**Minutes of Friends of Margam Park General Meeting**

**Castle Library; Saturday 8th September 2018.**

**Present**:

A.Kennedy; G.Elms; A.Beaumont;J.Hunt;J.Evans;T.Barrett; S.Barrett; C.Barrett;N.Bown;D.Harries;B.Flint;A.Chant;L.Chant;L.Short; D.Short;D.Owen;H.Johnson;K.Edger;Jeff l-jones;L.Walsh; C.Beale;B.Carver; P.Nash; D.Nash; L.Rosser; S.Ashton;J.James;Denise Lambkin;Huw Nicholas.

**Apologies**: Huw Thomas.

**Pre-Agenda:**

Before commencing the agenda, Damien Owen was called upon to present Jeffrey Lewis-Jones with a painting to show the group’s appreciation of his work as Chairman of the Friends. Jeff replied by thanking everyone for the gift.

**Agenda:**

Chairperson apologised for the clash of dates of this meeting with that of the Archaeological Dig meeting.

She introduced all Trustee members to the main body of the meeting and went on to state that all members have a voice in the future of the group. The amazing work of the activities section was mentioned together with the need for further projects to be developed. It was suggested that a proposal board be added to the group’s face book site where members could forward ideas etc. It was discussed whether the use of the face book site was an appropriate media for communication between members.

**Charity Status:**

It was reported that the Friends have now been awarded Charity Status as from 1st August 2018. One member expressed her disappointment of hearing about the Charity Status via FaceBook .

**Communications:**

Communication with members will need to be improved and one possible remedy being to produce quarterly newsletters and regular emails re events etc. It was hoped to set up a dedicated e-mail address for members to express their views etc.

**New Members:**

A welcome pack for new members was in process of being produced. The pack will contain relevant information for the member, Voluntary Agreement, and the group’s Constitution. A contact list will also be given re different “sections” where the member may access further information of their particular interests.

**Voluntary Policy etc:**

Stated that the Voluntary Policy will be amended and improved to include Codes of Practice, harassment and courtesy to other members , management and members of the public who visit the Park.

**Park Management Meeting:**

Reported that there had been no reply of our request to meet with Management, without which some of our proposed projects will not be able to proceed.

**“Departmentalising”:**

Proposed to set up various sections within the group eg Heritage, Biodiversity and Activities etc.

**Bella Donna Concert:**

Tickets are being sold but a campaign for advertising it via face book and pop up posters in the area to go ahead.

**Links with other Groups**

Suggested that we link up with similar groups eg Historical Society and more recently, Keep Wales Tidy beach clean on 15th September. A few members will be taking part in this clean up.

**Door Keys for Courtyard Room**

This is being negotiated with the Park Management.

**Signing In**

It was suggested that all members helping out in the park to sign on in the entrance kiosk as well as our book in the Courtyard Room

**Courtyard Room**

Proposed that the Courtyard Room be given a makeover. The room is where we have the main point of contact with the public and needs to be improved. It was hoped to complete the work by the middle of October in readiness for the half term holiday. Anyone having suitable proposals/ideas please contact one of the trustees.

**Emily Charlotte Memorial**

Damian gave some information about the forthcoming memorial at Margam Abbey in November. All members are welcome but there is a restriction of 80 invitees to attend the reception in the Orangery afterwards. The 80 have already been contacted by Neath Port Talbot Council.

**Capel Mair Dig**

The costing of the equipment re Capel Mair excavation was approved. More details will be given in the meeting to follow this general meeting