

Cymdeithas Waliau Cerrig Sychion
Cangen Gogledd Cymru



Dry Stone Walling Association
North Wales Branch

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOELAS ARMS PENTREFOELAS 10TH NOVEMBER 2010, COMMENCING 7.30PM

Present

Sean Adcock, Colin Brown, Craig Evans, Geraint Evans, Ray Guthrie, Alan Jones, Bill Sheppard

In Attendance

Beasleys, Hywel Roberts

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Richard Jones and Paul Smyth

2 Minutes of 2009 AGM

Sean distributed copies of last years minutes. There was a brief discussion of whether or not in future they should be distributed in advance? The general feeling was should be done in future, either posted or emailed.

Acceptance of the 2009 minutes was Proposed by Alan Jones and seconded by Colin Brown. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Craig reported that it had been a varied year, and that generally the Branch seemed to be progressing and thanked Sean for all his hard work and the vast workload he undertook on behalf of the Branch. Craig thanked the committee in general and Colin for taking over as Treasurer. Craig also noted the passing of Gareth Pritchard who had served the Branch so well for many years, his was a great loss and he will be much missed.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

Colin noted that last years accounts had been amended subsequent to the vote at the AGM, the reformed accounts showed the same balances but had been adjusted to better reflect prepayments and accruals. These had been sent to all those who had attended the AGM giving each the option to insist on an EGM if necessary, no requests were forthcoming so the committee adopted the accounts on behalf of Branch.

Income had doubled and expenditure had tripled, whilst reserves had more or less doubled

The draft accounts for 2010 were proposed by Sean Adcock and seconded by Craig Evans. Being no dissenters they were accepted.

5. SECRETARIES REPORT

Sean reported that Branch membership stood at 31, with 7 new members but 5 non renewals a net increase of 2. The year had started with the pleasant surprise of the Branch receiving the award for the Association's best small branch in 2009, with Stonechat receiving special commendation.

Press coverage through the year had been good with training in the Clwydian AoNB generating interest in the local papers. The Farm & Country section of the Daily Post had published a range of articles on our activities. The local papers in the North West have once again proved somewhat obdurate

Sean then presented a review of activities over the last 12 months in the form of a powerpoint presentation, outlining training, 18 DSW T days (8 tasters 5 weekends) 39 individuals 71 trainee days, in addition 2 people 6 practice days in plus clawdd 5 trainees for 2 days clawdd plus 2 members 3 practice days. Total of 90 trainee days.

There had been 3 guided walks with 12 different walkees (14 walker days) a very disappointing turnout, the BBQ had been cancelled lack of numbers. The Branch had taken a leading role in the onsite organisation of the Snowdonia Society competition which had attracted 18 entrants although only 4 Branch members entered, notable Branch success in all 3 classes. The Branch competition had moved temporarily to a new venue in Nant Peris weather interfered and there were only 12 entrants, of which 5 from Branch, sponsorship had been good but for the amount of work involved the entrants and amount of exposure was not viable in the long term.

The Branch had successfully applied for another CCW grant for a standards promotion, to produce separate bilingual standard guides to Dry stone walling and clawdd construction, add to the display panels in this respect, develop a website in association with South Wales and to improve the Branch image through various banners, signs and a new marquee. The Grant would eventually total £4920 against actual expenditure of £6040. Following the sad death of Gareth Pritchard a fund had been launched to raise the £1120 of actual expenditure required, this currently stood at £660, any shortfall would be easily met from Branch funds, although cash-flow might prove problematic.

Talks had been given to local FWAG, Caernarfon Round Table, and Prenteg Film Society, Sean had also made presentations at International Congress in Ambleside, and Stonework Symposium in California and had been invited again for 2011. These talks will form the hub of the winter talks programme.

Stonechat was developing and improving with 2 special editions produced for the congress (along with a dedicated display) where over £150 had been taken in sales of back copies and subscriptions. There were now 20 subscribers mostly from outside of North Wales, including Finland and USA. The Branch needed to raise funding to allow for printing to allow for wider distribution and to reduce the Secretary's workload.

6. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Sean Adcock summarised situation as notified to membership in October pre AGM newsletter. It was suggested by the committee that the membership year should be changed to run from April 1st – 30th March commencing March 2010, with current membership extended to then free of charge. There was a discussion on membership rates and the committees proposal to raise membership fees to £16 from April, but extending the current membership to next April at no extra charge. In addition it was proposed to increase supporters' rates to £6 and to ask for an interim payment of £2 to cover the Winter Stonechat, in essence asking supporters to renew now for £8 carrying their Stonechat 'subscription' through to April 2012.

The change in the year and rates was Proposed by Sean Adcock and seconded by Bill Sheppard. This was adopted unanimously.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Colin assumed chair in absence of Richard

Chairman,

Ray Guthrie proposed Craig Evans. Seconded by Colin Brown.
There being no other nominations Craig Evans was duly elected.

Vice Chairman,

Sean Adcock proposed Richard Jones. Seconded by Craig Evans.
There being no other nominations Craig Evans was duly elected

Treasurer,

Craig Evans proposed Colin Brown. Seconded by Geraint Evans.
There being no other nominations Colin Brown was duly elected

Secretary,

Colin Brown proposed Sean Adcock. Seconded by Bill Sheppard
There being no other nominations Sean Adcock was duly elected.

Management Committee Rep,

Bill Sheppard proposed Sean Adcock. Seconded by Ray Guthrie
There being no other nominations Sean Adcock was duly appointed

Training Officer,

Craig Evans proposed Richard Jones. Seconded by Sean Adcock
There being no other nominations Richard Jones was duly appointed

Members Rep.

Craig Evans proposed Alan Jones. Seconded by Colin Brown
There being no other nominations Alan Jones was duly elected

Publicity Officer

Sean Adcock proposed Geraint Evans seconded by Alan Jones
There being no other nominations Geraint Evans was duly elected

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion of the way forward. Dave Beasley thanked committee for meetings. Sean expressed committees concerns that lack of numbers etc and the committees decision not to hold meetings except on ad hoc basis. It was generally agreed that meetings were not viable, although the possibility of occasional talk at Loggerheads/Llanberis should be considered.

It was suggested that in future there should be free entry to the competition for Branch members.

Geraint proposed something similar to Ronnie ball award for youngsters to be discussed by committee.
There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15pm