



*Dedicated to research, restore and protect
Mynydd Twmbarlwm - Gwent's most iconic landmark*

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Mynydd Twmbarlwm - tirnod mwyaf eiconig Gwent*

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Trustees and Members Meeting

Monday 5th June 2017
Cross Keys Rugby Club

MINUTES

Attendance

Terry Evans (Chair); Martyn Vaughan, David Parry; Maggie Thomas; Sue Evans; Alan Booth;
Les Murphy; Rob Southall;

1 APOLOGIES

Norman Liversuch; Charles Ferris; Howard Vicary; Sam Southall;

2. MINUTES of Trustees' Meeting held on Monday 6th March 2017

The minutes of the meeting were agreed
No matters arising, items covered in main Agenda

3. TIDY TWMP

Maggie Thomas has been organizing the Litter-pick Sundays, they have been well attended, with a range of members assisting with other jobs like clearing gorse and bracken clearing too. She commented that there seems to be a reduction in litter recently, we wondered if other members of the public are tidying in between, or maybe the lighter nights have lessened the opportunities for the 'louts' in cars.

There have been incidents where we have confronted illegal bikes on these days, which have been reported to Police 101 line. Simon James – Wildlife Crime Officer – has been on long term sick leave, Terry Evans said he had been in contact with him, and we should still report all incidents to 101.

There seems to be fewer burned out cars, again maybe because of the lighter nights.
Terry will continue to email the relevant departments to advise them

Maggie needs a Plastic Storage bin to store and transport the Hi-viz Jackets and gloves etc., we agreed she should purchase a suitable one and CTS will reimburse her.

She also mentioned that we should have some heavier duty bags on the litterpick, for sharp and dirty stuff, and will contact Keep Wales Tidy for some more red bags, Les Murphy said he has empty feedbags that might be reused.

Future workday/Litterpick day tasks include;-

1. The gates on the fence across the slopes have silted up, and should be cleared
2. More Bracken bashing, it is evident that last year's efforts have reduced its vigour
3. The Floating paths around the Tump need attention, replacing loose stones and re-sanding sections.

Next workday will be 25th June

Gethin's team completed the car park steps in time for the Good Friday Walk, thank you.

4. CCBC/TORFAEN/COMMONERS WORKS

As previously mentioned, funding for 2017-18 is expected to be at the same level, so Les Murphy and the Commoners have compiled a list including more Bracken spraying, Boundary Reinforcement and pond restoration.

Les Murphy updated us on the current situation,

Gate- The Gate has been rehung to close by gravity

Block stones- Gethin had said that he has a quote for the block stones of £21.50 each at the moment and felt we should stockpile some for future projects, which we have done, Les confirmed he has ordered a lorry load, between 20 and 25 stones. We will make a plan for positioning them on our next workday.

Bracken Spraying

On the Rhysof/Risca side there will be further bracken spraying, to cover approx. 110 acres, at the end of July, at a cost of £12,500. This has been seen to be very successful on Penyrheol, the spray targets only the bracken, and leaves other ferns and flowering species unaffected.

Wetland/pond restoration –

There are a total of 15 ponds across the common, 5-7 need renovating,

Les is still working on plans of the work with Jack Tennison and Martin Lennon, and will report again at the next meeting.

He has also been approached by Mr Alvin Nicholas, (who's the Commons Officer at the UNESCO heritage site of Forgotten Landscapes) who has discussed funding for restoring the marshy upland, in return for help with an education project to teach dry stone walling (Howard Vicary), and stickmaking (Les Murphy)

See- <http://forgottenlandscapes.org.uk/tag/saving-nature-through-reedbeds/>

Also speaking to Mr Mark Panniers, Paths and Stiles officer and Team Leader Countryside Access at Torfaen County Borough Council

Jack Tennison is getting enquiries from several commoners whose farms have given up sheep and taken on Livery for horses. These riders are going to want to ride out on the common, there will have to be some sort of license scheme, whereby they display a badge or tag on the bridle or saddle to show they were licensed.

The Commoners will do the work to upgrade existing footpaths to provide bridleways, and the riders society will pay 50% of the upkeep, and Pontypool estates the rest.

Les has seen the style of signage as used by The Brecon Beacons National Park, which uses graphic depictions, He also said that he has access to some large posts which we could make use of if required.

5. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES - TRIG POINT ADOPTION SCHEME

Norman Liversuch has submitted plans to the Cadw contacts, Louise Mees and Amelia Pannet, and has had a poor response, he was not able to attend the meeting, but Terry explained that it seemed as if Louse Mees had got the wrong interpretation of our plans, thereby dismissing them, we felt that they had taken so long to reply but had probably not given it much attention, and rolled out a standard reply to keep us quiet for a bit. We are not asking for funding for the project, so it should not affect Cadw at all. We will ask Norman to try again.

6. CAMPAIGN TO SAVE CWMCARN FOREST DRIVE

Mr Rob Southall reported that the Petition had now closed, with approx. 1800 signatures, online and hard copy, and this had been submitted to the Welsh Office.

It is becoming obvious that the cycle paths are being expanded and maintained, but nothing as yet for walkers, and ordinary members of the public.

7 EVENTS

The Annual Hot Cross Bun Walk was on Good Friday – April 14

A cold Spring Day, but well attended as usual, with Hot Cross Buns donated by Tesco's.

May 14th - Mr Les Murphy led a walk around Penyrheol. His knowledge of the history and love of the landscape was obvious and we were all fascinated to learn about the hundreds of years of history over there. He also showed us where the targeted bracken spraying and landscape hardening works have been completed,

Rob Southall will lead a walk to Pwll Tra on Sunday July 2nd,

There will be several talks in the Autumn, as well as the Annual Tump Quiz in November.

8. CALENDAR

We did not have time to discuss the calendar, so will carry forward to the next meeting.

9. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

We did not have time to discuss the membership, so will carry forward to the next meeting.

10. A.O.B.

Rob Southall reminded the meeting that we originally had a Twmbarlwm Beer brewed by Newmans, the 'Celtic' beer people, who have now ceased trading, or been taken over, so he has been in contact with Tudor Brewery in Llanhilleth, who seem keen to add Twmbarlwm to their list of beers, which have a mountain theme for their marketing already. He hopes to have a meeting with them soon to discuss.

Next Trustees meeting Monday 4 September

