



*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

Tuesday 1st October 2019

Held at Philanthropic Inn

ATTENDANCE

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

1 APOLOGIES

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

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

Reviewed and Approved by the meeting, no matters arising

3. CORRESPONDENCE

none

4 ARCHAEOLOGY and CADW

The Tender Brief went off via email to a list of potential contractors on 7th June - we had a very poor response so we re-sent the brief again on 4th July extending the deadline for applications. We had a favourable quote in from the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) and applied for a grant to Cadw which has since been approved – therefore Clwyd-Powys Archaeology Trust has been appointed.

The first phase starts Monday 7th, with the first visit from Richard Hankinson to walk the site. Trustees will show him around, with Will Davies from Cadw.

We will call a meeting in the evening at Risca Museum, where CPAT and Cadw can outline the project to prospective volunteers, and we can collect names etc.

It is expected that the Geophys survey will commence w/c 14 October, with other works to follow.

We agreed we need to inform CCBC, Landowners etc. of the project, NL offered to do this.

TCE asked for a Welsh Speaker to assist in the posting of results/press releases.

BF-W suggested we purchase a trap camera to be used to record the daily progress.

4. CCBC / TORFAEN / COMMONERS WORKS

Adventure Triangle – Report on meeting held at CCBC on 18th June

Below are the notes of the meeting prepared by NL

Meeting with Cadw and CCBC 18 June 2019.

Present: Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm (CTS); Norman Liversuch, Sue Evans

Cadw; Will Davies

CCBC; Phil Griffiths, Dewi Thomas, Margaret Isles (joined after it had started)

Background

The Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) at Twmbarlwm had been badly damaged by wildfires in the summer of 2018. A Sward Management Plan (SMP) had been prepared for Cadw which identified how restoration could be achieved and the resultant sward managed in the future to reduce the risk of more wildfires occurring.

The meeting was arranged to discuss Cadw's proposal to use the management plan as an exemplar project of upland restoration which could inform the management of other similar areas under their control.

There was a wide ranging discussion but the following points were agreed:

- 1) Restoration should accord with the principles set out in the SMP with the view that various techniques could be trialled on different parts of the monument. Cadw were not averse to temporary fencing being used to protect reseeded areas or areas subject to erosion.
- 2) The proposed archaeological investigation could be used to identify the condition of the ground and so advise on the best method to revegetate. (I wonder if it would be more sensible to ask Cadw to engage Andre Berry to dig some trial pits across the SAM in advance of any archaeological work to identify the extent of the fire damage so that we can consider a further reseeded project this autumn.)
- 3) Cadw would be happy to support restoration work outside of the SAM but their focus had to be on the SAM.
- 4) There was high level support within Cadw for the archaeological investigation and the SMP.
- 5) CCBC indicated that as part of the Adventure Triangle Project they were already working to encourage more public access to Twmbarlwm and Mynydd Maen, so were already committed to the area. They would be interested in getting involved with the SMP. However, both they and Cadw recognised the need to involve other partners such as NRW, the South Wales Fire Service and the Institute of Biological Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) at Aberystwyth University, as well as existing local partners such as CTS, the grazier, the landowner and commoners.
- 6) Funding was discussed, and it was felt that apart from Cadw and CCBC the public sector bodies in 5 above could be possible sources, as well as grant aid via the various Lottery Grants that are available. Re: the latter - CTS could be the applicant for this grant.
- 7) There was the need for an urgent 'hearts and minds' campaign to inform and advise the public of the issues facing the SAM, what was planned and to get them actively involved. (I don't think that Cadw and CCBC, particularly the latter, appreciate the urgency of this in relation to the damage being caused by public access.)
- 8) Action Points.
 - 8.1) CCBC will approach their contacts in NRW and the South Wales Fire Service to see if they would be interested in getting involved in implementation of the SMP.
 - 8.2) Cadw to approach IBERS to see if this is something that they could use as a research project.
 - 8.3) Cadw and CCBC to see what grants were available.
 - 8.4) Cadw will draft an article which could be used in a 'hearts and mind campaign' for circulation to all parties.
 - 8.5) CTS will progress the bidding process for the archaeological investigation.
 - 8.6) Margaret Iles (CCBC Ecologist) will visit the SAM to see the extent of the damage.

9) No date was agreed for a future meeting

Les Murphy also reported on several initiatives he and the Commoners are involved in:

- There is a new pond; 20 tonnes of mud from Cardiff Bay has been delivered to his site at Penyrheol to line the pond.
- He is to attend a meeting at Police HQ on 25th October 2019, Re: Off Road Bikes

5. TIDY TWMP

Report on Litterpicks/Workdays held since August 2019

Terry reports - we continue to hold monthly litterpicks, and the number attending averages 12 people.

A couple of new faces have joined us this Summer, but we could do with a few more.

7. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

Bank balance is currently £ ??

New memberships and renewals in since last meeting ??

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

8. CAMPAIGN TO SAVE CWMCARN FOREST DRIVE

Rob Southall was not available to give his report, but we understand that the project is moving toward the planned date. Several Focus Groups are in place to advise and assist NRW with the plans.

9. EVENTS

Risca Fete 15th June 2019, we were invited to attend, where Terry and Martyn were presented with a Cheque for £100 by Risca Town Council to support our work on Twmbarlwm.

PROPOSED EVENTS

16th October, Talk on the Gwent Levels, by Gavin Jones, Crosskeys RFC

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).

Possibly a talk on the glass findings - TE will discuss with Andrew Morgan.

We may postpone the Quiz until January, due to the Quizmaster being tied up with other work.

10. A.O.B.

POLICING

Les Murphy, representing the Commoners, has a meeting at Police HQ 25th October to discuss Rural Crime and Off Roading issues.

Report to be supplied

Date of next Trustees' Meeting:

Next meeting will be the AGM - date and time to be confirmed