



Cymdeithas Parc Bannau Brycheiniog
The Brecon Beacons Park Society
MINUTES
of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom
on Wednesday 23rd June 2021 at 7.30 pm.

1. Attendance.

The meeting was attended by 58 members of the Society.
Apologies for absence were received from 12 members.

The Chairman, Martin Buckle, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the agenda for the day.

2. Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting.

- held on Saturday 23rd June, 2019 at 10.30 am, at Theatr Bryncheiniog.
(Minutes published on the Society Website).
These minutes were accepted.

3. Annual Report and Chairman's Report.

(as published on the website for perusal by all members).

Martin Buckle gave a brief summary of the activities over the year:

Martin remarked that it has been a challenging year due to the Covid 19 pandemic and that managing the way through has been difficult at times. He thanked all within the society who have helped with this.

The walks programme has been dealt with very well under the restrictions that have applied and especially thanked Hilary and Nic Groombridge and Iau and Clive Counsell for their work in achieving this. walks have continued whenever they have been allowed. There was a decision to establish a walks sub committee chaired by Clive Counsell and this group are working well. In addition, it was agreed to hold the first ever BBPS walking Festival this year, running from the 28th June to 4th July. there is no doubt that this will be a great success.

The events programme has also been affected by the pandemic and in order to maintain the programme, events have moved to Zoom. Thanks to Janet Callear for her work in making sure an events programme was maintained. It is expected that we will retain some events online for those who find it difficult to attend in person.

Thanks to Ben Sladen for managing the finances, to Phil O'Shea for his work in the role of Rights of Way Officer and to Sue Hoddell for taking on the role of Minutes Secretary, the latter two individuals aiming to join the executive committee as Trustees as well. Martin assured all that the work of the executive committee is ongoing.

In relation to the Beacons Way, Sue Hoddell has taken on the coordination role following the work of Anne Pritchard. Many thanks to Anne for the time she spent in doing this role and those who had hoped to walk the Beacons Way last year were very disappointed.

Martin commended the work of Chris Barber in producing the Beacon twice every year. Members often comment that they enjoy receiving this publication.

One of the key areas of work for the executive committee is the relationship with other National Parks and much of this is done through the work of the Alliance for National Parks. This work remains ongoing. Political Manifestos do now seem to be giving some attention to the agenda of National Parks and we hope that the Cambrian Mountains might also be able to achieve National Park status soon.

It has been a busy year within the National Park Authority with changes in their management structure. The Transitional Director Stephanie Evans has worked closely with others and will now be handing over to the new NPA chief executive Catherine Mealing-Jones.

The BBPS has now been invited to become core members of the Historic Environment Partnership and will continue to work with them.

Another of our key interfaces is with planning, especially development planning within the park area and thanks go to Liz Gibbs for looking at these issues and ensuring comments are made and to Janet Callear in examining the National Park Management Plan and coordinating our comments and feedback.

Rights of way issues continue to feature prominently in our work and thanks to Phil O'Shea for his work in this area.

Work continues on the Dark Skies status of the National Park and on the Gunpowder works project. Both of these are ably led by Jim Wilson. The Tramroads project is a newer project and will now have the involvement of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust. further information on this work will be on the BBPs website soon for members information. Richard Chandler has put in a great deal of excellent work on this project. Martin's report did not mention a new initiative that has recently come about.

invitations have been issued to Welsh Health Trusts offering their staff a free one year

membership to the BBPS in acknowledgement of their work during the pandemic. It is hoped that this will also widen our membership and increase our numbers. There has already been some uptake of this offer. Great news.

4. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2021.

(Financial Sheet sheets made available on the website prior the AGM)

The Treasurer, Ben Sladen, presented the Accounts:

Ben noted that it has been an unusual year and this is reflected in the accounts.

Expenses have been considerably reduced by the pandemic due to a decline in some of the activities of the BBPS but happily membership has stayed strong. This has resulted in a net increase of income of about 4.5k. The current balance sheets show a higher than normal general fund but much of this has already been earmarked for projects over the next year or so. Income from subs is already in excess of what might initially have been expected and so current finances are in a good position.

The accounts have been viewed by the new reviewer John Goreing.

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by David Thomas seconded by Phil O'Shea and unanimously agreed.

5. Election of Trustees

the following Trustees are eligible for re-election

Elizabeth Gibbs

Ben Sladen

Jim Wilson

the following need to be elected as Trustees

Clive Cousell

Iau Counsell

Sue Hoddell

Phil O'Shea

All were proposed by Janet Callear and seconded by David Thomas

6 AOB

none

7 Date of Next Annual General Meeting

This is expected to take place in June 2022