



Minutes of the 28th AGM of the FPCNP, held at 11:15 on Saturday, 20 October 2018 at Oriel y Parc, St David's.

Members present: Steve Drinkwater (Chair), Peter Heard (Treas.), Rosemary Williams (Sec.), C.M. Allison, Peter Arkle, Theresa Arkle, Margaret Buckingham, Anne Chambers, Ian Chambers, Iain Doull, Irene Doull, Llywela Harris, Jane Heard, Edward Holdaway, Lyn Humphries, Trevor Humphries, Daphne Morgan, Graham Morgan, Ann Morris, Kenfyn Morris, Ian Pattinson, Graham Phillips, Marjorie Phillips, Alison Rees, Gus Stott, Chris Taylor, Rose Taylor, Gaynor Thomas, Andrew Weaver, Annie Weaver, Mary Wiseman, D.G. Wilson.

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed those attending. and thanked the National Park Authority for providing the venue free of charge

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr & Mrs Ashton, Jill Eaton-Evans, Myles and Dorothy Huthwaite, Alan and Jane Mason.

3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM – already distributed – matters arising

The minutes of the AGM on 18 April 2017 were accepted as a correct record (proposed Peter Heard, , seconded Graham Morgan, approved *nem. con.*).

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Report

The Report was delivered by members of the Executive Committee and Friends according to their various responsibilities.

The Chairman expressed appreciation of the ongoing work of the Executive Committee and other Active members and others working off-committee.

(a) *Events organiser (Ian Pattinson)*

- (i) *FNU*: has appeared every other month since the since the last AGM and seems to have found favour. Winners of the prize competition tended to come from a small number of people; wider participation is invited. More input from members – pictures or text – would also be welcomed.

There are currently various opportunities for members to become involved in projects to enhance and protect the Park, other than (and less strenuous than) the Work Party. They include

- monitoring of environmental pollution threats
- a National Trust initiative for people willing to regularly check the condition of their local beauty spots
- various NPA ecology-related Initiatives including monitoring and recording wildlife
- sorting through archived material of archaeological or historical interest and preparing information packs
- helping an NPA archaeologist with a new ancient monument monitoring scheme involving keeping an eye on erosion, damage, vegetation encroachment at nearby historical sites.

Details of these opportunities to become involved had appeared in the July and Sept *FNU*. Those interested were invited to contact IP for further guidance.

- (ii) *2018 Events Programme*: IP paid tribute to the excellent support afforded by the walk guides, Margaret Sandland and Chris Taylor.

The 2018 programme was ambitious in the number of walks, visits and presentations which it contained – 24 (11 walks, 6 visits, 5 presentations, one dinner and a carol service). All of these were advertised in *FNU* and by mailchimp about a week before each event, and were reported in the following *FNU*. The event programme offered a balance between weekdays, evenings and weekends in order to cater for differing circumstances among the Friends. However, attendance at several events was been disappointing and one of the two away day visits was cancelled because of lack of numbers. It has not been easy to discern any pattern or reason for such varying attendances – possibly event fatigue, or possible failure to appreciate what members prefer.

- (iii) *Programme for 2018-19*: IP proposed to meet with Margaret and Chris in November to plan next year's programme. As requests in *FNU* for suggestion had not borne fruit, IP asked for suggestions from the floor. The following suggestions were made:

- Manorbier castle and walk along that stretch of coast
- Picton Castle
- Slebech Park
- Boat trip on the Haven
- Guided town tours (by Terry John?) – Tudor Pembroke or Civil War Pembroke or Tenby
- Museum of speed, Pendine
- Skomer and Ramsey
- Milford Haven museum
- Electric Mountain awayday.

Some members said a weekday other than Tuesday might be better for them.

(b) *Membership development – Jane Mason – read by Steve Drinkwater in Jane Mason's absence.*

Recent efforts by the Executive Committee to think of ways to promote and retain membership have borne fruit. The excellent communications provided by Ian Pattinson and Ian Chambers ensures that our members are kept up to date with the organisation's activities and this has helped to retain and encourage new members as well as other profile-raising efforts.

Membership now stands at 402, plus 26 Associate Members from the new Coastal Cottages of Pembrokeshire link. To date there have been a pleasing 46 new members in 2018. In addition we now have 7 Business Memberships with three new ones this year.

Alison Rees, the Membership Secretary, has worked diligently to record and log all members and provide data enabling an analysis of where members live and where they are finding out about the Friends. Her work is greatly appreciated. Jane Mason took on the role of Membership Development and has been working with Alison and developing ideas for increasing membership opportunities. Jane has analysed the membership data to find out where members live, including the large percentage that live outside the County. This will help to orient future efforts to attract new members. In 2018 there were only a few members who did not rejoin, and this was often because of changes of personal circumstances. If, in 2019, members do not rejoin, endeavours will be made to discover the reasons why.

