



*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*

[www.twmbarlwm.co.uk](http://www.twmbarlwm.co.uk)

## **Trustees' Meeting**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**  
**Held at Philanthropic Inn, Pontywaun**

# MINUTES

### **ATTENDANCE**

Terry Evans (Chair); Martyn Vaughan; Sue Evans: Norman Liversuch; Howard Vicary: Rob Southall:

Sam Southall: Sally Davies: Charles Ferris, Bill Fearnley-Whittingstall

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Les Murphy

### **2. MINUTES of Trustees' Meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Reviewed and Approved by the meeting

Matters arising

- i. CTS has donated £150 to Howard Vicary's chosen charity, for the use of his vehicle during the Archaeology, and Alan Booth added another £20
- ii. CPAT: We have still not had any report from CPAT, or outreach work.
- iii. The trustees pressed for a formal written enquiry to CADW re lack of Reports and contact. NL agreed to draft a letter.

### **3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

All officers were re-elected, Mrs Sally Davies was welcomed as a new Trustee.

### **4. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CADW - Sward Management**

TE reported on a phone conversation earlier today with Amelia Pannet (Cadw).

- i. AP is still off work with broken leg - probably back in next week and will start to re-organise meeting with Adam (Gwent Wildlife Trust) and Howard V to discuss possible grazing scheme on Twmbarlwm. (Notes of the previous meeting regarding this project are attached as an appendix at the end of this document).
- ii. AP said there were no problems, that she knew of, with permissions for the current work on Twmbarlwm being done by HV - and the permissions for the Trig Point work was still in place.
- iii. AP had no news on the progress of the C14 carbon dating from CPAT other than she knew most labs were busy with HS2 work and there were long delays on much lab work.
- iv. AP's aware of our continued frustration of new communication from CPAT and suggested I put an announcement on our website explaining difficulties of archaeological reporting, quoting her views.

As was stated in the Sward Management report by Andre Berry /CADW before the fires, there will be further investigations, maybe including test areas of grazed and fallow land.

Howard Vicary agreed there had been discussions to fence in the lower slope below the Scheduled Monument to prevent livestock descending towards the Darren area.

## 5. CCBC/TORFAEN/COMMONERS WORKS

Howard Vicary updated us on the Adventure Triangle Work to date – which is all proceeding to schedule and weather restrictions.

- i. The dry stone wall at the top is completed, and is awaiting a stock gate
- ii. The replacement double fencing up from the car park is complete
- iii. New stone steps from the car park
- iv. The Corral has been installed, but there is still a gap from when the original wall was vandalized, needs infilling with a large stone, or steelwork.
- v. The Trig Point is scheduled to have the floating path done soon, and needs signage.
- vi. Signage for the Barrier – Gethin has some to install
- vii. Reseeding 'The Racetrack' – it will need protection while the seed grows, maybe cover with some of the felled feral trees
- viii. All oak wood has been procured ready for the paths and steps.

*Adventure Triangle – If required please refer to previous notes by Gethin Bowes, Mar 9, 2020*

TE had a phone conversation with Les Murphy before the meeting and highlighted a few points LM mentioned:

- i. Still no agreement about the new track on Penyrheol side of the ridgeway
- ii. It has been revealed that the car park on the lower common is owned by Pontypool Estate not Llanover as previously believed. Apparently CCBC has signed agreement with Jack H to acknowledge that fact.
- iii. Trees being felled by NRW above Pant-yr-Yrfa, at end of ridgeway, are to be left lying there to rot down (we had been concerned of the damage that might be done to the landscape all the way down the ORPA to the car park).
- iv. Les will deliver the Jubilee Beacon to us on Wednesday 2nd

## 6. THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACON

- i. Sally Davies, Risca Town Council, and Sue Evans, CTS, agreed to begin the Beacon arrangements, starting with registering our interest with The Jubilee Pageant master, Bruno Peake.
- ii. The Beacon will be retrieved from storage and all the relevant checks made
- iii. Norman Liversuch offered to enquire of Gethin if a vehicle might be available to take the equipment up the hill.
- iv. We asked Sam Southall if he would ask the local Scouts who helped us out last time, if they might offer support such as marshaling and/or supply of gas.

## 7. EVENTS

**The Hot Cross Bun Walk** Good Friday, 15th April 2022

It is hoped that we can do something this year, but will have to wait to see what the rules are.

