

MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

3 December 2024

Present:

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

1. Apologies: L Willicome, Mrs S Ellis, M Davies, D Howells, L Goodenough, A Grenfell, Mrs G Thomas, J Gravelle
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with the following action
Item 12c – A drawing was provided to Swansea Council showing the area that the Canal Society wish to lease from the council. This is the area from the path to the proposed slipway, the canoe store and path in front of the store. Nothing further has been heard from the council.
3. Treasurers Report
 - a. Unrestricted Funds have increased by c.£1,300 compared with the level reported at the November meeting and currently stand at just over £25.6k. This can be mainly attributed to book purchases, including a quantity previously ordered by CRT and does put the Society in a relatively comfortable position
 - b. Previous reports have flagged that invoices likely in excess of £6,500, are expected before end of December in respect of the Society's insurance policy and accountancy fees, together with solicitors' fees and charges in respect of land acquisition and other legal work. Together, these will significantly reduce the level of unrestricted funds although it should be noted that the insurance quotation recently received is lower than last year.
 - c. Trustees will be aware that the Landfill Disposal Fund grant is providing match-funding for the main SPF grant. However, it has been noted that some £3k of this Landfill Grant has previously been used for other, earlier expenditure at the hidden lock i.e. not the match funding. This relatively minor shortfall can however be largely covered by the historical credit balance of £2.8 shown under "Clydach Lock Restoration".
 - d. Other, significant news is that the Society has been extremely fortunate to receive a further, substantial grant in the sum of £30k from 'Vale' who continue to be very generous in their support. The precise use of this grant is yet to be agreed (options include restoration of Mond Lock) however it does mean that there is less pressure on the Society with regard to the funding deficit in respect of the Canal Centre in the event of other funding bids not materialising.
 - e. The response from the Auditors is that, as the society has income above £1m a full Audit is required for the Charity commission.
4. Education Officer's Report
 - a. Nothing to report
5. Grants and Funding
 - a. The Coalfield grant application has been sent for a maximum of £7K. The Society has letters of support which have gone with the application. However, the application was sent too late for this round of grants and will be entered into the next round.
 - b. Lottery Nature, Towns and Cities grant. The society has put in an expression of interest, for £425K, which has been acknowledged. This would be for the Mond Lock, and would involve collaboration with CRT.
 - c. Starbucks Grant application has been sent in for £4K.
6. Canoes
 - a. All items (Coffee cups, towels, etc) have ben returned to the canoe store
7. Clydach Lock
 - a. No further progress
8. Hebron Road
 - a. To be called Swansea Canal Centre on future documents
 - b. Fencing has been erected and large blocks placed to prevent vehicle going into the canal.
 - c. A team of volunteers needs to be set up for opening and closing the building. Sharon to be team leader to coordinate the volunteers.
 - d. A contract, with terms and conditions needs to be drawn up for all hirers of the building.
 - e. Foot clinic has enquired about using the building commencing on 6th January 2025 and possibly once a week thereafter.
- 9 Work Parties.
 - a. Good today, the tree has been removed.
 - b. Society to ask CRT about Cross Cutting training and supply of protective clothing

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| <p>c. For those who are not able to undertake the hard manual labour there are other jobs, such as the cleaning and maintenance of the tools, that can be carried out.</p> <p>d. Sunday work parties to re-commence in January</p> <p>10. Social Media and Website</p> <p>a. Nothing to report except for the society has been getting a number of emails from China stating that the domain names of swansea canal society are going to be registered by a company in China. The advice is to ignore them.</p> <p>11. WRG camp</p> <p>a. Expression of Interest has been sent off, with the work being the rebuilding of the wall next to the canal centre, at dates to be arranged but the society can be flexible. Accommodation to be provided at the canal centre</p> <p>12. AOB</p> <p>a. Life Memberships. It was proposed to offer Mrs Jan Williams life membership for the work that she and her late husband have done and continue to do for the society. Carried Unanimously.
Post Meeting Note – Letter sent on Wednesday 4th December.</p> <p>b. Adoption of Policies. All trustees need to sign to say they have read the various policies put in place to ensure safe working within the society. Signing sheets will be provided.</p> <p>c. Alarm system. Quotations have been received for putting an alarm system into the building. They appear to be expensive, so further quotes are to be obtained.</p> <p>d. A request to attend a Theatre group meeting about putting on an event has been received. Andy and Veronica are to attend.</p> <p>13. Date of Next meeting
Tuesday 14 January 2025 at Hebron Road, Canal Centre, on completion of AGM</p> | |
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Signed on Original

M FULLER
Secretary