



*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

e-mail: twmbarlwmsociety@gmail.com

Trustees Meeting

Monday 5th October 2015
Cross Keys Rugby Club

MINUTES

Attendance

Terry Evans (Chair); Sue Evans; Norman Liversuch; David Parry; Rob Southall; Maggie Thomas; Howard Vicary;
Guest: Les Murphy (Commoners Committee)

1 APOLOGIES

Alan Booth: Andrew George:

2. MINUTES of Trustees' Meeting held on 7th September 2015

Matters Arising –

A new gate has been installed at the entrance to the common, however the cattle grid has not yet been repaired or replaced.
The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

3. TIDY TWMP

Litterpick / Workday held on 27th Sept 2015

Several bags of rubbish were collected, RS and TE cut bracken to infill the eroded trenches, AB and PB cleared the path alongside the fence.

Due to the lovely Autumn day there were a lot of visitors, and we gave out several leaflets to interested walkers, and families.

Previously, Howard Vicary and Mr Tunley have been 'bracken bashing' in areas by the carpark on the Caerphilly side, and along the ridgeway.

Work to do -

The steps from the car park are still scheduled for a fine weekend, HV and DP

We need to add some infill to areas of the top fencing, which are vulnerable to attack.

Floating path around Kissing gate.

TE and RS will continue to trim bracken on each side of the scars, and spread in eroded trenches.

HV will be felling feral trees on the common, and we will use them as fencing infill.

Tipping charges

SE has drafted a letter requesting a permit for CTS to take the Litter Pick bags to the tip, with a trailer if necessary. This will be sent to Lyndon Ross, Rhodri Lloyd, and copy in Councillor Rhianon Passmore, Risca East Councillor for Volunteer Groups.

NL suggested several other names of councillors and council departments to be included.

Next volunteer day Sunday 25th October 2015

4. EVENTS

Sunday 13th September – Several trustees attended the *14 Locks Event*, with our information boards and 'Roll a Penny' game. It was a great success, we didn't collect a large amount of money, but had several interesting discussions with interested visitors.

Tom Mahoney of The 14 Locks Project has offered to let us have a space on his video presentation screen, TE and RS to take forward.

Monday 21st September – Crosskeys RFC, Rob Southall gave a talk '5 Years of the Twmbarlwm Society, and History of Twmbarlwm, with a Q&A afterwards. Although poorly attended, two people joined the society. We thanked Rob for his efforts preparing for this event.

Sunday 27th September is the next Volunteer day

Monday 19th October – Crosskeys RFC, Prof Maddy Gray will give a talk, "The Cistercian Way"

Monday 2nd November ~ 7.00pm Crosskeys RFC, Annual General Meeting

MT will write to members who do not have email, and will circulate the information to those who do. We should notify the members through the Argus as well

Club Steward Julian has agreed we can offer light refreshments at the meeting, supplied by ourselves.

Monday 23rd November ~ 7.00pm Crosskeys RFC, Tump Quiz Night, John Venn has offered to supply some rounds.

Sunday 27th December ~ Pontywaun Wharf 10.30am, Xmas Excess Walk, led by Maggie Thomas. Suggested informing 14 Locks to invite them too.

RS is planning 3 talks for early next year.

Les Murphy offered to lead a walk in early November, for the trustees to understand more about his side of the mountain

5. COMMONERS AND FUNDING

Les Murphy and Howard Vicary attended, and discussed their dealings with Andy Osbourne, Countryside Development Officer for Torfaen, re closing the ORPA. He thinks it would be too expensive and difficult to do this, and 'is not worth the bother' However, it is still on their Agenda.

Mr Murphy also discussed the developments with Cadw, and their efforts to raise funds towards Bracken spraying and control.

It is expected that other areas of bracken will be sprayed/mown

FUNDING – It's the time of year when councils or other organisations might find they have a couple of grand budget under-spend – we should explore this and consider some specific projects to apply to this.

6. POLICING ISSUES

There seems to be an increase in scramblers in the area again – possibly due to the work in the forestry. PC Simon James was invited to report to us, but was unavailable

7. CAMPAIGN TO SAVE CWMCARN FOREST DRIVE

RS and the group continue to monitor NRW's activities

8. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

We have had several new members, and raised money at talks, a full Statement of current figures and bank balance will be presented at the AGM.

9. OBJECTIVES and PROJECTS

Carried forward to next meeting

(We haven't progressed anything on archaeology although it was a major objective of the society – what efforts can we make to kick start this.

We discussed progressing signs for waymarked routes from the car park

A review of the objectives of the society is needed.)

10. A.O.B.

Access & Outdoor Recreation Green Paper

Les Murphy and Maggie Thomas stated they had produced letters of response to this.

The Society has not yet made a response, but will do so if it is still open.

Date of next Trustees' Meeting (and AGM):

Monday 2nd November 2015