Jane worked with Ian Chambers to produce a general poster about the Friends (members attending were asked to take a poster away to put up locally) and this was mailed to about 20 businesses and organisations around the County with an additional list of events taking place. This has resulted in a couple of new business members and may raise the profile of our organisation with people working in West Wales. This will be repeated next spring to generate further interest.

Jane developed a prize draw to encourage existing members to recommend a new member and this produced a number of new members. The winners were Caroline and John Potter from Dale, who won a Coastal Cottage break in Tenby, and Bob Woodman of Taunton, who won a Day Out with A National Park Ranger (or other member of NP staff).

Currently, as she is also a member of the South Downs Association, Jane has used their correspondence exemplars to look afresh at the Friends' welcome letter and renewal reminder letters to existing members. She also proposed new members should be contacted by committee members a few months after joining, to welcome them and assess their interests and needs from the Friends organisation. The Committee has appointed Anne Chambers to coordinate this activity and is very grateful to her for volunteering her services.

Over the next six months we plan to amend and produce a new run of publicity leaflets and raise the profile of the organisation through a range of public relations activities as well as through the continuing distribution of posters.

We always welcome help and ideas of ways to expand our membership, so, even if you only have time to assist with a small project, we would be grateful. We also need ideas for businesses and organisations to contact. Please email Jane Mason in the first instance on jane@chalet-papillon.com.

(b) Local Policy Issues: Gus Stott, Policy Officer

(i) Local level:

- *Blackpool Mill:* Bluestone's original application to develop this area was refused on serious grounds. SD told the Meeting that Bluestone have recently announced their intention to completely review the whole scheme before submitting a further application.
- *Premier Inn, St Davids:* this proposal had been superficially attractive to the NPA because it delivered housing, but the Friends, along with other stakeholders, thought that the Premier Inn design was unsuitable for the location and made representation accordingly. In the end, the plan was approved with minimal discussion.
- *Re-routing of A487 at Newgale* – the Friends approved of the current re-routing proposal as the least evil of the necessary evils. The road itself would be government-funded, but not any additional features that might potentially deliver a major enhancement of the Park. When a formal application is made, the Friends will be anxious to help ensure that this bigger picture is not forgotten.

(ii) National Level: the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes, of which the Friends are a member, has met several times over the past year. The original designated landscapes review came to nothing, but the Welsh Environment Minister, Hannah Blythyn, has expressed support for the crucial Sandford Principle. Her 'priority statement' stressed the importance of the wellbeing of future generations, collaboration among stakeholders and the development of green energy.

(iii) Post-Brexit land use: consultation is in progress. The intention is to pay farmers (1) for providing 'public goods' and (2) to ensure their 'economic resilience'. The latter will not be a permanent subsidy. The experience of land management and prioritisation in National Parks was felt to be of potential value when considering productivity v. other public goods (amenity) in other agricultural areas.

(iv) National Park Societies' Conference in Dartmoor: IC, who attended with SD, reported on this. The focus had been on measuring the value of landscape (as opposed to the CAP which focuses on food production). CNP supports a plan for England to 'monetize' specific areas of land according to the value of their contributions to society as a whole. There is currently no evidence that this will apply to Wales. If followed through it might be advantageous to national parks, where food production is not the first consideration.

(d) Work party – Alan Mason (read by Steve Drinkwater in Alan Mason's absence) This is Alan Mason's last report, as he is standing down from the Executive Committee.

The work party has continued to go from strength to strength under the guidance and direction of Vicky Pearson, who coordinates and organises the tasks for each week, liaising with Rangers and work party members. AM expressed his appreciation of Vicky's work over the year, ebrand agreeing meeting locations and organising the volunteers for the week.

The Work Party has acquired several new members. There is still plenty of scope for more members. AM paid particular tribute to the work of John Potter, who has left the group after many years of sterling service, He mentioned the sad passing of three former members: John Ratcliffe, Lionel White and Ann Axford – all who contributed greatly to the Work Party.

Over the past 12 months the party has maintained its record of exceeding 300 "person days" of work in the Park. As well as the National Park, the work party has also collaborated with the National Trust (at Stackpole), The West Wales Wildlife Trust and Keep Wales Tidy, thus contributing to maintaining our wonderful Park as well as promoting the work of the Friends and making new acquaintances.

The party's projects and tasks continue to be varied. The removal of invasive species continues – in particular Himalayan Balsam, which happily has borne less fruit recently thanks to the party's efforts. The footpath project at Tregynon continues with around 50% of the footpath completed and the bridge installation about to commence. This has been a particularly challenging project and the efforts of the work party should not be underestimated in bringing it to fruition.

Regular reports on the party's work appear in *FNU*.

