

MINUTES OF THE UPPER USK VALLEY MEETING 7th NOVEMBER AT THE TANNERS ARMS,
DEFYNNOG

PRESENT: Hugh Macmillan (HM), Nikki Alderslade (NA), Chris Spry (CS), Dave Howells (DH), Sian Miller (SM), Julia Blazer (JB), Sharon Millar (SMi), Roos Geraedts (RG), Angharad Loveluck (AL), David Blazer (DB), Linda Wickham (LW), Sandra Thomas (ST), Les Williams (LWi), Kathy Williams (KW), Malcolm Liddel (ML), Wit Babla (WB).

WELCOME: Was given by SMi.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Barry Alderslade.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Were agreed.

LITTER PICK AT THE USK RESERVOIR: Date to be arranged.

SENNYBRIDGE TOILETS PROJECT: The structural engineer needs to do measurements for drainage. The building regulations drawings are being done. KW will open for the relevant people to look at the toilets.

ASSET TRANSFER: Powys have replied regarding the lease and we will be sent the forms to fill in. Funding for the Information Centre could be £1,000 - £2,000. We would be going for a 25 or 30 year lease. SM talked us through the situation regarding the constitution. We could be a Ltd Company, a Community Interest Company or a Co-Operative Society. The first two options could be incorporated which we are not at the moment which means we have no legal umbrella. If we have assets eg. Sennybridge toilets we will be individually liable as trustees. SM pointed out that there were many benefits to incorporation eg. Can make contracts, employ people. A CIC would be a good option. We would need to set up a Memorandum and draw up Articles of Association. There was unanimous agreement for UUV to become a CIC. SM will look at Articles of Association and then forward the information to AL and SMi.

RURAL FUTURES UPDATE: DH gave a report on the Community Engagement. There were lots of ideas which will be collated. Transport and amenities were definite issues. LW had been interviewed about ideas for regenerating the local economy and sustainability. DH will ask for an update on the event.

FUTURE PROJECTS AT USK RESERVOIR: ML is arranging a meeting with Dwr Cymru on 16th November. Tree replanting with broadleaf is one idea for exploration. At the moment the bird hide is obscured by undergrowth and could be cleared. CS is keen on the introduction of Ospreys. He would also like to see a warden for the area and wondered if Dwr Cymru might fund this. It was suggested that perhaps wardens in other areas could cover the Reservoir. Dwr Cymru has money available for projects.

PEGASUS ULTRA MARATHON: Will take place this coming Saturday on the Epynt Way. They had asked for stewards, but JB felt this was not suitable for us. JB has been asked to take donkeys as it has been named Dinky Donkey Ultra Marathon.

POTENTIAL WALK LEADER TRAINING: NA introduced this. There is a course in Merthyr 30th November and Swansea 25th January. She will email Ramblers and say a number of people are interested. They will then underpin the insurance.

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES: CS felt we needed more. SMi will approach people at the Tafarn-y-Garreg. AL mentioned that Trallong is part of our area, but they have not been involved with UUV. SM suggested we have a 'fun' event rather than just business. It was therefore planned to have the next meeting on 5th December at the Rarebit Centre, followed by food and drink. RG offered to provide mulled apple juice/cider with members to bring a plate of food and drinks.

A.O.B.: SMI informed us that there was a Quiz at the Tafarn-y-Garreg on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. She asked if we could form a team/s. The group will consider this.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 5th December at 6.30 pm at the Rarebit Centre, Defynnog. To be followed by a social.