

MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

11 June 2024

Present:

M Fuller

J Gwalter

J Gravelle

A Tremlett

S Blackford

1. Apologies: L Willicome, A Williams, Mrs S Ellis, C Morris, A Grenfell, M Davies, D Howells, G Walker, Mrs V Fuller, Mrs G Thomas, A Ellis, T Morris
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with no matters arising:
3. Treasurers Report
 - a. General funds situation:
 - 1) The accounts show unrestricted funds of £23.7k
 - 2) In addition, £2.5k is owed to the Society by CRT increasing the unrestricted total to £26.2k
 - 3) However, £13k of this is effectively held in reserve for Hebron Road if required
 - b. The Society still has books available for sale, with a "stock value" of £9.8k
 - c. Phase 2 of the Hidden (Clydach) Lock project is being funded by SPF grant monies together with 5% match-funding from the Landfill Disposal grant (majority already received). External works at the Hebron Road Canal centre are also being funded from separately allocated SPF monies. To date, the Society had submitted a total of 3 claims against the SPF grant in respect of contractor's invoices.
 - d. As reported previously, the Landfill Grant for £50k, (£40k of which has already been received in advance) is being used as match funding for the major SPF grant. This originally had a deadline date of end March 2024 but I am pleased to report that WCVA have now formally confirmed an extension of the deadline to Quarter ending March 2025.
 - e. At present there is no material change to the deficit in respect of works at the Hebron Road Canal Centre.
 - f. Canoe hire activity has been quite brisk and the income received since the season began at Easter currently stands at £805 (£590 public hire and £215 group hire.)
 - g. Once again, the vast majority of the monies owed to the Society relates to invoices issued to CRT in recent weeks totalling £2,483 for various reimbursements such as meeting room hire and work party materials. Payment is expected shortly.
4. Education Officers Report
 - a. In May more Water Safety education sessions have been given in schools and one to the OAP Group in Pontardawe
 - b. Have more enquiries from schools for the water safety brief.
 - c. Signed up for Balsam Blitz and litter pick on 4 July in Coed Gwilym Park.
5. Grants and Funding
 - a. The application for £40K has been made to the National Lottery to finish the restoration of Hebron Road, as a ball park figure to include contingencies if required.
 - b. Swansea Bay Foundation Grant has been applied for.
 - c. Coast Grant. A total of £3K is to be applied for this to include a free sandwich box for children, going on the canal, from the Pavilion.
6. Canoe Hire
 - a. Going well. However, the school visits this year have been cancelled. Cila said transport was too expensive and Trebanos Health and Safety said no as we do not have instructors.
 - b. The team need more volunteers as at present there are only 10 people on the rota.
 - c. As we do not have instructors the question was raised about qualifications. A suggestion was put forward about Paddle Sport Assistant. This to be investigated further.
7. Clydach Lock.
 - a. Daley Homes limited are hopeful of finishing laying the blocks, South of the lock chamber to the by wash exit this week. Good progress has been made south of the lock.
 - b. Work to commence on the Northern end of the site, which should be easier that the other end as it does not need to be dug as deep.
8. Coed Gwilym Slipway.
 - a. No progress until funding has been secured.
9. Hebron Road.
 - a. Kitchen has been put in, but needs completing, and fixing to the floor. The work tops have been fitted.
 - b. Power is due to be connected on 16th June. Once connected work will continue within the building to put in the wood frames for the doors etc.
 - c. Hopeful of gaining access at the end of July to complete the decorating
 - d. Outside wall capping has been completed

e. The society is still looking at an In gate and an Out gate.

10. SC225

- a. The last 225 meeting has been postponed until next week.
- b. Completion of the Bridge Plaques project has been postponed until after the election.
- c. There is a problem with the image for transferring to the glass doors, in that once enlarged the image becomes grainy.
- d. There are other items going on in the background.
- e. The 225 Sub Committee is being disbanded

11. Work Parties.

- a. Tuesday work parties working well. Next week at Pontardawe, there is a quantity of painting to be done.
- b. There will be a group from Admiral Insurance joining us on 16th July, probably at Bridge 8 to continue with the wash holes.

Post Meeting Note – this has been postponed until 23rd July.

12. Web site and social media

Nothing to report.

13. AOB

- a. The Cultural and Heritage Fair in Neath on 1st June as a very quiet affair. The one thing that came out of was that some people would like to volunteer, but at weekends.
- b. Bryan Moss's daughter has contacted the society about holding an exhibition of his paintings and then selling them. Proceeds to go to the society. There are 13 small to medium painting. It was suggested that we ask Steven Hughes if he would like to exhibit some of his paintings at the same time. MF to contact.
- c. It was decided that the next meeting would be a trustee only strategy meeting, to decide on the societies short, medium and long term aims, and prioritise the work in the future, where next and how to use the spaces.

14. DONM.

Tuesday 2nd July 2024, 1900 at the Pavilion, Coed Gwilym Park.

Signed on Original

M FULLER
Secretary