with 50 adults and 57 children.
 - b. Group hire commences on 8th April and there have been a number of enquiries for group hire.
7. Clydach Lock.
 - a. The canal has been opened and the lock uncovered. The sides of the lock chamber look good, but the top of the lock has been damaged.
 - b. Richard Dommert is visiting the site on 10th April to look at the lock and discuss lock gates.
8. Coed Gwilym Slipway.
 - a. No progress until funding has been secured.
9. Hebron Road.
 - a. Nearly finished the tiling of the wet room and toilet, but need another three boxes of tiles.
 - b. The Kitchen, at a cost of £900, will be fitted by Gordon once all other work has been completed.
 - c. The flooring will be industrial Vinyl.
 - d. A discussion was held on the EV Charging point. Duncan to liaise with Lance.
 - e. Lliw builders have offered to sponsor us and would like a list of materials. Gordon and Alan to sort out the list.

Post meeting note – Lliw Builders have given a credit note for £500

10. SC225

- a. The exhibitions at two local schools were a great success. Well received and a good public engagement for CRT.
- b. Bridge 8 repointing went well with the bridge looking good.
- c. There are three benches to be put in along the line of the canal. One of which will be at the Rheola Arms in Abercraf. Information panels will be put up next to the benches.
- d. The seal from the canal company is to be shot blasted onto the door glass.
- e. There will be some Step By Step guided tours of the canal run by CRT.
- f. CRT have purchased plaques to go onto some of the bridges across the canal. These will be put on the bridges at Pont John, Trebanos and Ynysmeudwy. It is intended to hold a ceremony when these are to be officially unveiled. The 15th May has been pencilled in for Pont John and Trebanos, with school children present at the unveiling. For Bridge 8 (Ynysmeudwy) it is hoped to invite the local MS and dignitaries.
- g. Memory event at the Rheola Arms on 6th April from 1 – 3 PM.

11. Work Parties.

- a. Tuesday work parties working well. Next week in Coed Gwilym Park, with those trained in Lime Mortar at Bridge 8.

12. Web site and social media

- a. Nothing to report.

13. AOB

- a. Mr Clive Reed is selling off some heritage items and has offered the society a copy of the 19th Century map of the canal for £50. It was decided that we should purchase this item along with the bar of pig iron. After discussion it was decided to continue investigating getting the canal map book digitised, with the suggestion that CRT may wish to pay for it.
- b. There is the annual history fair in the Waterfront Museum on 28th September. It has been suggested we attend and sell books.
- c. It was suggested that we have a summer get together as we do at Christmas. This to be investigated.
- d. Paperwork for the transfer of a community asset has gone in to Swansea Council and a reply awaited. This would transfer the lease of the Canoe store to the society for 125 years.
- e. Hi Vis jackets are to be issued.

14. DONM.

Tuesday 7th May 2024, 1900 at the Pavilion, Coed Gwilym Park.

Signed on Original

M FULLER
Secretary