



**MINUTES OF THE UPPER USK VALLEY RURAL ALLIANCE  
20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

**PRESENT:** Sharon Miller (SMi), David Blazer (DB); Nikki Alderslade (NA), Christopher Spry (CS), Angharad Loveluck (AL), Dave Howells (DH), Rose Geraedts (RG), Sandra Thomas (ST), Hugh MacMillan (HM), Julia Blazer (JB), Malcolm Liddell (ML)

**APOLOGIES:** Linda Wickham, Annette Scale, Barry Alderslade

**WELCOME:** SMi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING – TO INCLUDE A SUMMARY**

**FROM THE EGM:** Confusion existed with regards to the change of name. Clarification was given that the group will continue to be known as the Upper Usk Valley Rural Alliance until charity status is granted. Following this the group will be called the Upper Usk Valley CIO.

It was suggested that an amendment was required to the EGM minutes. Further minor changes are required to the constitution. Prior to submission trustee information/signature is required.

No comments made regarding previous general meeting minutes.

**Actions:**

- NA to amend constitution. Once completed SMi to circulate for final agreement/approval;
- SMi to provide trustee form for signature.

**BUILDING CONTROL UPDATE ON SENNYBRIDGE TOILETS PROJECT:** SMi has heard nothing from Mike ???, Building Control. A response has been received from the Structural Engineer, Greg Cohen who wants to make a site visit.

**Actions:**

- In the absence of DH, Greg Cohen will be accompanied on site by DMi and HM. This will take place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm

**ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE:** No progress currently.

**Actions:**

- HM and JB to progress.

**CHARITY STATUS:** SMi has completed the form and has collated the constitution, accounts and lease agreement. SM has started an action plan. SMi is keen to provide evidence in support of the application, of any community appreciation and to give a flavour of what the group has been pursuing. DH has three timelines which may be of use.

**Actions:**

- DH to provide timelines
- SMi to circulate action plan for agreement/comment
- SMi intending to submit application by week ending 29 March 2019

**USK RESERVOIR PROJECT(s):** Pine Martens - Discussion took place around the Pine Martens project as it is uncertain whether this contributes to the work of the charity – we are just feet on the ground. CS stated that the National Park are still awaiting permission from NRW to undertake the project and as yet don't have any boxes so any actual action is a little way off. ML believes that we need to find a project that the UUV can manage and perhaps look for local groups such as the Wildlife Trust or YFC who could work with us. A suggestion was made that we earmark a piece of ground that pre-schools could visit to look at local flora/fauna. DH believes that there is a patch of ground which belongs to the children of Trecastle near the reservoir which could be ideal.

**Actions:**

- ML to speak with NRW and Chris Jones from Dwr Cymru to find out what funding is available;
- DH to pursue the Usk Reservoir/Trecastle ground.

Usk Reservoir Access Road – there has been no further response from Carmarthenshire Council who have responsibility for the road. Additional timber extraction is to be undertaken which make the road worse. UUV as a group are unable to do anything more currently.

**Actions:**

- AL to get a contact for the local councils;
- Group (as individuals) to log onto Carmarthenshire Council Potholes website to complain.

**RURAL FUTURES:** Group updated with latest email response from Rural Futures.

**Actions:**

- NA to respond to email.

**MEMBERSHIPE ISSUES:** The question of how to attract more members was raised. A flyer was suggested or a reprint of the UUV walks booklet. DH didn't feel that he could approach the same businesses again, but the group felt that £20 was a small sum to ask for advertising on an annual basis. New business in the area could also be approached. A minimum of £250 would be required.

**Actions:**

- AL/NA to draw up a list of businesses who could be approached;
- AL to put together a generic email that could be sent to all previous businesses. New ones to be approached in person;
- Money to be dropped into the IWRC in individual marked envelopes;
- JB to do amendments once money is received.

**AOB:** National Park are becoming more interested in this end of the park. At the end of March CS and ML are meeting with them to discuss what other projects might be possible for group to become involved with.

CS has been in talks with Jason Rees, Uplands Officer regarding the possibility of community talks led by the National Park. The group are in favour of supporting this, but the National Park would have to organise/advertise themselves.

JB advised the group that we had received a water rebate of £352.40

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 1st May at the Abercamlais Arms, Sennybridge at 6.30 pm.