

# MINUTES OF SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY MEETING

## 5 August 2025

**Present:**

G Walker	M Fuller	A Tremlett	L Goodenough	J Gravelle
J Gwalter	T Morris	S Blackford	M Hobbs	

1. Apologies: L Willicome, Mrs S Ellis, M Davis, A Ellis, P Rapsey

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

3. Treasurers Report

a. With a number of grants having now been finalised Trustees will note that there are some minor balances showing which will need to be cleared down in due course to "tidy up" the accounts.

b. The remaining £10k balance (of the total £50k) Landfill Disposal grant –which was used as the match funding in respect of the Clydach Lock scheme - has now been claimed and received.

c. Significant higher income from Canoe Hire this season to date, as well as the proceeds from the recent Summer Fayre has also helped to increase unrestricted funds. However, as was agreed at the June meeting, a sum of £8k has now been informally set aside as a Financial Reserve to meet any unforeseen future eventualities.

d. The net result of (b) and (c) above, is that the Unrestricted Funds figure currently stands at a fraction under £17,420.

NB this figure does not reflect the cost of the forthcoming WRG camp nor any potential costs associated with the Mond Lock project.

e. Swansea Council has yet to confirm the outcome of the application for rate relief on the recently received rates bill for Canal Centre, Hebron Road but it is almost certain that the entire bill will be waived in accordance with the Council's established policy.

f. The first year of the electricity supply agreement with E.ON is now coming to an end and will change to a variable rate. This does however afford the option to change to another supplier in the future should it be beneficial - taking into consideration the fact that the electricity "mains supply" consumption has reduced markedly in recent weeks [e.g. the June invoice was £25]

4. Education Officers Report

a. At the beginning of the month 3 days of school visits were carried out along with Explorers colleagues. The first 2 days were in Brecon, the 3rd day was on the Swansea Canal, based at the canal centre.

b. We hosted 2 groups from Clydach Primary School for a walk along the canal from Hebron Rd to the Mond Lock then returned to the canal centre to do hands on activities, Build a Canal and Bridges. The day went well, and the children enjoyed.

c. It is hoped to build on the success of the day to offer this to more schools in the Autumn term.

5. Grants and Funding

a. In accordance with the attached list

b. Applied for £3.7K to build a disabled pathway, plant trees and bushes and put up a display board at the Hebron Road site. Awaiting confirmation.

6. Clydach Lock and Trip Boat

a. Mikk Bradley is attending on 12th August to view the Mond Lock and hopefully Lock number 7. For discussions with James our Contractor.

b. Paddles for the lower lock gates have not been received making the gates inoperable.

c. The base has been done for the paddle raising rack and pinion.

d. Need a meeting with the contractor to discuss further work at the lock site.

e. Trip Boat. In order to legitimately run a trip boat the Society needs to be registered as competent to run such a boat safely. The individual steerers each need to have a certificate of competence to handle a boat on "Class A" water. The crew members need to be properly trained, for which the Swansea Canal Society should have competent trainers for this purpose.

f. A boat should to be:

- Registered
- Insured for passenger and 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability
- Inspected to the appropriate safety standards
- Licenced with CRT.

g. The National Community Boats Association, can provide much of the training required at an advantageous cost but there will be fees to pay for the boat registration, insurance, inspection and licence. Although the Swansea canal is not listed on the CRT web site as a canal for which a CRT licence is needed the fees for registration and inspection together with the insurance premium cannot be avoided.

7. Mond Lock

- a. Mikk Bradley is to carry out a sounding of the lock on 12th August
- b. The Licence received should be signed and returned, however, a decision on signing and any comments should be made by 12th August by the trustees.
- c. An MOU has also been received.

8. Web Site

- a. Canoe and kayak hire - I cannot find anywhere on our SM any reference to 3pm. Please let me know if you can.
- b. WRG - Don't forget that we considered spending the very generous donations from Alan's funeral on the WRG.
- c. Society's phone - I am very happy to continue to be contacted on my personal phone but we now have the opportunity to use the SumUp phone. Would anyone care to take this on, particularly if you have a two SIM mobile? After discussion it was decided that the Society no longer needs a phone as most enquiries are made by social media or email.

9. WRG Camp

- a. A lot of the preparation work has been completed but there are still little things to be done.
- b. There are 12 people attending the camp
- c. A welcome pack is to be arranged
- d. A dinner at the New Inn is to be arranged for the Wednesday or Thursday evening.

10. AOB

- a. Canoes - going very well, but need more volunteers.
- b. Book. The society was promised a copy of the book "Cribarth - the giant awakes" by the author as it has a section on the canal within it. This has now arrived and is on the shelf in Hebron Road
- c. Energy Supplies - the society is coming to the end of its contract with E ON. Trustees were asked to look for alternative suppliers that would support the society giving energy back to the grid, as our current supplier doesn't do this.
- d. Care of Hebron Road. It has been noted that some members are entering Hebron Road covered in Mud or wet from their canal work. Unfortunately, this is causing more work for the volunteers who are looking after the building. If you are wet or muddy please consider sitting outside for your tea break, if not then please be more respectful of the building as it is hired out to other groups and needs to be in a fit state to be able to be hired out.

11. Date of Next meeting

1900 on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at the New Inn.

*Signed on Original*

M FULLER  
Secretary