



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

*Ymroddedig i ymchwilio, adfer a gwarchod
Mynydd Twmbarlwm - tirnod mwyaf eiconig Gwent*

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Trustees and Members Meeting

Monday 4th September 2017
Cross Keys Rugby Club

MINUTES

Attendance

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

1 APOLOGIES

Charles Ferris; Howard Vicary; Sam Southall; David Parry

2. MINUTES of Trustees' Meeting held on Monday 5th June 2017

Matters arising, (also mentioned in main agenda)

Action from

Tidy Twmp

Maggie has asked Keep Wales Tidy for red bags, but was refused because we are not registered with them. She did however receive some labels from them to stick to the bags of rubbish we collect. Maggie will find out if we should be registering with them for better support and publicity and put the relationship on a more professional footing.

Maggie

The Gate is still silted up, on the left path up the slope,

Terry

Rob was thanked for his good work on the eroded slopes that he has been filling with bracken. They are showing encouraging signs of regrowth. Les will remind Howard of his promise to supply cut bracken bales, and Rob Tunley will be mowing Bracken soon, and could supply some too.

Les

Horse Riding on the Common.

Pontypool Estate have now introduced the scheme and formed an Association

Signage

We need a meeting with Gethin to progress this

Les to arrange

Bracken Spraying

The bracken spraying has been completed.

Trig Point Adoption, items covered in main Agenda

The minutes of the meeting were agreed

Agenda items

3. TIDY TWMP

Maggie Thomas has continued organising the Litter-pick Sundays, they have been well attended, with a range of members assisting with other jobs like clearing gorse, weeding the planted triangles and bracken bashing. We have attracted a few new members from these days.

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Les

Next workday will be Sunday 24th September

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. He would like CTS to identify a couple of 'fall back' items for this year, in case some of the projects do not get started in the timescale, to avoid losing the grant money. Gethin has 6K towards signage, and money for the Trigpoint this year, so we must try to progress these to be completed by next March. See 'Eroded Slopes'.

Les Murphy updated us on the current situation, and he agreed to try to get a meeting with CTS, 14 Locks Canal Trust, Commoners (Les) and Gethin, to keep up to date with the overall plans.

Les

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.

The Commoners Assoc. has been approached to assist with work on the footpath to Crumlin, Torfaen will provide in 2018 £10,000 in funding for the bog restoration, of which £4,000 will be for Education, Countryside skills, teaching dry stone walling (Howard Vicary), and stickmaking (Les Murphy) and £6,000 to produce a proposals/study document

ongoing

Bracken Spraying

The bracken spraying has been completed, primarily on the Penyrheol side of the Mountain. 95 acres were done instead of the originally planned 110 acres, so as to fit within the budget of £9,500.00

Block stones- have been delivered, Terry and Les have met to decide on the best use of them. Terry has supplied a placement diagram for the JCB Driver. The cost of the stones is covered by Gethin's budget, but CTS will pay for the placement (yet to be arranged)

Horse Riding on the Common.

Pontypool Estate have now introduced the scheme and formed an Association With a registration system, and Liability Insurance. Jack Tennison has agreed to pay the first year Insurance and Legal Expenses to get it going. This will hopefully curtail Leslie Griffiths AM's proposals for access. (here's the link again,)

Les

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/taking-forward-wales-sustainable-management-natural-resources>

5. TRIG POINT ADOPTION SCHEME

Norman will arrange onsite meeting with Gethin Bowes CCBC, CTS and Louise Mees to explain our objectives.

Norman

6. CAMPAIGN TO SAVE CWMCARN FOREST DRIVE

Rob Southall reported that he was awaiting a response from the Petitions Officer, Rob, ongoing
Regarding a feasibility study, and also expects a reply from NRW.

Ken Skates AM replied to a question from Rhiannon Passmore saying that he hopes something may be possible for 2019 as it is 'Explore Wales Year'

Maggie Thomas was concerned that the planning application for the new Twrch Trail Mountain Bike Route appears to use the existing roadway on one section, in the opposite direction of the road. Rob S said it was a poor map, and the route runs alongside the road.

7 EVENTS

Talk , Monday 25th September 'The Roman Fort in Brecon. Joe Lewis

Talk , Monday 23rd Octoberber, 'Welsh Hill Forts, Aberystroth Archaeological Society

1st week in October Stickmaking with Les Murphy

AGM Monday 6th November

Wednesday 27th November Annual Tump Quiz

Walk, early December Rob Southall 'Walk the Drive'

Walk, 27th December Maggie Thomas is leading a walk to Twmbarlwm for the Ramblers, and will roll it in with a CTS Christmas walk

8. CALENDAR

Sue Evans presented the figures for the Calendar.

Terry produced the calendar, and printed 50 copies initially to see how they would be received.

They were sold quite quickly, and then we reprinted 100 copies, of which there are 29 unsold

Total sales £438.00

Total Costs of Production £324.00

Profit £114.00

NB: retail shops only pay £3.00 each for them, with a selling price of £5.00

The meeting felt it was a lot of work to do this, but good for the society, and thanked Terry for his efforts.

Should we be doing the same again this year?

Terry said he would need to find some new images and if there was time he would try it again.

9. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

We have 49 Fully paid up members

£7,152.31 in Current Account

The Zurich Insurance has been paid for 2017-8 and copies sent to Pontypool Estates by email .

10. A.O.B.

Rob Southall and Terry had 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.

Terry has designed a label for it, which they like, and we hope to obtain some local honey to give to The brewery for the ale.

There may be a sample by the time of the quiz.....

It was suggested that we could offer some light refreshments at the quiz.

Sue will enquire if allowed, or cost of CRC caterers doing it

Les Murphy announced to the Trustees has there had been a major change in the Administration of the five South Wales Commons, they have amalgamated into one block, pooling finances and expertise into one budget and management team. Both landowners are n approval, as they are conscious of keeping the momentum going after the current Glastir Programme finishes next year.

The Secretary of the new Committee is Mr Les Murphy

Next Trustees meeting - AGM Monday 6th November