



Cyfeillion Cronfeydd Dŵr Caerdydd

Friends of Cardiff Reservoirs

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 12 July 2023 7pm

Cyncoed Methodist Church, Westminster CF23 6SE

PRESENT: 51 voting members and 2 observers

CHAIR: Peter Fullerton **MINUTES:** Fiona Liddell

1 Welcome and apologies

Lene Gronning was welcomed from the Flat Holm Society.

2 Approval of minutes of AGM 13 July 2022

Minutes from the previous AGM on 13 July 2022 were approved.

Proposer Sandra Veasey, seconder Amit Jain.

3 Chair's report: Review of activity 2022-23

The chair's report on committee activity in Appendix 1.

4 Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts

The Treasurers report on income and expenditure up to the end of 2022 is in Appendix 2.

The accounts were approved. Proposer Fiona Mansell Edwards; seconder Angela Weekes.

5 Appointment of independent reviewer for the accounts

The appointment of Richard Norton was approved as independent reviewer for the coming year.

6 Members subscription

Subscription remains at £5 for individuals £10 for household members annually, payable by bank transfer, standing order, cheque or cash. Next years subscriptions will fall due in January 2024 and a reminder to members will be sent.

7 **Executive Committee Vacancies:**

- a. **Chair** – Peter Fullerton was confirmed as Chair (nomination unopposed).
- b. **Secretary** – Fiona Liddell was confirmed as Secretary (nomination unopposed).
- c. **Additional Executive Member** – Election (by ballot) for 1 vacancy. Rajeev Sharma was elected. The result was notified to all members by email following the meeting, due to discrepancy in the voting figures which first needed to be resolved before an announcement could be made.

8 **Any other notified business**

There was no notified business.

Following the formal business the chair invited general questions and comments. Key points raised are summarised in Appendix 3

A presentation by Sally Waters, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water is summarised in Appendix 4 and the meeting closed at 8.15pm

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Friends of Cardiff Reservoirs AGM

Chair's report: review of activity, 2022-23

My name is Peter Fullerton. As Deputy Chair and currently acting Chair of the Friends group it's a real privilege to present this year's activity report to you.

We're about to embark on a new phase with the imminent public opening of the reservoirs. And we'll hear more about the exciting plans for that from Sally Walters, who will be here from Welsh Water, later.

As we meet this evening we remember, with great sadness, our Chair Paul Davies, who died unexpectedly while visiting a friend in Salisbury at the end of December.

We have really missed Paul and had a real passion for conservation and the environment that was always evident throughout his active involvement with this group and many others in the area. He would have loved to be here tonight his enthusiastic contribution to the Friends group as our Chair. He, with the reservoirs about to open. He was also always pressing us to get these Friends shirts.

Just a couple of weeks before his death, Paul sent out his Christmas message to this group, looking forward to the reservoirs opening this year and encouraging members to join the many volunteering opportunities on offer.

Paul also made a hands-on contribution to the preservation and development of the reservoirs, helping to build a couple of the dry-stone walls next to Llanishen Reservoir.

At our Annual General Meeting last year Paul also donated an impressive bird house - which has been put up in the woodland educational area near one of the bird hides.

Our work goes on, of course. Throughout the last year, your Committee has met each month. We are very grateful to Annie Smith and Michelle Impanni from Welsh Water who – between them - have attended almost all of our meetings. Colleagues from Welsh Water have also attended and helped maintain a very constructive relationship that has provided a great variety of volunteering opportunities for members.

The Committee is also very grateful to the Reservoir Action Group, some here with us this evening. RAG campaigned for twenty years to save the reservoirs for the public and helped to set up this Friends group two years ago.

Following Paul's untimely death we have sought nominations for a new Chair and also for two other Committee posts where we currently have co-opted members who had put themselves forward for the original elections back in 2021. Many thanks to

those who have put themselves forward this time. We'll discuss the election process a little later in the meeting.

I would also like to pay my tribute to your hard-working committee for their fantastic contribution over the last year. There's a lot going on behind the scenes, sorting out our meetings, keeping in touch with Members, applying for grants, social media, finances, insurance, reaching out to other groups and liaising with Welsh Water etc. etc. There are so many emails and WhatsApp messages to keep up with, particularly over the past few days.

So my heartfelt thanks to Julie, Fiona, Ros, Amit and Sandra for all their work and also making our meetings such a friendly experience.

