Cyfeillion Cronfeydd Dŵr Caerdydd

Friends of Cardiff Reservoirs

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13 July 7pm

Cyncoed Methodist Church, Westminster CF23 6SE

PRESENT: 18 members, 7 executive committee members and 2 representatives from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW).

CHAIR: Paul Davies **MINUTES**: Fiona Liddell

1 Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Richard Cowie (Reservoir Action Group) and 10 other members.

2 Developments to the reservoir site – Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

Mark Davies, Head of Visitor Attractions (Operations) gave an overview of Welsh Water activity across Wales and developments underway at the Lisvane site.

Annie Smith, Volunteering Manager, Visitor Attractions summarised the conservation activity that has taken place and what is intended. She explained that this is the first Friends group to have permission to work on Welsh Water assets, since the volunteering policy infrastructure was previously not in place, The good practice developed for Lisvane will be spread to other sites.

RAG (Reservoir Action Group) succeeded in getting the SSSI designation for wax cap fungi – and the site is now recognised at significant, ecologically. It is a priority to raise awareness of the ecology of the site amongst the local community.

Welsh Water will ensure that the story of RAG is represented on the site.

The slide presentation will be availble on the FoCR website.

Points noted during questions and discussion:

- Volunteering will be a fundamental part of the success of the site, in additional to the 63 paid roles
- The site is expected to open to the public sometime in spring 2023
- Activities will be paid for on an annual subscription or a one off basis. An online booking system is used.
- The woodland plan will be publicly available when completed.
- Neither cycling, wild swimming, nor fishing will be permitted.

3 Approval of minutes of AGM 20 July 2021

Minutes were approved.

4 Review of FoCR activity 2021-22

The chairman's report on committee activity is in Appendix 1.

Tribute was paid to the work of RAG in preserving the reservoir site and the support of RAG in arranging transitional arrangements as the new Friends group came into being.

Members of the current committee were introduced.

There is a great vision for the site, working in conjunction with partners including Friends of Nant Fawr and others. It is our aspiration to be one of the best, if not the best eco site in Europe!

5 Looking forward – volunteering and training opportunities

Annie Smith outlined some possible training opportunities for volunteers in the near future which include: safeguarding (for designated safeguarding leads and safeguarding awareness), support for vulnerable visitors, carbon literacy.

In addition to core training of this kind, there will be onsite training for most activity eg practical conservation management skills.

It is intended to find out who is interested in what kind of opportunities before specific training dates are arranged.

6 Treasurers report and adoption of accounts

A summary of accounts was circulated, showing a balance of £506.24 at year end.

7 Appointment of independent reviewer.

The re-appointment of Richard Norton was approved.

8 Amendments to the constitution

Peter Fullerton (Vice Chair) explained the rationale for some changes proposed to the initial constitution:

- to allow for different categories of membership: Household, Associate and Default
- executive committee terms of office and timing of elections
- subscriptions: timing of payments

There were no questions and the suggested changes were approved.

9 Volunteer for management of the website

Peter explained the need for someone to oversee the management of the Wordpress website and to work with the marketing working group on communication matters.

Anyone interested is encouraged to get in touch:
secretary@friendsofcardiffreservoirs.org

10 Any other notified business

None

Appendix 1: Chairmans report

I wish, before commencing my 2022 annual report, to initially thank you, the members, for staying with us and being very patient during the last year, when it would seem that nothing was happening. However, this is definitely not the case.

It does not seem twelve months, since July 2021,when we had the inaugural meeting, during which, the committee was formed. Your committee during this time have been working very hard behind the scenes with formulating policies such as the constitution, safeguarding, insurance etc. A number of these will be placed before you, for your approval, at the 2022 A G M. We did set up, in the Autumn of 2021 a drystone walling volunteer opportunity and recently have provided a woodland volunteering opportunity. Quite a number of you took these up and we hope, under the guidance of Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water) to provide others, in the near future.

I now, as I have done the past, wish to offer mine and the committee's thanks to Dwr Cymru for giving us the opportunity of commencing a Friends Group. This the first time that they have worked with such a group. The help and assistance provided by their Ms Annie Smith, i.e. Volunteer Manager, all Dwr Cymru visitor attractions, has been invaluable. Also we must, of course, offer our most sincere thanks to R A G, (The Reservoirs Action Group), especially the late Ted Thurgood, who over a number of years, worked extremely hard in keeping the vision of the reservoirs site, as one for leisure use, very much alive. Here I wish to the opportunity of offering my personal thanks to Ms Anne Wesson, the Friends initial secretary, for the tireless work that she put in, with getting the committee formulated in the early months. Anne had to resign, unfortunately, because of personal reasons. Her role has been taken up by Ms Fiona Liddell, who please be assured, very much, keeps us on our toes.

The construction of the visitor centre has now commenced and no doubt, Ms Annie Smith will be updating us upon this, together with providing details as to how this will restrict site use, at the A G M. However, the foundations are in place, so your committee, together with you, the members and Dwr Cymru, can now build upon this and plan an exciting future, for this tremendous project, i.e. Cardiff Reservoirs.