## PROPOSED EVENTS

- i. Will Davies of Cadw - A talk at Crosskeys on the history of Newport Castle (still trying to pin him down to a date).
- ii. The Gwent Levels by Gavin Jones - NL pointed out Gavin is no longer with Gwent Levels but is willing to do a talk on another subject.
- iii. CPAT Team Report - talking about the findings
- iv. NL said that May 7th is CCBC's '**The Twmbarlwm Trek**', it starts at Crosskeys College

- and the organisers have said that we can add some CTS literature to their Info Packs.
- v. NL suggested that we should also get involved with the next BBC Countryfile charity walk - usually takes place in October or November

## 8. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

- i. Bank balance is currently £8,713.96
- ii. We have 41 paid up members.
- iii. (We have 923 followers on Facebook – we should have a push to convert these into paid-up members)
- iv. Martyn reported that the Bank had announced that it would be introducing charges for transactions, eg £0.40 per action, with a £5 per month fee. We have been charged £8.50 since November and will have to monitor the situation carefully. Sue Evans said that it was not the only 'Treasurers Account' to introduce this, and it would be difficult to change Banks at the moment.
- v. Martyn announced his intention of retiring as Treasurer at the AGM, after 7 year's. We all commended him on his dedication to the Society.

## 9. TIDY TWMP

We did not have a Litterpick in December or January due to the weather.

## 10. A.O.B.

- i. TE informed the meeting of the Lower Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys Masterplan that is currently available on the CCBC website. A quick reading of the document reveal little or no mention of Twmbarlwm - but an awful lot of mention of the Cwmcarn Forest Drive and its importance for tourism and raising the profile of the area to attract business etc. TE felt it was important that we ought to make comment on the masterplan and urged Trustees to seek out and answer the online questionnaire. Comments need to be submitted by 02/03/2022.
- ii. TE said he had been contacted by Sarena Ford of CCBC (Communications Officer). Did an interview for Their Place Shaping website on 4th January - basically saying what a lovely place Cwmcarn Forest is after the refurbishment - it is now available online.

## 11. Date of next Trustees' Meeting:

TBC

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## APPENDIX

Email from Amelia 01/12/21

### **Notes from meeting on Twmbarlwm between Amelia Pannet, Terry Evans, Norman Liversuch, Will Davies and Adam Taylor**

Hi all

As requested, here is a (hopefully) sensible summary of our meeting and where we are going to go next:

1. A baseline ecological survey is needed to understand the condition of the vegetation across the site, particularly the contrast between the burnt and unburnt areas. It will be useful to know what (if any) of the sown seed has germinated and where – details of the seed mix can be provided. Once we have a better understanding of the vegetation across the site we can start to

devise strategies for revegetating the bare areas, particularly the top of the ramparts. Andre Berry's report should form the basis for any proposals, but it should be recognised that the situation has moved on since his report was written and a holistic approach is probably not appropriate any more. Strategies for small area regeneration should be considered, with the possibility of trying out different approaches in different areas of the monument.

2. A discussion about grazing needs to be had with Howard and the Estate to establish what they would be willing/able to do in terms of livestock numbers. This will inform a future grazing strategy for the monument that will aim to improve the condition of the vegetation whilst also reducing the fuel load on the hill.

3. The erosion on the central path is getting rapidly worse and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Cutting of new paths and desire lines through the vegetation to direct people across the monument without using the current path should provide an opportunity to shift footfall and allow the current path to be fenced off for repairs/regeneration. Similarly, desire lines can be cut around the inside of the ramparts to allow people to walk around the monument but avoid the top of the ramparts. A strategy for repair of the path needs to be devised.

4. More outreach would be useful to involve the local community (and others) in the works to the monument, and potentially increase membership of the society! Suggested activities include:

a. A bio-blitz

b. A further season of excavation – potentially cutting test pits across the hilltop to examine the archaeology and carry out ecological assessments of the soil.

I think that covers everything, please let me know if I have missed anything!

Adam, thanks for the costs you sent through, that's really useful. Could you let me know what sort of timeframe we would be looking at for the baseline ecological survey, will it be a few hours/days/months work?! Thanks.

Will, can you please send Adam the report Fiona did on the palaeoenvironmental cores as I can't find it on ishare. Thanks

I suggest that perhaps we reconvene in the new year to think about next steps – maybe Terry you would be kind enough to accommodate us in your kitchen rather than us freezing to death on the Tump?! Covid permitting of course.

Cheers  
Amelia