

Wheelrights

Notes of AGM on 9th November 2020

Online by Teams

Present: Allyson Evans (AE), Eifion Francis (EF), Jill Francis (JF), Nick Guy (GG), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS), Patrick Tribe (PT), Chris Walsh (CW), Veronica Wood (VW), Geoff Wood (GW), Leoni Ramondt (LR).

Apologies: Alice Saville (AS).

JS chaired the meeting.

1. **Speaker: Leonie Ramondt Geni-us**

Leonie described her community E-Bike share project in Mount Pleasant. She talked about the desirability of e-bikes on Mt Pleasant due to the hills. There is an increase in share schemes eg car shares, so why not apply the principle to E-bikes? Leonie has identified a potential site (land owned by social housing) which could accommodate a locked bike park to hold an e-bike and e-trike. She talked about the strong community spirit of Mt Pleasant, whose residents have a wealth of skills and knowledge, which they are willing to contribute to the community. She thanked Wheelrights for our £100 donation (in addition to some personal donations), asking WR members to donate more and pass any information about funding opportunities to her by 21st December.

EF asked about security and Leonie said the compound would be locked with share owners having the combination to access it. A certain amount of trust was also involved.

2. **Reports.**

(a) Treasurer's Report

CW reported that Wheelrights was almost at the same point as a year ago in that we now have £741 in our account, and 66 members (12 left and 12 new ones).

Our expenses had been mostly the cost of printing the newsletter, room hire (before Covid) and donations/affiliations to CUK and the Environment Centre.

Questioned about why people left, CW noted that he does not usually receive reasons but speculated that it was due to people moving away, dying, or moving on to other things.

(b) Secretary's Report

NG reported that WR had continued its role as a "critical friend" to Swansea Council. We had helped the Council achieve record amounts of Active Travel funding which has led to the following new routes and improvements:

- Further work on routes in north east Swansea so now the poorer communities of Trallwn, Bonymaen and Brynhyfryd are connected to the network (although some sections are still unfinished).
- Improvements completed on Loughor Bridge (NCR 4) and Clydach crossing (NCR 43 at Mond) – due to longstanding campaigns by DN and David Judd.
- New routes planned (2020/21) for Olchfa, Cockett Rd, Sketty and Mayals Road (which is contentious). The new route across Stafford Common has been finished at last.

The issue of early consultation has been explored. While there was progress with Officers talking directly with Design Engineers (which never used to happen) this was often late in the planning process, so WR have asked for earlier consultation. One issue is lack of Council staff time and the Welsh Govt has recognised this and is allocating every Welsh Council money for more effective consultation re the new INM.

NG described community engagement as a more successful method of bottom up consultation and three schemes are now proceeding with lead roles by WR members:

- GAP with PT leading.
- Uplands Living Streets with JS leading.
- 12 schools project in West Cross with Dennis Dwyer leading.

He talked about the heated discussions around Mayals Road and made a plea for more tolerance, respect and listening to other's views.

Finally NG confirmed he was standing down as secretary and thanked all the Officers and members for their support over the years.

JS paid tribute to Nick`s contribution and presented him with the book “Epic Bike Rides across the world”.

EF asked about the Council`s plans for Mayals Road. Nick replied that there would be SUPs at the top and bottom (which WR supported) with the contentious Hybrid tracks in between. The Council`s plans have been considered by our Routes Group.

(c) Chair`s Report

JS reported on the growing importance of the Climate Change discussions and reported that a major contributor to global warming is transport which has not decreased its levels of greenhouse gases. He confirmed that environmental campaigns including Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth had contacted WR to involve us with their local campaigns.

He also talked about the progress made with new bike routes across Swansea. The Council had completed many of the easy wins, and was now looking at taking road space from cars and creating bike lanes, eg on Carmarthen road. He said we can anticipate more difficult conversations with motorists unwilling to give up road space for bikes, which will be a future challenge for Wheelrights.

3. Elections:

The Officers were elected as follows:

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Chair: John Sayce.	EF	PT
Vice Chair: Allyson Evans	EF	PT
Treasurer & Membership: Chris Walsh.	EF	PT
Secretary: Dareyoush Rassi.	DN	NG

DR in accepting his nomination stressed that he saw himself as an interim secretary until someone with longer experience of Wheelrights stepped forward.

4. AOB

PT reported on recent discussions regarding the GAP campaign with Councillor Lyndon Jones and AM Rebecca Evans. They are exploring Safe Routes to Communities for future funding (of a walking/bike path across Clyne Common) instead of Active travel, which could potentially decouple Clyne Common from Mayals Rd. JS praised the work of GAP and encouraged them to keep at it.

Prepared by
Nick Guy