



*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' Meeting

Monday 24th May 2022
Held at Philanthropic Inn, Pontywaun

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Terry Evans (Chair); Sue Evans; Norman Liversuch; Bill Fearnley-Whittingstall; Charles Ferris; Rob Southall; Sam Southall; Craig Hale (1st Abercarn Scouts)

1. APOLOGIES

Les Murphy; Martyn Vaughan; Howard Vicary; Sally Davies.

2. THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACON (Thursday 2nd June 2022.)

CCBC - Stephen Pugh, Head of Communications, is giving us a new beacon, and the gas.

We have invited Craig Hale, 1st Abercarn scouts, to join us this evening to go over arrangements for the lighting of the Beacon on Twmbarlwm. 1st Abercarn Scouts will be providing marshalling and guidance for visitors, especially after the event, when we will be descending in the dark.

We have also arranged assistance from South Wales Fire and Rescue, Risca Station, who will supply a 4x4 vehicle to transport the equipment up to the top. Also to take 'dignitaries' that may require assistance.

First Aid Cover is from St Johns Ambulance, Risca Branch.

Sally Davies, RTC, is inviting members of the council and Deputy Mayor Cllr Mike Adams has agreed to attend, also Chris Evans MP

Provisional Timetable

7.30pm – deliver and prepare beacon and gas

8-8.30pm – invited visitors arrive at Risca Leisure centre to be taken up to the mountain

9.30 pm, speeches and proclamations, Bugler

9.45pm, lighting of the Beacon.

It is expected to be alight for 30 minutes or more, while we watch all the other beacons joining the event.

We will then unpack the equipment and return down the mountain.

3. MINUTES of Trustees' Meeting held on Monday 14th March 2022

Reviewed and Approved by the meeting

Matters arising - none

4. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CADW

We have received an Interim Report from CPAT, which is quite long and technical.

We will ask them to supply an Executive Summary/Abstract, and Glossary of Terms, to be able to present to the membership in a simpler format.

Mention in the report of a Causeway/Enclosure - Norman Liversuch and Will Davies think that it would be worth further investigation.

Will has spoken with Tim about plans for this years archaeology. Tim will soon send proposed WSI for us to consider. It was proposed to arrange a Zoom Meeting with CPAT/CADW/CTS to discuss further.

Application NL put through to CCBC for further funding to extend the Adventure triangle work (from Welsh Government) was refused (see separate notes on "Additional Funding"). The applications from the Commoners were also declined, as 'not meeting the criteria'.

NL and TE made two further applications to Viridor and Community Empowerment - mainly to cover the Bio-blitz portion of the Sward Management project. The Gwent Wildlife Trust 'Bioblitz' is £4,800.00, and we have applied for £3,000 toward it from Viridor.

Leaving £1,800 which could be funded by CTS if there is not assistance from grant funding. TE will get in touch with Andy Karren from GWT to check the timetable for this.

TE has suggested if these are unsuccessful that CTS could fund this themselves.

Amelia Pannet at Cadw gave us a list of other sources of grants.

5. CCBC/TORFAEN/COMMONERS WORKS

Adventure Triangle Work to date – which is all proceeding to schedule and weather restrictions.

Les Murphy has informed us that he met with Chris Jackson (of the windmill company TE and RS met a month ago) regarding the Windmill Proposals on Mynydd Maen and says it will be 5-6 years before any work is likely to start.

The Corral has been installed, whose double gate system works extremely well and the gap alongside the kissing gate filled with steelwork.

Feral trees on the Ridgeway have been removed - paid for by Commoners under Glas Tir.

HV says they will soon be upgrading the path up from the car park.

All materials are in stock ready for the new floating paths.

The Cycle Track is still awaiting final permissions from Landowners.

Adventure Triangle – previous notes for ref - from Gethin Bowes, Mar 9, 2020

These are the list of tasks which were suggested around Twmbarlwm and the two main tracks across the mountain.

I haven't got the full list of Twmbarlwm works with me at present but from memory it was:

- i. Replacement knee rail and steps.*
- ii. Repair and extend the floating paths.*
- iii. Reseed bare soil/fire damage where required.*
- iv. Repair and reseed scarring on Southern side of Twmbarlwm.*
- v. Repair footpath from car park.*
- vi. Car park improvements*
- vii. Double Barrier/corral*
- viii. Repair to scarring/bike track on the common.*

- ix. *Drainage works on ORPA to prevent water running on to the highway.*
 - x. *, Pond works -*
 - xi. *, Trig point project*
- (I'm sat on site typing this and am sure to have forgotten something!)*
The first permissive bridleway/track will start from Twmbarlwm car park and run to the gas station with access to Cwmcarn. The second will start at Howard's sheep pen and run to the mountain air car park, meeting the first track in the middle of the common at the gas station.
We still have some work to do in terms of permissions and agreements for these works to go ahead but we hopefully won't encounter any significant delays.
Hope this is some use

6. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

Treasurer not available to report on the Statement of current figures and bank balance, Membership summary, subs, cards, payments etc.

The meeting was told by TE that the Bank balance was £10,300 (?) over credit, due to CPAT failing to cash a recent cheque payment. The Treasurer Martyn Vaughan will contact them.

7. EVENTS

The Hot-Cross-Bun Walk – Good Friday 15th April 2022 - a big group came up with Rob Southall from Cwmcarn, only about 20 from Pontymister.

Tesco gave us £20 for buns - but Sue had to buy them elsewhere because they were out of stock on the day. Made £18 plus 5 Czech cents in the collecting bucket. 1st Abercarn Scouts were very helpful and helped carry and distribute the buns.

Archaeology report (The CPAT team, Will and Amelia) - will this ever happen?

Talk on Newport Castle (Will Davies)??

Walk to Pwll Tra?? and/or Llanderfel??

Bio-Blitz (Andy Karan, Gwent Wildlife Trust) - not heard about any dates

BBC Countryfile Walk (Children in Need) (Oct/Nov)

Other Suggestions, from Charles Ferris

Summer Solstice at Newport Transporter Bridge Tuesday 21st June 7.30pm

Charity Abseil at Newport Transporter Bridge Saturday 18th June 8.30am

PROPOSED EVENTS

Will Davies of Cadw - A talk at Crosskeys on the history of Newport Castle (still trying to pin him down to a date).

The Gwent Levels by Gavin Jones

CPAT Team Report - talking about the findings

We discussed new venues to hold our talks, we need to check if the Philanthropic Inn has a projector, as it could be a useful smaller venue.

8. TIDY TWMP

Our monthly litterpick Sundays are still well attended, with a core of a dozen members, regularly expanded by a few new enthusiasts. Sadly the scale of the fly tipping is increasing, from

household contents to more industrial deposits, which can be difficult to deal with for a volunteer group. The Council responds quickly to our emails, collecting our bags promptly, and dealing with some of the more difficult tips.

Next scheduled litterpick and volunteer day will be 29th May 2022

10. A.O.B.

Date of next Trustees' Meeting:

TBC