In addition to the elected committee, we also have a small number of working groups – so please let us know if you would like to be involved. As always, marketing, communications Welsh language skills would be particularly welcome additions to our team.

As of yesterday, we now have around 250 members with about a half of those enrolled on the volunteer management system.

Dozens of different volunteering opportunities have been offered in collaboration with Welsh Water. And some 70 of our members have taken part in at least one activity.

I've enjoyed taking part in a few of the regular Friday morning woodland management sessions and the recent dry stone wall building days. We've also offered biodiversity walks, a grassland fungi survey and – just yesterday – planting bird islands. There has also been training in diverse areas ranging from mental health awareness to manual handling.

In total, over 950 volunteering hours have been logged by members taking part in the different sessions. We are grateful to everyone involved, but particular thanks to our Friday morning “regulars” who have contributed so much to preparing the environment around the reservoirs for the site opening.

We now look forward to the Reservoirs and the new visitor centre opening to the public later this month – yes, it's finally happening! I had the opportunity to take a look in the centre yesterday – it looks really impressive.

Please do keep an eye out for our newsletters and social media (Twitter @FofCReservoirs; Instagram: fofcreservoirs) for all the new exciting opportunities that will now be possible. I, for one, can hardly wait. That's all from me for now. Many thanks to everyone for attending this evening.

Appendix 2 Treasurers Report



Friends of Cardiff Reservoirs Treasurers Report year ended 31.12.2022

The accounts have been reviewed by an independent accountant Richard Norton and signed off.

Income for the year consisted of a generous grant from Welsh water funded by Heritage Lottery for a laptop of £393.44 plus membership fees of £310.00 and a gift of £50.

The areas of expenditure were the laptop £393.44, software £79.99, website £147.44, DBS checks £72.00 and Paypal fees of £20.83.

This resulted in a small surplus for the year of £39.74

There has been a lot more activity in the current financial year 2023 and an application was made for equipment to the biodiversity fund which was successful so rakes, gloves, buckets and a wheelbarrow were obtained which have been put to good use by the volunteers. A further grant from Welsh Water funded by Heritage Lottery has been obtained to provide shirts, high vis vests and other items for volunteers.

Julie Lawrence ACMA

Treasurer

FRIENDS OF CARDIFF RESERVOIRS

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

for the period ended 31.12.2022

As at 31 December 2022

2021 £
457.99
48.25
506.24

CURRENT ASSETS:

Balance at Bank
Current Account
Pay-Pal Account
Unpresented Cheques

31-Dec-22

2022 £
527.47
18.51
545.98

REPRESENTED BY :

General Reserve Fund

Balances Brought Forward:

Balance at Bank
Current Account
Pay-Pal Account
Unpresented Cheques

31/12/2021

2021 £
506.24
506.24

Surplus of Income over Expenditure

TOTAL ASSETS

2022 £
457.99
48.25
506.24
39.74
545.98

On the basis of the documents presented to me, I confirm that the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet represent a true statement of the financial activity for the year 2022 and the financial position as 31/12/2022

Richard Norton

Hon
Auditor



**FRIENDS OF CARDIFF RESERVOIRS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31.12.2022**

2021 £		2022 £
	INCOME	
125.10	Membership Fees	310.00
500.00	Donations	50.00
	Grant from Welsh Water	393.44
625.10		753.44
	EXPENDITURE	
	Administration	
14.34	Stationery/office equipment	393.44
35.86	Website	147.44
	Sundry Expenditure	
57.99	logo	
4.24	microsoft office	79.99
6.43	paint	
	PayPal Fees	20.83
	DBS fees	72.00
118.86		713.70
506.24	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO RESERVE FUND	39.74

Appendix 3 Questions raised by members

Q Is there an MoU between FoCR and Welsh Water?

A The role of FoCR in relation to Welsh Water is described in our constitution. An MoU is, however, something we could consider.

Q Increased parking is likely in nearby streets, eg in South Rise and this is a cause for concern. Could public transport be improved to ease the parking issue?

A Ultimately these are issues for the Council to address.

Questions raised with Sally Walters following her presentation:

Q Will volunteers need to pay for parking if they are volunteering?

A Sally will make enquiries about this and let the committee know.

Q Will there be discounts for members at the visitor centre?