St Brides Pumphouse: Chris Taylor spoke about this project, which he took over in September 2017, shortly before the sad death of Lionel White. The engine has been cleaned and serviced and the pump put back into condition. The engine and workshop floor have been repainted, and a Perspex door installed so that the engine and pump can be safely viewed in operation. The pipe system is being restored to its 1920s condition. The engine has run on 15 days, for a total of 10.5 hours; the pump, for just over 8 hours. CT noted that the pump was quite expensive to run owing to petrol costs.

An excellent small team, including Rose Taylor and Kevin Coburn had been constituted, but more volunteers would be welcome. CT is preparing a basic instruction manual and a video presentation. The next project is to floodlight the engine room, and to trace links to and safeguard the water supply.

The three open days in 2018 had been well attended, with particular interest from children. Seven open days, with demonstrations, are planned for 2019. School visits are planned, with the assistance of the NPA.

CT thanked the committee for its support, including financial support managed by the Treasurer, and Alan and Jane Mason for their support. JM had procured a welcome grant of £500 from Valero and was pursuing further funding for information boards. Andrew and Annie Weaver had worked hard on maintaining the surroundings, and the NPA had provided support,

(e) Press and communications officer – Ian Chambers

- (i) *News and Views*: two 40-page issues have appeared this year. The April issue was well received; the October one has just appeared. *NV* is sent to all Friends and also to about 100 local institutions. Comments, ideas and contributions are always welcome.
- (ii) *Press releases*: few have appeared recently in the local press, and there is some doubt that such items are widely read. However, some events did receive publicity, e.g. a recent talk on marine energy, and the erection of the Marion Herbert memorial gate, and the recent Valero grant. A press release for the children's literary competition is imminent.
- (iii) *The Facebook page* has been re-designed, and there is also a Twitter account. Social media are useful for publicising activities and are an effective way of gaining a wider (and younger) audience. The Friends' presence on the NPA Facebook and Twitter streams is a way of reaching even larger audiences who (unlike local press readers) are guaranteed to have relevant interests.

- (iv) *Data Protection:* Members' willingness to continue receiving Friends' communications was checked to ensure compliance with current data protection legislation.
- (v) *Lost Words:* this book has triggered campaigns around the UK to get copies into primary school and care homes. By joining with the West Wales children's book group, the Friends have managed to amass 58 copies, plus teachers' notes, for distribution to local schools. Handovers will be publicised in the local press wherever possible; schools are eager to pursue this, and it will promote the Friends as well. It also ties in thematically with the 2019 literary competition. Friends willing to participate in handovers locally are asked to get in touch. Further contributions to funds would also be welcomed.

The Chairman thanked all contributors, and their assistants, for their reports and work over the year.

5. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts – Peter Heard

The financial position is good, particularly in comparison with three years ago, when reserves were just over £17,000, and *News and Views* and work party costs were becoming unsustainable. Thanks to the efforts of the Executive Committee and other dedicated people, costs have been cut, while communication with members has actually improved, largely due to the institution of *FNU*.

Notes

(a) Income

Membership income has risen considerably. Membership now stands at just over 400, with 46 new members to date in 2018, and we now also have 7 Business members.

St Bride's talks Sadly, this income stream has dried up owing to reasons beyond the Friends' control.

Work Party donations: some members of the work party are generously donating their expenses, some with Gift Aid.

100 Club lottery receipts: these stand at a gratifying £1,000, but more members are needed, and Friends are urged to join, and to recruit others if possible.

(b) Expenditure

News & Views – now at a reduced figure of £1,922.

FNU: £329

Brochures: Provision must be made for new membership brochures, and 100 Club funds will be drawn on for a new leaflet. mill

AFWDL: a subscription of £ 500 has been paid. The Alliance needs funds for campaigning at this crucial time.

Children's Literary Competition: nil this year owing to change in the financial period, but will be back to c. £300 next year.

Work party; have risen a little allowing for the change in financial period (8/12 months). Apparently some chose not to claim expenses during the previous year.. They were encouraged to claim in order to reflect their true worth, but invited to donate back if they so wished (see above under income).£190 reflects work undertaken by Chris Taylor up to end April to restore the Tangye engine.

(c) Restricted Special Projects Account.

Income £2,000 = £2,000 residue of legacy from Marion Herbert.

Expenditure £2,149 = £2,000 spent on gate, tools for the work party & renovation for pump house (paid in advance to National Park before year end)

£149 Balance of funds left over from Entrust scheme (now transferred to general fund)

(e) Balance Sheet

£1665

= £385 - expenses due but not paid till after year end

£ 50 donations received in advance for *Lost Words* c/f to this fin year's A/c's

£ 1230 apportionment of Life Member's subs.

£ 228 100 Club monies (£147 set aside for December prizes; £81 for future admin costs, e.g. printing.

