



Annual General Meeting 2024
8th June 2024 11am
LLangorse Village Hall

1. Welcome

The chairman Martin Buckle gave a warm welcome to everyone at the event

2. Attendees and Apologies

The meeting was attended by 46 members of the society and 7 guests. 8 people sent apologies.

3. Previous Minutes

The previous minutes from the meeting of 8th June 2023 had been published on the society's website. These minutes were approved. An update on the matter of Carn Pica was available. This had been in a poor state and needed restoring. Work has been underway by the NPA and should by now be completed. The damage appeared to come from a lightning strike.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report has been circulated and is available on the BBPS website. As a summary of this year Martin spoke of

- The very successful AGM last year that was held at Hay Castle.
- The walks programme continues well and we now have over 50 walk leaders. Thanks to Clive Counsell for collecting the walks statistics and to the walks sub committee.
- We are about to undertake the second organised walk of the Beacons Way. This seems a good way to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.
- The events continue well although there have been some IT issues that have prompted action to ensure that this is resolved.
- In the annual report the Honorary Secretary reported his intention to step down but has agreed to maintain his involvement in managing the website.
- A newsletter has been introduced electronically and has allowed us to keep members informed of issues and developments regularly. This communication is very important. Unfortunately, Chris Barber is stepping down from his role as editor of The Beacon. He has done this role for many years and thanks go to him for fulfilling this function for so long.
- Continued changes occur in the Protected Landscapes across Wales and the status of the Clwydian range and Dee Valley are under consideration. The NPA continue to input into these many discussions and may help to provide an appropriate context for these discussions. The issue of the status of the Cambrian Mountains is still unresolved.
- Liaison with the NPA is still ongoing and supports our input into several areas such as Dark Skies and the Beacons Way. This includes the Geopark which is up for UNESCO revalidation. A question was asked about Dark Skies that could



not be answered in the meeting. Martin undertook to publicise and update when this is available.

- Rights of Way continues to be an important issue and we hold to the idea of 'USE THEM OR LOSE THEM'.
- The collaboration with the Historic Environment Partnership remains in place and an audit of the National Parks's heritage is due, along with further work on the Tramroads project.
- Planning proposals continue to produce issues and recent work on wind farms and green energy help our responses to planning applications.
- There have been concerns that the existing NP Local Development Plan is out of date but work on this is now underway.

A question was asked about the proposals for Llangynidr and Llangattock common to be planted with trees, this is on the Duke of Beaufort's land. This is being addressed by planning at this time.

5. Treasurer's Report

This year's reports have been produced in the same format as last year but will in the future show more detail on expenditure. Income is fairly stable at the moment. From a total income of £17000, about 90% comes from membership fees and gift aid. The recent subs increase was designed to balance the COVID 19 impact and to allow for an increase in the reserves amount. At present our spend on projects has not increased but this may well change. The most substantial costs for this year have been the production of The Beacon magazine and training and support for walk leaders. The total expenditure was down slightly at £11302 and the surplus for the year was just under £6000. The plan is to reduce our designated reserves for the following year. In response to a question, David stated that we do occasionally apply for grants but we do not base any income figures on this. Membership has increased slightly in spite of the increase in subs. Re enrolments are strong but we seem to be less successful in recruiting new members. Current membership is just under 1,000.

6. Approval of the Accounts for the year end Oct 2023

Proposed, seconded and approved by the meeting.

7. Election of Trustees.

The following trustees who retired by rotation were put up for re-election.

Phil O'Shea

Jim Wilson

Richard Chandler

All were proposed, seconded and re-elected..

8. AOB

A question was asked about who is responsible for painting red dragons on trig points



but no one could answer this.

9. Date of Next AGM

This is expected to be held in June of 2025.

10. Meeting Closed.