A This is something that the committee has also raised and will pursue with Welsh Water

Appendix 4. Presentation by Sally Walters, Welsh Water

Sally's slide presentation included the following information:

How far we've come:

- 2016 WW purchased the 999yr lease from Celsa
- 2019 Llanishen refill started
- 2020 restoration works were completed
- 2021 – 2022: Appointment of Contractors
- BECT – Visitor Centre construction
- Knights Brown – Footpath construction
- 2022 – 2023: Preparing for public opening
- Ordering fixtures, fittings and equipment
- Working with local suppliers
- Signage and Interpretation
- Community engagement/ volunteer opps evolved

Key milestones:

- Ongoing community engagement has taken place to shape plans for opening to the public
- Quarterly newsletters c10k households & presentations to local groups
- Pre-app planning consultation, overwhelming support
- 1851 responses were received - 5% objection
- 3,618 unique visitors were also welcomed into the virtual consultation - only 5% opposed
- Extensive ecological surveys have been undertaken to understand the site ecology
- Developing plans for opening the site to the public has required careful balancing needs of visitors, site ecology and operational reservoirs
- Watersports:

Hire (1.5 hours):

- Kayaking – single, double & triple
- Paddleboards & jumbo paddleboard
- Pedalboards
- Self-launch for kayaks, SUPs and canoes

Taster days – sailing, SUP and kayaks

Courses – SUP and intro to kayaking

Open water swimming – 1 hour sessions

Café:

- Breakfast menu 9am – 11am
- Lunch menu 12pm – 5pm
- Coffee Menu
- Sunday lunch 2 & 3 Course Menu
- Counter - Fresh Cakes
- Quick Coffee Service
- Full Table Service

Restaurant plan:

- Thursday – Saturday, 6pm to 10pm
- Full table service
- À la carte casual dining menu, changed seasonally
- Fresh local seasonal produce (allotments)
- Wine list (created with Blas y Fwyd)
- Proposed supper club - 2/3 course deals and theme nights

Grab & Go: (ground floor)

- Hot & Cold Takeaway Drinks
- Sandwiches / Wraps / Salads
- Handmade Paninis & Toasties
- Traybakes, Cakes, Dessert Pots / Fruit pots
- Ice creams & Lollies
- Hot Breakfast Rolls 9am to 11am
- Hot Pies / Pasties / Sausage Rolls 12pm to 5pm

Education offering:

- Working with Welsh Water Education & Community Manager to develop packages
- Expected to be fully available for September 2023
- Ranger activities and tours are in development
- Woodland Story Trail

Corporate offering:

- Celsa Room – 30 people
- *Taff Fawr Room - 12 people
- *Thurgood Room – 10 people

- *Can be combined into one room
- Café/Restaurant hire is available outside of normal opening times
- Delegate packages will be available for functions/meetings/training

Story Trail – Becoming Bright by Christina Thatcher

An interactive fable for children and families in the woodlands at Lisvane & Llanishen Reservoirs.

Follow the trail, engage with nature and load up QR codes to uncover the tale of Eleri, a young kingfisher from the reservoir. Eleri must complete an important test to earn her colourful feathers.

Commissioned by Cardiff's Child Friendly City Team who have created bespoke story trails in Cardiff parks

Funded by the Community Woodlands scheme, delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with the Welsh Government.

Volunteers:

Woodland management sessions planned for 21st July – 27th August 2023, to include building bird feeders, sewing meadow mix, family volunteering day, litter management and bird surveys.

Weekly ranger led volunteer workshops; creating paths in the education zone and the nature trail path.

Learnings from the ENRAW & Community Woodland projects are now being rolled out at other Welsh Water visitor attractions across Wales.

Site Opening and launch events:

Sally told us that the opening date will be Friday 21st July. **NB the opening has subsequently been delayed a week and confirmed as 28 July.**

A number of pre-opening events will be held and a wider launch in September. Volunteers will be invited to help with opening events.

Social media channels will be launched next Tuesday and a press event is planned.

Dogs

The decision of Natural Resources Wales is that dogs will **not** be allowed on site due to the sensitive ecology around wax cap fungi. Dogs will be allowed to the carpark and the visitor centre, but not the paths.

Sally reminded us that were it not for the fact that this is a SSSI site, houses would have been built and we would not have had access at all!

Open water swimming

An accreditation visit is taking place shortly which will then allow open water swimming sessions to be offered.

Two sessions are planned for the near future, one for the accreditation and one for the press launch.

Parking

This will be free for the first 1.5 hours. The car park has places for about 90 cars.