



CYNGOR RHANBARTH / POWYS AREA

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MINUTES OF AREA COUNCIL MEETING: 2 FEBRUARY 2012, PLAS DOLERW, NEWTOWN

Attendance

1/12 Alan Austin (Chairman), Alan Rugman, Derek Cosslett, Annette Prince, Clive Payne (CDP), Bob Seabrook, Michael Rolt, Ed Wilson (Ramblers GB), Gwenda Owen (Ramblers Cymru).

Apologies

2/12 Harry Chandler, Kevin Jones, Chris Playford, Emlyn Williams

Minutes of last Area Council, 27 November 2011

3/12 The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Action items

67/11 Welsh Coastal Walk, 5 May: Stephen Hughes had proposed a walk from Machynlleth to Glandyfi. AR would walk it with SH and then send details to Cardiff. The walk could also be used to promote a possible new Machynlleth Group.

ACTION AR

68/11 MR would approach National Trust about removal of fencing from their land in BBNP.

ACTION MR

69/11 Closure of the East Radnor walks booklet account was AGREED and signed accordingly.

71/11 Following debate at the 2011 AGM, AR tabled a draft motion on wind farms to be proposed at Welsh Council on 31 March. After lengthy discussion, the draft was AGREED subject to negotiation at WCEC with Ceredigion Group as possible seconders. It was also AGREED that the motion should be put to General Council in April because renewable energy issues involved the UK Government as well as the Welsh Government.

ACTION AA and AR

Other matters arising

None

General Council 21/22 April, Leicester

4/12 AR and MR would attend.

Welsh Council 31 March, Wrexham

5/12 AA and AR would attend, and possibly MR and DC.

Footpath matters

6/12 At a separate meeting preceding the Area Council, it was AGREED that a meeting should be sought with Powys CC to discuss (among other matters) means of widening the scope for footpath volunteering in the county. At present, volunteering was limited because there was only one PCC volunteer coordinator. Gwenda Owen and Ed Wilson would produce a short paper on how Ramblers could assist, drawing on experience elsewhere.

ACTION CDP

7/12 CDP spoke to his report, noting that there were fewer proposed priority communities than at present. At Barlings Barn, BHS had still not applied for a DMMO; this did not affect the situation for walkers. PCC had accepted our contention that proposed closure of the Monks Trod would not affect the right of walkers to use the route under the Birmingham Corporation and CROW Acts. No further action was needed. The Elan Valley Trust also recognised the value of the Trod to walkers. PCC apparently intend to close other byways. It was AGREED that any closure should apply only to vehicles under a TRO, leaving byways open for walking.

8/12 There was no Brecknock report, Chris Playford being away.

9/12 Marion Law had reported that Rail Rambles was thriving, with good attendance.

10/12 A group developing circular walks around Newtown had complained about threatening behaviour by a landowner. CDP said that the matter raised an issue of principle about the reluctance of PCC to use their enforcement officer outside priority communities. This would be raised with PCC at the forthcoming liaison meeting.

ACTION CDP

11/12 Ed Wilson spoke about three volunteer training events to be held in Wales.

Treasurer's report

12/12 DC said that expenditure had exceeded income over the last quarter for usual reasons. AR drew attention to the cost of the AGM, over £200 having been spent on printing and postage. Email should be used wherever possible, although addresses were held for only a minority of members.

Membership

13/12 AA reported that there were 310 members in Powys at 1/1/12, arresting the previous decline.

Planning matters

14/12 AR said that he would submit representations on the proposed repowering of the existing Llandinam windfarm.

Powys Presidency

15/12 There was inconclusive discussion about the vacant post; no immediate action was needed.

Any other business

16/12 DC would see whether the Area's account at the Unity Trust bank could be operated online.

ACTION DC

Date of next meeting

The Area Council will next meet on Thursday 24 May 2012 at 1.30pm, Plas Dolerw, Newtown