



*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' Meeting**

# **MINUTES**

**Monday 3rd June 2019**

Held at Cross Keys Rugby Club

### **ATTENDANCE**

Terry Evans (Chair); Martyn Vaughan; Rob Southall; Sue Evans; Norman Liversuch;  
Alun Booth; Les Murphy; Bill Fearnley-Whittingstall

### **1 APOLOGIES**

Sam Southall, Charles Ferris, Simon James; Gethin Bowes, Howard Vicary

### **2. MINUTES of Trustees' Meeting held on Monday 1st April 2019**

Reviewed and Approved by the meeting, no matters arising

### **3. CORRESPONDENCE**

Invitation to attend Risca Fete 15th June 2019

CTS has been invited by Gwyn L James of Risca East Community Council to attend the Fete so that the Society can be presented with a Community Award – Bill F-W and Martyn V have agreed to attend

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGY and CADW**

The Tender Brief is ready to go off to contractors - just waiting for a list off Will Davies.

Terry supplied copies of the finalised Tender document that so far has been put together by TE and NL (and WD of Cadw). TE asked for other Trustees to be part of the team to oversee this project - NL, MV, B F-W and SE put their names forward.

NL, B.F-W and MV agreed to meet at Twmbarlwm to walk the site on 8th July in order to familiarise each other on the terrain's features in respect to the Tender Brief (TE will not be available for that meeting).

There is a meeting scheduled for 18th June between CTS, Cadw (WD) and CCBC (Phil Griffiths and the CCBC ecology officer) - to discuss our archaeology plans and the Sward Management plan (previously supplied) - and how this may impact on the Adventure Triangle.

TE announced that WD says there is the possibility in the near future to visit an archaeological dig that Cadw is currently involved with at Beacon Hill, Welshpool,.

Another interesting 'exposure' after the fires has been the large amount of broken glass we have recovered, initially during the litterpicks, then as a deliberate exercise.

Terry explained - When we got the buckets of broken glass back down the hill we couldn't simply dump it all in the recycling for collection, so we sifted through it and found that each shard could reveal a part of our social history. To our inexpert eyes much of the glass was quite thick and had a green hue to it, suggesting it is of considerable age – so a call went out on our website for a glass expert - and we found one.

We met up with glass expert, Andrew Morgan, when he came to our next litter pick and looked

through some of the glass samples. He was able to identify many of the bottles and confirmed some of the finds could easily date back to the Victorian period - much of it early 20th century. With Andrew we intend to catalogue some of the glass and produce an article on Twmbarlwm Glass and associated history.

## 5. CCBC / TORFAEN / COMMONERS WORKS

Discussion on progress of projects associated with the Adventure Triangle - our list of projects has been supplied previously. Norman Liversuch has contacted Gethin for an update, he is still working on costings for the Project Tender. We hope to have more information on this in the meeting scheduled for 18th June.

Les Murphy has surveyed the proposed bike trail path from the car park to the mast and a spin off path to the Picnic site in Cwmbran, he says that it will be a massive task to upgrade it to a bike trail.

LM also reported on initiatives that he and the Commoners are involved with:

- i. Farming for Nature – a results based farm payment/subsidy scheme for farming, to improve habitats, achieved by more structured grazing plans centred around natural plant cycles, etc. (Commons don't qualify, there's different budgets for them, ie. Dartmoor and in Ireland)
- ii. County Galway invented a points based score scheme, run and policed by the University, to measure the improvements and trigger the various sustainability grants.
- iii. Les has taken trips to the Highlands of Scotland, and Kerry in Ireland, researching ways forward for Mynyddmaen Commons, along with Commoners on Gower and Pembroke.
- iv. All these measures need to be better than the existing Glasthir scheme to work.

