



*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

MINUTES

Monday 1st April 2019

Held at Cross Keys Rugby Club

Attendance

Terry Evans (Chair); Martyn Vaughan; Rob Southall; Norman Liversuch; Les Murphy; Simon James; Bill Fearnley-Whittingstall

1 APOLOGIES

Sam, Charles, Sue, Gethin Bowes, Howard Vicary

2. MINUTES of Trustees' Meeting held on Monday 14th January 2019

Reviewed and Approved by the meeting

3. ARCHAEOLOGY and CADW

(3.1) TE outlined discussions he and NL have had with Will Davies and Amelia Pannet of Cadw as follows:

- i. Since last year's fires, Cadw have suggested the possibility of using this opportunity to do excavations on Twmbarlwm - and WD has said that Cadw will fully support our application to organise an archaeological dig.
- ii. WD will help us write a Tender Brief that we will put out to prospective contractors and advise us on suitable contractors.
- iii. They will assist us with the final decision and fully support the application for funding from Cadw

Before tonight's meeting TE had a phone conversation with WD as follows:

The document he is producing is a fully detailed tender document that we can present directly to potential contractors. It will specify number of trenches, sizes and locations and give a full specification of requirements from the research and ask pertinent questions on the contractors' modus operandi such as overnight security of the sites etc. etc. This document will ensure that each contractor is quoting on precisely the same elements so we can compare like with like. The document is almost finished and he will hopefully email me a draft copy ready for tonight's meeting.

He has also looked at potential contractors and will provide us with a list of contacts - we'll organise a meeting in the next couple of weeks.

Once we have the quotations in it will be up to us to apply to Cadw for the funding - and the format in which Will has provided the documentation will ensure a smooth passage through the funding application process.

(3.2) Other points brought up at TE and NL meeting with Will 27th Feb 2019:

- i. WD mentioned Heather and Hillforts project in north Wales - led by Fiona Gale - Llwydian Valley - good model for us - covered grazing scheme - Branding for Offa's Dyke produce - they have good success with off roaders - 30 bikes crushed - we should contact them for advice. TE asked for other Trustees to research this.
- ii. Whatever we apply for funding we must ensure it is sufficiently different from adventure Triangle aims - we should have a joint meeting with CCBC.
- iii. Cadw could possibly sponsor Ranger
- iv. First thing is to create an accurately measured plan of the SAM - Will to organise - this will be vital to be able to plan for conservation and excavation.
- v. Marc Walters has done some interpretation of the drone survey but it needs to be more in depth.
- vi. WD gave some names for Geophys and other things - inc Richard Lewis, Pete Dawling, Black Mountain Archaeology, Hereford Archaeology.

- vii. TE asked if there was existing signs for SAMs - would look into getting some produced before Good Friday.
- viii. WD is to have a meeting with Rural Crimes Team (inc Roger Smith) would keep us informed or ask for us to be involved. (Matthew Andrews - Heritage Crime).
- ix. Long term Management Plans - the report prepared by Andre Berry is now available (TE had copies available at the meeting)

4. CCBC / TORFAEN / COMMONERS WORKS

(4.1) TE said that we have been involved in several meetings over the past couple of months regarding the Adventure Triangle Project. The meetings concentrated on our list of possible projects connected to the adventure triangle (copies of which have previously been distributed and TE had available on the night).

Dates of meetings were as follows:

- TE & NL met with Phil Griffiths CCBC –19th December
- With Les M on 17th Jan and 23rd Jan
- With Les, Howard, Gethin, Dewi on 29th January
- Met again with Gethin on 20th February - mainly decided on the priority of works needed and Gethin to go away and get prices on all works to be done in one hit

TE felt that we haven't kept a good enough record of these meetings - but a lot of it is just chat and no firm decisions were taken.

(4.2) LM added to this topic.

- i. The Torfaen leader on this project has moved on and they will be in discussion with CCBC to decide who will take over the post. Apparently there's a meeting tomorrow 2nd April between CCBC and TCBC with Phil Griffiths and Andrew Osbourne - where they should decide who is running the budget and who will be heading the project.
- ii. All work that Torfaen had already earmarked (eg. Waymarked route from Pontypool canal basin up to Penyrheol) is on hold and will be going out to tender.
- iii. TACP consultation should be published next week.
- iv. Proposed work on the bog area that was going to be lined and infilled can't be done as intended because the gas company has revealed that the pipeline is too shallow at that point.
- v. Jack Tennison has not given approval for the proposed route of cycle track at Penyrheol - he says it should start and finish at the existing carparks
- vi. LM had attended a Scottish conference on LAGS and was disappointed as all talk was about cultural exchanges rather than sustainable grazing plans.

