



*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 3rd August 2015
Cross Keys Rugby Club

MINUTES

Attendance

Terry Evans (Chair); Sue Evans; Alan Booth; Howard Vicary; David Parry; Rob Southall; Maggie Thomas; Les Murphy (Commoners); PC Simon James.

1 Apologies

Andrew George and Norman Liversuch

2. Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held on 6th July 2015 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meetings held on 6th July 2015 were agreed.

3. TIDY TWMP

Litterpick / Workday held on 26th July 2015

Again our last litter pick day was a bit of a washout weather-wise so it was hardly surprising that the only one to turn up was our stalwart founder, Rob Southall

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

Next volunteer day moved to Sunday 23rd August 2015 due to Bank Holiday.

4. POLICING ISSUES

RS and TE met with Inspector Carl Williams regarding burnt out cars and other antisocial behavior issues. Notes of that meeting have been circulated. Additional information regarding amended policing policies for the area was supplied by PC Simon James.

He has conducted several joint policing operations around Caerphilly Borough, including one in conjunction with CTS on 28 June when two section 59s were given to illegal off-road bikers.

5. SOLAR FARM at CWRT HENLLYS

We were informed that a planning application has been presented to Torfaen Council for a 9Mw solar farm in the fields above Pant-y-Rheos reservoir. Although it is at a very advanced stage, it still may not get built due to reductions in Government feed-in Tariffs.

Although some residents have raised objections, the meeting felt it was a lesser detriment to the landscape than turbines, and broadly agreed with its green credentials. TE asked if any archaeological searches had been done for the area.

6. EVENTS

The 'Recorders Day' with Gwent Wildlife Trust is arranged for Saturday 22nd August 2015.

We will encourage members to offer to help, and we will be on hand with refreshments during the day.

There is the Volunteer day on Sunday 23rd August

RS has scheduled a TALK and MEMBERS' MEETING – Wednesday 23rd September 2015

7. OBJECTIVES and PROJECTS

Item held over for future discussion

8. Commoners and Funding

Les Murphy reported on his meetings with CCBC, Cadw and Torfaen, and the outcome.

Following is a note from LM outlining what he told us at the meeting:

We [The Commoners' Association] have met with Amelia Pannett of Cadw on several occasions to discuss preservation of the SAM situated on Edlogan Common. The meetings started in Feb, as part of our bid for 'Glastir advanced'. She came up with the proposal to preserve and improve access to the 'Scourings' (ancient ways to access ore through rapid water erosion) on the common.

We were advised to apply for a Management Grant, after walking the mountain on three separate occasions with different bodies, the bid was unsuccessful.

We met up again in June with a new idea and sent in the appropriate forms and more walks on the mountain we have now submitted a new application... watch this space.

2/6/15 LM met with Andrew Osborne, Phil Griffiths and Alvin Nickolas with Howard Vicary and Jack Tennison to discuss possible help in our efforts to protect the mountain, improve the habitat and target harden. After much discussion they agreed to pay for three steel barriers and fifty large stones. A small area of common was sprayed (20 acres) and the stones placed at strategic points to make access difficult for the 4x4's. The new Barriers will be placed in September.

We would like to propose a formal thanks to Norman Liversuch whose information and introduction to the correct contacts led to these successful meetings.

LM also said that Jack Tenison (Pontypool Estates) donated in part to the funding for the stones to be placed on illegal pathways in the area, some of these stones will be installed on pathways on the Risca side of the mountain – this is scheduled to be done in September.

One of the barriers mentioned above will be temporarily installed on the Risca side – to remain there until a final decision is made on the status of the ORPA.

Cattle Grid – work was scheduled to begin end of June, but not started yet. This has become more urgent due to the burnt out minibus incident there of last month and there has been email communication with Caerphilly and the police concerning this.

9. Campaign to Save Cwmcarn Forest Drive

RS and his group are continuing to monitor areas that raised concern for conservation, Felling is proceeding quite quickly.

There was concern that a lot of the Public paths are being opened up to mountain bikers as other areas of the forest are taken by the felling operations. MT has had some fruitful meetings with Bob Campbell of NRW regarding this and will continue to monitor the situation.

Date of next meeting – Monday 7 September 2015 at Cross Keys Rugby Club, 7.00pm