



**MINUTES OF THE UPPER USK VALLEY RURAL ALLIANCE
01ST MAY 2019**

PRESENT: Sharon Miller (SMi), David Blazer (DB); Nikki Alderslade (NA), Angharad Loveluck (AL), Dave Howells (DH), Julia Blazer (JB), Malcolm Liddell (ML), Barry Alderslade (BA)

APOLOGIES: Christopher Spry, Linda Wickham, Annette Scale, Sandra Thomas, Hugh McMillan, Rose Geraedts, Sian Miller

WELCOME: SMi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING: It was agreed that the new format minutes which include action points was a good idea.

No other comments or matters arising.

Actions:

- None currently.

BUILDING CONTROL UPDATE ON SENNYBRIDGE TOILETS PROJECT: Greg Cohen (GC) has visited the site. HM reported that GC hadn't done his homework and didn't seem to appreciate the urgency with regards to completing his report. Some discussion took place about the possibility of finding another structural engineer, but it is possible that there is money owing to GC for the work done so far - this needs to be established.

Actions:

- SMi to email Greg and try and get a timescale.

ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE: No progress currently.

Actions:

- HM and JB to progress.

CHARITY STATUS: The application has been submitted but there could be a delay of up to 12 weeks for a response

Actions:

- None currently

USK RESERVOIR PROJECT(s): Pine Martens – A meeting has been arranged by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNP) at Trecastle Village Hall. Discussion took place around the part the UUV should play in this. UUV members attending the meeting would need to be seen to be asking pertinent questions as there is some doubt as to whether the project would be welcomed by local farmers/landowners and the UUV do not want to

alienate them. The initial plan is for the boxes to be sited on land owned by Welsh Water and/or National Resources Wales.

There was some concern that BBNP might consider the UUV as partners/stakeholders in the project. It was agreed that whilst the UUV are in favour of a wildlife project some distance should be maintained.

Actions:

- ML to email BBNP to state that as a group, we must maintain a distance but that individuals might be interested in becoming involved. The UUV would be supportive but could not be considered a partner. The UUV are happy that the meeting is taking place but would want to ensure that they are not mentioned in the press release.

Improve Biodiversity at the Usk – some of the tasks required are bracken clearance, ponies to be introduced to graze the scrub, work in the reed beds. To participate in these a level of commitment and muscle is required both of which the group may struggle with.

Actions:

- ML to speak with Alona.

RURAL FUTURES: Since the previous meeting, the Sennybridge RF Report has been received and circulated to UUV members. Some discussion took place around the content and detail of the report. None of the group were quite clear on what the report meant and there were no concrete proposals within it. The group felt that Rural Futures would be able to provide answers, but this doesn't seem to be the case.

Actions:

- NA to email Peter Willis to suggest that Rural Futures put forward some ideas for local projects which the UUV would then be happy to consider.

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES: JB reported that new people had moved into the area who might be approached to join the UUV. AL has spoken with Hywel Morgan from Myddfai Community Council (MCC) who didn't know that the UUV existed but would like to come to the next meeting.

Actions:

- JB to approach new residents and invite them to the next meeting;
- AL to advise Hywel Morgan of the next meeting date;

Visitors Guides – DH reported that the supply of these was nearly depleted. NA stated that she and AL had put together an email to be sent to local businesses asking if they wished to be included in the new print run and the cost for this. DH suggested that a personal approach was better but neither NA/AL have the time to do this in addition to their current commitments.

Actions:

- NA and AL to decide which businesses to approach and then send email.

WALK LEADER TRAINING: SMi has completed training. Insurance has been extended to include cover for walks.

Actions:

- None currently

NEW PROJECTS: suggestions were

- to consider participating in Wales in Bloom and to try to engage the community to do this;
- Geocaching – UUV trail

AOB:

Litter at the Usk Reservoir

Actions:

- ML to do a reconnoitre and report back

Rural Alliance at Llangors interested in swapping ideas

Actions:

- JB to make contact

DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

Wednesday 05th June – Shoemakers Arms, Pentrebach

Wednesday 10th July – Old Yew Tree, Defynnog

Wednesday 21st August – Usk and Railway Inn, Sennybridge