15. Financial Protocol states that we should not generally hold more than £25,000. The Treasurer was therefore delighted to be able to hand over to the next Treasurer reserves that now stand at £24,840.

The accounts were adopted by the Meeting (proposed by Edward Holdaway, seconded by Daphne Morgan, *nem. con.*)

The Treasurer thanked Jane Heard for her support. The Chairman thanked both Peter and Jane Heard for their work on the Friends' finances.

6. Subscriptions payable by overseas members receiving communications in hard copy

The Chair explained that cost of sending out such communications exceeded the amount of the annual subscription. The Meeting decided that the Executive Committee should set a fair fee (proposed Ian Pattinson, seconded Ian Chambers, approved *nem con.*)

7 To Move Resolutions listed below

The Chairman introduced the below resolutions, which were devised in response to a pilot scheme for associate membership devised in consultation with a business member, Coastal Cottages of Pembrokeshire.

Resolution 1

"That this AGM agrees to insert the following clause into the Charity Constitution as a new clause 3(c):

c) Staff of Business Members may be eligible to join the membership of the Charity as Associate Members providing the business where they are employed is a Business Member which agrees to adopt all the provisions of the Associate Member Scheme as laid out in the Charity's Financial Protocol.

Associate Members will have all the benefits of Full Members except that they will not be entitled to a vote. Their subscription will be paid by their Business Member employer as agreed between the Business Member and the Friends' Executive and will generally be based upon two-thirds of the Single Member rate."

Associate Members will not be able to put forward resolutions to the AGM, as individuals, but their employer, as a Business Member will be eligible to do so."

The Resolution was adopted (proposed Peter Heard, seconded Graham Morgan, approved *nem con.*)

Resolution 2 (provided Resolution 1 is adopted)

This AGM agrees to re-number the existing clause 3(d) and to insert the words 'Associate Member' in the first sentence as follows.

d) No Member, Associate Member or Business Member shall have any remedy at any time against the Friends...[etc.]

Whilst the AGM is open for anyone to attend, participation and voting in the formal business of the AGM Agenda is limited to paid-up members (and excludes Associate Members).

The Resolution was adopted (proposed Peter Heard, seconded Theresa Arkle, approved *nem con.*)

8 Election of Officers -

(a) Chairman (b) (c) Hon. Secretary (d) Hon. Treasurer

The following were put forward to serve as members of the Executive Committee and officers:

Chairman: Stephen Drinkwater, proposed by Peter Heard and seconded by Ian Chambers

Hon. Treasurer: Graham Morgan, proposed by Steve Drinkwater and seconded by Ian Pattinson

Hon. Secretary: Rosemary Williams, proposed by Ian Pattinson and seconded by Ian Chambers.

The above officers were elected *en bloc*, proposed Edward Holdaway, seconded Anne Chambers, *nem. con.*

9. Election of members to the Executive Committee

The following were put forward to serve on the Committee:

Ian Chambers: proposed by Peter Heard and seconded by Ian Pattinson

Jane Mason, proposed by Gus Stott and seconded by Ian Pattinson

Ian Pattinson: proposed by Gus Stott and seconded by Steve Drinkwater.

Angus Stott, proposed by Ian Pattinson and seconded by Steve Drinkwater.

The above members were elected *en bloc*, proposed Edward Holdaway, seconded Jane Heard, approved *nem, con.*

10. Any other business

(a) *Bequest from the late John Ratcliffe*

The Chair was pleased to be able to introduce an award to be established by the will of the late John Radcliffe, who left £10 000 which was to be used to constitute an annual award to an individual, group or organisation who/that had made an outstanding contribution to the Park and the furtherance of the Friends' objectives. Nominations would be received on a simple form and judged by the Executive Committee or a panel to be appointed by the Committee. The award might be made to a kindred body, a Friend or a member of the public. The scheme, which should help to promote the Friends (including through the Press), had been approved by Wendy Ratcliffe. Members were invited to reflect on suitable nominations.

(b) *AGM minutes*

It was agreed that the minutes should be posted on the website, with a direct link in the next *FNU*. Members attending were urged to send any comments or corrections to the Secretary (secretary@fpcnp.org.uk) within 4 weeks of publication.

(c) The Chairman reminded the Meeting that offers of help, either through membership of the Executive Committee or in the performance of specific tasks, were always very welcome.

The formal Meeting ended at 12:50.

A draw was then performed for prizes for the 100 Club. Winners were to be contacted by the Treasurer as soon as possible.

The Chairman expressed the Friends' debt of gratitude to Peter Heard for his work over many years. A presentation was made in particular recognition of his work as Treasurer.

The meeting was followed by lunch and a talk by Sue Burton, the Marine Special Area of Conservation Officer for Pembrokeshire.