5. TIDY TWMP

- i. Our monthly litter picks continue to be successful and new people often arrive to help out. Neither Maggie nor Terry could attend February's event so Bill stepped in to organise it - it was a bad weather day but half a dozen turned up - thanks very much Bill
- ii. Next scheduled litter pick and volunteer day to be 28th April 2019.

6. POLICING

Simon James has now retired from the police force and CTS's future relationship with the force was discussed.

- i. SJ told us he was aware that at a meeting between Jeff Cuthbert (Police Commissioner for Gwent), Inspector Nick Smith and the newly formed Rural Crimes team none of their 6-point plan for policing the area involved off-road bikes - as they claim to have had only two reports of such incidents.
- ii. TE said regardless of the validity of that statement it underlines the fact that CTS needs to establish some dialogue with the Rural Crimes Team.
- iii. Simon offered to contact the police but it was suggested it might be better coming from NL, as Vice-Chair, in the first instance. (Note: neither Gethin nor Will has succeeded in meeting with the RCT either).
- iv. We have heard on the grapevine that funding has been found for the police to operate a Drone camera to monitor rural crime but SJ tell us there are legal complexities to surmount before it is fully operational.

7. CAMPAIGN TO SAVE CWMCARN FOREST DRIVE

RS gave brief report developments of the re-opening of the Drive and his meeting with Derek Stephen 28 Feb 2019.

- i. DS has got a £1 million pot of money from NRW's budget and this will be spent on reinstating the Drive in the next year.
- ii. We will hold another public meeting in October by which time work on the Drive should be well underway.

- iii. Derek confirmed that in spite of the delay in appointing a project manager that the Scenic Drive is still scheduled to re-open in the spring of 2020. This however will only be the Drive itself and other facilities (e.g. barbeques, playground and sensory garden) will be put in place in subsequent years - the planning for these things will be done via the project team of which we will be a part.
- iv. The delays to the appointment of a project manager and project team have come about because NRW is currently undergoing an organisational design. New people have been brought, such as Preece Davies who will assist Claire Pillman (NRW's Chief Executive) on strategic development and design to ensure that NRW fully delivers on its priorities.
- v. Timber prices have gone up which means NRW will have more money to play with
- vi. CCBC have completed their structural survey on the road surface of the Scenic Drive and have confirmed that the £1 million secured by Derek is enough to do the job inclusive of the road widening and the building of barriers along steeper sections.
- vii. On the issue of the cycle tracks in the area of the old children's playground. DS said he would be speaking to Paul Hudson of CCBC. RS said he would contact Cllr Sean Morgan about this matter and we would share the responses.
- viii. After the re-structuring at NRW, Sally Tansey has left her post and a new person is in charge.
- ix. We also need to follow up on their promise to involve volunteers in re-planting saplings after the fires.

8. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

- i. Bank balance is currently £8,627.
- ii. New memberships and renewals in since last meeting £55

9. EVENTS

- i. "The Legendary Bowmen of Gwent Talk" on 20th March a well attended talk that raised;

Entries -		
Members	14	£0.00
Non-Members	12	£36.00
Membership	1	£10.00
Raffle		£35.00

less Prizes		(10.00)
less fee		(50.00)

Total		£21.00

- i. We discussed arrangements for the Good Friday - Hot Cross Bun Walk - 19th April. Maggie will lead the walk again from Stony Bridge and Sue will organise Hot Cross Buns which are being donated by local Tesco store. RS will also be leading a walk from Cwmcarn
- ii. Need to pin down a date for Will Davies of Cadw to present - A talk at Crosskeys on the history of Newport.
- iii. Suggested that we should arrange for a walk to Pwll Tra (RS), a walk around Penyrheol (LM) and maybe a walk to Llanderfel (who to lead?)

10. A.O.B.

11. Date of next Trustees' Meeting:

First Monday in June is the 3rd