## 5. TIDY TWMP

Report on Litterpicks/Workdays held since April 2019

Terry reported:

- i. Two days before the April litter pick I visited the Tump and it was in a very bad state with litter everywhere and a fly-tip by the rock at the car park. I said about this on Facebook. So when we arrived for the litter pick on the Sunday it was perfectly clean - someone had done quite a major job up there. That was when we decided to go to the top to clear up some of the broken glass (Amelia of Cadw had requested we do this at some time) - it was after that I posted photos of the glass online and got a response from an expert interested in identifying it for us.
- ii. After the litterpick on 28th April - the litter was still there over two weeks later - Maggie chased this up on 2/3 occasions.
- iii. On Sun 12th May I had message off new member Simeon to say litter was still there - and that there were cattle on top - I phoned Howard to tell him about cattle said he would pass on info to Mr Tunley - Simeon later told me he saw someone on bike rounding up cattle - so obviously the message had got through.
- iv. I went up there following Wednesday (15th) rubbish was still there - cattle were still on top - and the kissing gate to the ridgeway was off its hinges. There was also a tree in the middle of the car park that had been chopped down from within our planted triangle.
- v. On 26 May litter pick Andrew Morgan the glass expert turned up and identified some of the pieces collected last time - with him we had another sweep around the top and collected another bucketful.
- vi. Gareth ?? of Abercarn Fire Service also turned up - he would have been in the fire engine if it hadn't been called out on a run. They are anxious to form links with us as a group and will probably come up on future volunteer days. He was very willing to offer their services to help with repair of the eroded slopes.
- vii. Also noticed that the gate has been repaired - but the cattle are still on top. As of

yesterday (1st June) they are still there - they are not doing the burnt surface any good at all, I believe Cadw have requested that the commoners do not allow the cattle there for at least a year.

- viii. We were reminded that we should keep a record of each Volunteering day's work - number of people, bags collected, fence repairs, both for the Insurance and for using as records of our activity in future Grant bids etc.
- ix. Next scheduled litter pick and volunteer days to be 30th June, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## 7. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

Bank balance is currently £8,711.15

New memberships and renewals in since last meeting 55

We have 593 followers on Facebook - should have a push to convert these into paid-up members

## 8. CAMPAIGN TO SAVE CWMCARN FOREST DRIVE

- i. Rob Southall was not available to give his report, but we understand that the project is moving toward the planned date.
- ii. TE has contacted the new project Manager (Geminie Drinkwater) to discuss access via the Forest Drive during the proposed archaeology dig. She gave me a name of the person to contact to formally apply for permission.
- iii. TE also suggested approaching NRW for a supply of logs to construct steps on the eroded slopes - we tried this once before but were refused because of the tree disease - maybe this is no longer an excuse. And we will also have the help of Abercarn Fire Service

## 9. POLICING

TE said that CTS needs to establish some dialogue with the Rural Crimes Team. To date, neither Gethin nor Will has succeeded in meeting with the RCT either.

Les Murphy, representing the Commoners, has attended a Policy Meeting of RCT, with Nick Smith MP, and Nick Symonds-Smith MP,

*Report to be supplied*

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.

## 9. EVENTS

Report on Good Friday Hot cross Bun Walk

Good Friday was again a great success - over 30 on the walk from the Stony Bridge, nearer 40 on Rob's walk from Cwmcarn and 30 from Blaen Bran. But it was such a lovely day I would put the day's visitors well over 1,000.

Sue organised the hot cross buns from Tescos and buttered and jammed them and got them to the top with the help of a few volunteers. Thanks again Sue.

We were given 120 buns and - spent £17 on jam, butter and bags - In our collecting bucket we had £28.07 - so a profit of £11.07

## PROPOSED EVENTS

- i. Risca Fete 15th June 2019
- ii. Will Davies of Cadw - A talk at Crosskeys on the history of Newport Castle (still trying to pin him down to a date - probably the autumn now).
- iii. Walk to Pwll Tra with Rob - (starting from Cwmcarn) date to be confirmed
- iv. Walk around Peyrheol with Les Murphy - TBC
- v. Walk to Llanderfel, will try for Maddy Grey or Dave Standing

- vi. Possibly a talk on the glass findings - TE will discuss with Andrew Morgan.
- vii. Any other proposed events?? - NL suggested a talk on the Newport Wetlands - he will contact a friend he has who works there

## **10. A.O.B.**

Next Trustees Meeting - Monday 5th August 2019 at Crosskeys RFC