



*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 2nd July 2018
Cross Keys Rugby Club

MINUTES

Attendance

Terry Evans (Chair); Maggie Thomas; Sue Evans; Les Murphy; Rob Southall; Sam Southall;
Norman Liversuch;

1 APOLOGIES

Martyn Vaughan; Alun Booth: Gethin Bowes

2. MINUTES of Trustees' Meeting held on Monday 30th April 2018

Matters arising,

Cattle gate – Howard has done a temporary repair, but it still needs something more permanent..

Les Murphy will ask/remind Howard V about replacing the stones on the steep path, and pointed out that it is the Commoners responsibility to maintain the gates.

Signage, ordered, ongoing, Gethin is waiting for the Oak.

Note in 5:ii deleted from minutes, not relevant.

Note in 7:iii amended to 'Petitions Committee'

Note in 10:ii spelling amended

Note in 10:iii, Norman is collecting the Banner W/c 9/7/18

Minutes approved with amends.

3. TRIG-POINT PROJECT

Cadw have given permission for the revised design, for the stone base and signage on the sides.

The only provisos being for minimal soil disturbance, and Bi-lingual signs.

CTS are to plan the Project, line up the stonemason, and contractors, check translations etc.

Phil Griffiths of CCBC is hoping to announce during the next fortnight that funding has been approved for the 'Adventure Triangle Project' which should include the Trig Point Project and money for other local projects.

Apparently NRW are pleased with the 2 councils, CCBC and TBC, The Commoners Association, and CTS working together, and want to make a film about it.

Documents for more information on the Adventure Triangle

<http://www.democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s7212/5.%20Mon%20and%20Brec%20Canal%20Action%20Plan%202014%20v4.pdf>

<https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/News/2018/July/16-Adventure-hub-to-celebrate-the-best-of-Valleys-natural-resources-and-heritage.aspx>

<http://www.democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s20925/Visit%20Wales%20ERDF%20Project%20-%20The%20Monmouthshire%20and%20Brecon%20Canal%20Adventure%20Triangle%20Update.pdf>

4. ARCHAEOLOGY

TE spoke to Amelia Pannet from Cadw, on Friday, After a few emails to Ian Fewings she's had no luck in getting a Methodology Risk Assessment and Geo-Phys Plan from him
She also phoned Frank Ogden - Aberystuth's resident archaeologist - and he was no more help than Ian.

In talking to other geo-physicists they say that the geological makeup of the Tump makes it a very difficult terrain to map and it will require an experienced g-p who understands the geology and who has the ability and software to read the results correctly - she doubts I.F. has that ability.

She spoke to one g-p she knows who runs a commercial operation - one Tim Young - his website is <http://www.geoarch.co.uk> - his ball park figure to do the work is £800 for survey and report. She'll make the introduction if we want a formal quotation off him.

Cadw is unlikely to give permission for the g-p without the necessary methodology and H&S in place.

The meeting decided it was probably worth spending the money, and all agreed to go ahead.

ALSO

It was reported that Amelia's current boss, Louise Mees, is moving to West Wales and the new inspector for our area will be a fellow called Will Davies - who is a local and keen on hill-forts and castles - we may have an easier relationship with him - and he may well like to visit the Tump with us very soon.

5. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

Martyn stated via email that the Account shows a closing balance of £8,057.97

The last Drone Survey payment was made on May 4th.

DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION: 35 out of 56 members have returned their forms.

Reminders have been sent to those who have not replied.

MEMBERSHIP: No contactee has objected to the change to synchronising with the AGM and two have said it's a good idea.

6. TIDY TUMP

Maggie Thomas continues to oversee the monthly Volunteering and Litter pick day. There appears to be less litter surrounding the Carpark, probably because the Community Service lads are coming up every week. Maggie will contact the Supervisor to find out more.

There is still a lot of random bottles and packets in the undergrowth all around the higher slopes, especially in the Picnic season.

Bracken Bashing between the fences needs to be attacked regularly, and there are some places where trees have failed. An assessment can be done before the next Volunteer day,

We have noticed that visitors still manage to walk up the middle of the common to get to the fence where there's no gate, and so climb over, damaging the fence. A more prominent sign is required to guide them to the preferred paths. Maybe we need to Bracken-bash a route alongside the fence to the Kissing gates.

7. CCBC / TORFAEN / COMMONERS WORKS

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

Les Murphy reported that there is to be a reciprocal visit from The Hay Society, to look at the upland bog landscape. An aerial survey shows it to be 46 hectares, the 4th largest in Wales. At the moment the bog is cut in two by the road, it will be a 4 year project to change the road and reinstate the wetland.

It is hoped to have a visit from Lesley Griffiths AM (Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs) in August

The initial TACP report was rejected by Torfaen, and the company was asked to 'rethink' it. They are planning an Awareness Day to introduce the document in August.

Gethin Bowes has advised us that there is a designated spray for Bracken and Thistles, which we could employ on the lower common without risk to the grasses and wild flowers.

8. EVENTS

Walk to Pool of Avarice – 8 of us walked on a misty day, adding to the mystery, and although the area has been decimated by the felling operations, the pool is still there, overgrown and unloved, we all appreciated Rob's recitation of the poem, and explanation of the legend. A project for next year, to reinstate the pond and some TLC of the area.

Drone Survey Amelia Pannet, of Cadw, has offered to do a 'Walk and Talk' in the Summer, or maybe a talk one week at Crosskeys on results of Drone Survey and a walk and talk on Twmbarlwm shortly after – date?

Walk to Llanderfel - Dave Standing – date TBA, Rob to remind him

Clytha Park Open Day - Sunday 22nd July 2018

Possible Summer picnic - aimed at kids - BBQ? - storytellers - Risca Rocks could feature - in week after July litter pick.

Beacon for the 100 year anniversary of end of WW1, November – with Risca Council

10. A.O.B.

Terry dropped a hint for a volunteer to write the next Risca Directory page

11. Date of next Trustees' Meeting:

Monday 3rd September