

# MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

## 6 August 2024

**Present:**

M Fuller	J Gwalter	J Gravelle	A Tremlett	S Blackford
G Walker	Mrs V Fuller	T Morris	A Ellis,	A Grenfell

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| <p>1. Apologies: L Willicome, A Williams, Mrs S Ellis, M Davies, D Howells, Mrs G Thomas, L Goodenough</p> <p>2. The minutes of the previous strategy meeting were discussed, attached, with the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. To be reviewed in 6 Months (January 2025)</li><li>b. Our Patron should be contacted to assist where necessary</li><li>c. The long-term aim to run boat trips from the canal centre to Trebanos occurs in both the Canal Centre and the Clydach Lock sections (1 and 3). It is an aim that is important to us all. We do need to cooperate with CRT on this. In this section of the canal, we are equal partners and therefore need something of a 'charm offensive' in this matter. We do seem to be constantly at loggerheads with them and the benefits of combined applications are obvious.</li><li>d. Need to put secure fencing behind the Canal Centre for storage of trailers.</li><li>e. Slipway in Coed Gwilym Park needs to be achieved as soon as funding is available.</li></ul> <p>3. Treasurers Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The increase in the unrestricted funds (from £25.4k to 27.9) is primarily due to a combination of increased canoe hire income as well as some invoices having been paid.</li><li>b. As previously reported, £13k of the unrestricted funds is effectively held in reserve for Hebron Road if required</li><li>c. The Society still has books available for sale, with a "stock value" of £9.66k. There continues to be the occasional sale which is very helpful as it is entirely profit.</li><li>d. 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. External works at the Hebron Road Canal centre are also being funded from separately allocated SPF monies.</li></ul> <p>The third draw-down from the SPF grant in the sum of £145.1k was not reflected in the previous report but was received on 1st July and duly paid over to the contractor along with the 5% match funding financed by the Landfill Disposal Grant.</p> <p>A fourth SPF grant draw-down in the sum of £99,678 has been claimed for quarter ended 30th June and payment is expected within the next week to 10 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>e. As reported previously, there is currently no material change to the deficit in respect of works at the Hebron Road Canal Centre.</li></ul> <p>4. Education Officers Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. In July the following activities were carried out:<br/>Water safety assemblies - Baglan Brownies, Llangiwig Primary School<br/>Canal History Talk: Crynant WI<br/>Radio Interview with BBC Wales, Country Focus ref the Clydach Lock project (with Gordon)</li><li>b. Met with the other Welsh Explorers volunteers at Llangynidr near Crickhowell to plan for the next school year.</li><li>c. Several bookings already in the diary for September.</li></ul> <p>5. Grants and Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Discussions were held over the usage of various grants currently under the slipway restricted funds. These funds to remain under slipway rather than be used for Hebron Road.</li><li>b. Lotto Abertawe. We have joined the local Lottery so that we can raise funds when anyone purchases a ticket, stating Swansea Canal Society as their chosen good cause. A poster needs to be created so that it can be given out with our Canoe hire posters, and put on display.</li></ul> <p>6. Canoe Hire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Going well, but was a little disappointed with the Monday Council Hire. Only 8 Children and 8 adults turned up, when there should have been up to 28. Other council hires doing well, as is the Friday public hire.</li><li>b. There is a new poster for Pirates as we were using old logos. Sharon has a meeting to discuss the sandwich boxes with the Friends of Coed Gwilym Park on Monday. There will be a stall from the North Wales Environmental team at Pirates.</li><li>c. The Canoe hire took £1,192 in July.</li></ul> <p>7. Clydach Lock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Bottom end of the canal has been dug out, will be rolled tomorrow and concreted by the end of the week.</li><li>b. A decision needs to be taken as to whether we wish to move the by-wash back into the canal at the end of the lock or leave it where it is.</li></ul> |  |
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| <p>c. Lock gates for this lock are being designed.</p> <p>8. Coed Gwilym Slipway.</p> <p>a. No progress until funding has been secured.</p> <p>9. Hebron Road.</p> <p>a. Electricity will be going live 7<sup>th</sup> August. There are members on standby if required to assist with opening the building.</p> <p>b. The sale of excess solar power back to the National Grid is to be looked into.</p> <p>10. SC225</p> <p>a. There are some CRT legacy projects that need completing but all other SC225 projects are completed. The SC225 heading can therefore be removed from the agenda.</p> <p>11. Work Parties.</p> <p>a. Tuesday work parties working well. Next week at CGP where it is anticipated there will be an extra group of volunteers from BT/EE to assist with clearing the off bank of vegetation.</p> <p>b. Need to record 30 man-hours of work to remove the tree, and record that the society has done so with CRT.</p> <p>c. Need to produce an annual calendar to record when things like Balsam Bashing need to be achieved.</p> <p>12. Web site and social media</p> <p>a. Book sales – an advert has been placed in the Souwester, and others will be taken to the History Fair in September</p> <p>13. AOB</p> <p>a. Some volunteers went to assist at Gellionen School, where a vast amount of painting was completed. More work is waiting to be done if people would like to volunteer to undertake it.</p> <p>b. Gemma Bevan (Swansea Council) has stated that there may be money available from the Environmental Fund for building an extension on the back of the canoe store. Gordon hopes to have a meeting later this week.</p> <p>c. There is up to £7K available through a Heritage Led Regeneration Fund for Clydach. Sharon has emailed to see if we are eligible to apply.</p> <p>14. DONM.<br/>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1900 at the New Inn, Clydach.</p> |  |
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*Signed on Original*

M FULLER  
Secretary