



Cymdeithas Parc Bannau Brycheiniog

The Brecon Beacons Park Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at The Bear Hotel, Crickhowell
on Tuesday, 11th January, 2011 at 5.00pm.

Present: Charles Henderson (Chairman), Jim Wilson, Ben Sladen, Anne Pritchard, Elizabeth Gibbs, Clive Eiles, David Thomas, Richard Chandler (Minutes Secretary).

1. **Apologies:** William Gibbs, Chris Barber.
2. The **Minutes of the last meeting** (on 23rd November, 2010) were approved and signed.
3. **Matters Arising:** (i) 3.(i) Liz has been sending copies of our Minutes to Snowdonia and Pembrokeshire Park Societies but there is uncertainty as to whether and which Minutes we are receiving from them. Charles and Liz have received some but Richard has not received any. Charles will remind them and he will send copies of those which he has received to Richard. **ACTION: Charles.** (ii) Jim has completed those parts of the Cotswold Company form which he believes are relevant to us and has sent it off. (iii) 4.2 Clive, not Angela, will undertake the development of the Walks Leaders database. (iv) 4.2 Anne indicated that the risk-assessment pro forma, which is on the insurance company website, is inappropriate for us. David will look up what he has in relation to the Crickhowell Walking Festival and will let Anne have this, so that she can develop an appropriate general assessment for us. **ACTION: David and Anne.** (v) 4.9 Done. (vi) 4.10 David has twice written to the Powys County Council member of the Park Authority but has had neither a reply nor an acknowledgement. He has contacted the local County Councillor in an attempt to pursue this. Charles will raise the matter at the next meeting with John Cooke. **ACTION: Charles.** (vii) 4.13 Not yet done. (viii) 8 Clive reported that the Beacons Trust had concluded that the method of fund-raising, which had been suggested at the last meeting, would be cumbersome and expensive. (ix) 8.2 Liz has not been able to speak to Sunita, yet.
4. **Reports:**
 - 4.1 **Financial and Membership** – see Ben's report and notes (previously circulated). Almost half of the non-standing order subscriptions have been received. Gift Aid contributions are likely to go down from 1st April, unless many more members can be persuaded to sign up. Ben stated that the deficit of £2,572 is not a cause for concern at this stage. A suggestion has been made by a member that the Society should hold a database of emergency contact numbers for participants in our walks but this was felt to be impractical. It was agreed that walkers should be asked to keep a note of their numbers, accessible in their rucksacks. A further suggestion was made, that members should put their 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) numbers in the contacts list of their mobile phones, as these are recognised by the emergency services. It was also recommended that, in the case of an emergency, such contacts should be made only by the emergency services, in order to keep the phone channels clear.

4.1 contd.

Ben now has 43 people signed up to the car-share database. David referred to a scheme, called 'Lift-Share', which is in operation – he will obtain details for the next meeting. **ACTION: David.**

4.2 Guided Walks and Events Programmes – see Anne's report (previously circulated). Allan Gibbs has been appointed as Technical Adviser to the Society (no fee). It was agreed that Kevin McAnulty's plan to construct a programme of Wednesday Walks, of a moderate nature, to commence in September, should be included in our walks programme.

4.3 The Beacon – the next issue is almost complete.

4.4 Website – The new website is up and running. Comments have been generally favourable, so far. A number of people have noted that it appears to be somewhat slow. Richard will send copies of (redacted) Minutes to David, for inclusion in the website. **ACTION: Richard.** It was agreed that any potential costs involved in upgrades to the website will be considered as and when necessary.

4.5 Beacons Way Steering Group – It was agreed that simple marker stones, similar to John Sansom's memorial stone, would be more appropriate than interpretive art installations to mark the beginning and end of the Beacons Way.

4.6 Planning and Development Control – see report from Liz (previously circulated). The saga of the Dyffryn Crawnon micro-hydro scheme continues. The tenant farmers are concerned that any restrictions, which may be imposed upon the land, might affect their Glas Tir arrangements. The Park Authority and the new owner of Gilestone are endeavouring to negotiate a final resolution of the situation there. There has been a failure of notification to us regarding fringe applications, especially with regard to wind farms which would be viewable from the Park, and particularly with regard to the proposed large development at Pen y Cwmoedd. Liz will try to get the planning department to inform her in future. It was suggested that Chris Morgan, Head of Planning and Development at the Park, should be invited to come to talk to us about planning procedures and to discuss some of the issues which have arisen. **ACTION: Charles.**

4.7 Art in the Park – Liz and Sunita will be meeting tomorrow, to discuss joint funding applications.

4.8 Walls of Llangynidr – no report.

4.9 Brecon Beacons Trust – The second AGM of the Trust has now been held. Clive feels that, out of the five member bodies, we and the Park Authority are the only members who seem to take interest in their involvement in the Company seriously.

4.10 Rights of Way – no report. A major landslip has occurred on the disused railway embankment at SN 865182, between Penwyllt and Bwlch Bryn-rhudd. This is on Access Land but access rights have been suspended until the area has been stabilised, to ensure the safety of the public.

4.11 Publicity/Press Releases – An appeal has been circulated to the members for a Publicity/Press Officer but there has not, as yet, been any response.

4.12 GeoPark Management Group – awaiting next meeting with the Park Authority to try to resolve the matter of walks leaders qualifications.

4.13 Area Advisory Forums – nothing to report.

4.14 Welsh Advisory Committee – nothing to report.

4.15 CNP Matters – nothing to report.

4.16 Waun Fignen Felen – nothing to report.

4.17 Park Society - Park Authority Relationship – The intended meeting with the Park Authority was cancelled, on account of the weather. Jim has been endeavouring to resuscitate contact, particularly with regard to the urgency with which the matter of walks leaders and the GeoPark must be resolved, and also with regard to the relationship between us.

5. AGM – The venue, at Talgarth Town Hall, has been booked. Further arrangements yet to be made.

6. Dark Sky Park Status – Jim has been endeavouring to make progress with this.

7. Technical Adviser – discussed under 4.2.

8. Any Other Business – (i) Fund Raising – Jim spoke of his enthusiasm for an organised fund-raising scheme. However, there did not appear to be great support for this at the present time. Jim will prepare further information regarding successful fund-raising ventures of other Societies and organisations and will endeavour to present specific proposals for our consideration. (ii) “100 Rural Voices” – Campaign for the protection of Rural Wales – we have been asked to write to CPRW with our support for their objectives. [see their website for information]. Charles will write to the organiser and to Peter Ogden. **ACTION: Charles.** (iii) Some concern was expressed regarding the erection, by the National Trust, of a new shiny metal sign beside the cairn on the top of Pen y Fan, without any evident prior consultation. This will be raised with the Park Authority at our next meeting. **ACTION: Charles.**

9. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 1st March 2011 at 5.00pm. at the Bear, Crickhowell

The meeting ended at 6.57pm.