



*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 December 2017  
Cross Keys Rugby Club

# **MINUTES**

### **Attendance**

Terry Evans (Chair); Rob Southall; Martyn Vaughan, Maggie Thomas; Sue Evans;  
Norman Liversuch; Charles Ferris; Simon James

### **1 APOLOGIES**

Howard Vicary; Sam Southall; Les Murphy;

### **2. MINUTES of Trustees' Meeting held on Monday 4th September 2017**

**Matters arising, (also mentioned in main agenda)**

#### **Action from**

Amend the figures in 'Commoners Works'  
Amend to ; '5 Commons of Mynydd Maen'

Sue - done  
Sue - done

### **3. RE-CAP OF AGM DECISIONS and APPOINTING OFFICERS**

Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer agreed to continue in their roles.  
We discussed the officers' various roles and duties, and also the frequency and nature  
of future meetings. It was decided that a Bi-monthly pattern should be adopted for the  
forthcoming year.

Reimbursement of expenses etc. we all agreed that there were occasionally calls upon  
Trustees time and goodwill, attending meetings at other agencies etc. , where it would  
be allowable to claim travel expenses. The rate was agreed at £0.45 per mile.  
Also Trustees should claim for printing and out of pocket expenses where purely for club use.

### **4. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE**

Martyn circulated a Statement of current figures and bank balance, showing a closing balance of £7,281.37.  
The 'rogue' Direct Debit taken from the account has been refunded by HSBC, their error.

Membership summary, subs, cards, payments etc.

Martyn would like to align the membership renewal date with the date of the AGM,  
and we agreed it would be easier to manage that way.

Martyn queried whether to continue with the Paypal Payment System as they charge  
a levy on subscriptions. Terry Evans said it was a popular and secure payment method,  
and we should continue, so we will make an additional cost of £0.50 for membership  
paid this way. Terry will add a 'Join Here' button on the website to make it easier.

Terry

Membership Cards, Terry has done a master letter which can be used to send out  
membership renewals, with a 'cut-out' card at the bottom.

### **5. RECENT FUNDRAISING PROJECTS**

Calendars, this year's Calendar is selling steadily, but we decided to stick at the one  
print run, of 50 copies, and concentrate on selling them all ourselves, not through the shops.  
Launch of Beer and Quiz Night

Sue reported that it was a very successful evening; the quiz had over 50 people there,  
the beer was very well appreciated, we sold the lot and took orders for more. The end figures were circulated, with a  
profit after expenses of £231.66. A vote of Thanks given to Terry and Sue for their work organising the event

## 6. TIDY TWMP

Report on Litterpicks/Workdays held on 26th November, 29th October and 24th September 2017

These continue to be managed by Maggie Thomas, who bullies and cajoles a dozen or so eager volunteers each month. Future workday tasks, as well as the litterpick, that need to be done by spring include checking the infill hedging plants for gaps and a bit of light pruning of the more vigorous ones to encourage tighter growth.

We still have not made much progress on filling the scars. .

Next scheduled volunteer day to be January 28th 2018

## 7. CCBC / TORFAEN / COMMONERS WORKS

### Report of Norman and Terry's meeting with Phil Griffiths CCBC

*The following notes were prepared by NL after the meeting - they are not necessarily an officially approved document of the meeting*

*Meeting with CCBC 21st November 2017*

*Present: Phil Griffiths - Manager Countryside and Landscape Services CCBC;*

*Terry Evans – Twmbarlwm Society*

*Norman Liversuch – Twmbarlwm Society*

*Purpose of the meeting.*

*To obtain an update on CCBC and Torfaen CBC grant aid applications for projects on common land and the Monmouthshire Brecon Canal and to discuss current issues / future proposals at Twmbarlwm.*

*Current and Future funding.*

*1) There is approximately £15,000 Of funding available for projects on Mynydd Maen in this current financial year. Some / all of this could be allocated to projects at Twmbarlwm.*

*2) A grant bid has been made for projects on the Monmouthshire Brecon Canal. This is entitled Adventure Triangle and has been submitted jointly with Torfaen CBC. If successful it could mean that £250,000 of grant aid would be available for 3 years. This would mostly be aimed at the canal but there could be projects, such as access improvements, which could benefit Twmbarlwm. The project could also fund a part time post (winter months only). The grant bid is currently going through a Welsh Government assessment process.*

*3) CCBC, Torfaen CBC, Blaenau Gwent CBC and Monmouthshire CBC have submitted a joint bid for grant aid of £400,000 to undertake projects on uplands in the 4 county boroughs. Approval of the grant bid is expected before this Christmas.*

*4) Torfaen CCBC has separately submitted a grant bid for projects on Mynydd Maen. They have commissioned a company named TACP to review the existing management plan so that it can form the basis of future management projects.*

*Twmbarlwm Society projects.*

*1) Trig Point – Phil was advised that a meeting is being held with Cadw to discuss the proposal suggested by the Society. Cadw had suggested that the area around the trig point should be surveyed to establish what the ground levels are. Phil offered to arrange this survey through CCBC.*

*2) Fly Tipping - The problem of disposing of the rubbish picked up by the Society was raised with Phil. He offered to see if the Probation Service could visit Twmbarlwm on the day the Society undertake their litter picks so that they could take the rubbish away.*

*3) Erosion Scars – Phil will progress the possibility of using grass impregnated matting to stabilise the scars.*

*4) Other matters – Phil to provide minutes of the Off Road Working Group meetings organised by Alan Davies AM; Phil to provide a copy of the grant bids for the Uplands and Adventure Triangle.*

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## Progress of work and projects agreed with the joint councils and the Commoners' Association.

Unfortunately neither Les Murphy or Gethin Bowes were available to update us..

Les Murphy is to arrange the siting of rocks that have been delivered to Twmbarlwm. Howard Vicary should be 'asked nicely' (!) to replace the stones he removed from the path up to the Tump.

## 8. OBJECTIVES and PRIORITIES

Trig Point adoption project – Norman Liversuch has arranged a meeting with CADW on 14<sup>th</sup> December, for him and Terry to present our case.

Trustees were asked to consider the O&P document and suggest projects we should prioritise in the coming year.

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## **9. CAMPAIGN TO SAVE CWMCARN FOREST DRIVE**

RS reported that a Project Manager has now been appointed for the Feasibility Study. Cycle tracks seem to be going forward apace, and a lot of money invested in the business. Terry Evans commented on the poor upkeep of the footpaths, fencing and benches, whereas he's seen evidence of JCB diggers being employed for weeks on end to maintain the downhill tracks.

## **10. EVENTS**

27th December 2017 - Christmas walk with Maggie Thomas - MT is leading this walk for Cardiff Ramblers and we will tag along. Terry will publicise on FB and website as usual.

## **11. CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITY SURVEY**

We were sent a survey by the BRO Partnership who have been commissioned by Torfaen CBC to prepare a Community Group Support Programme. TE filled in the survey and has now been invited to a Networking session in January,

## **12. A.O.B.**

**13. Date of next Trustees' Meeting:**  
**Monday 5th February 2018**