

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 29 August 2017

at the Aberdeen Grammar FP Club Centre, Queens Road, Aberdeen

* Individual Member Trustee; ** Organisational Representative Trustee

Present: Hamish Clunas (Aberdeen HWC), Catherine Lacy** (Secretary and Cults HWC), Carlos Oldani (Stockets HWC), Jean Robinson** (Acting Minutes Secretary and Cairngorm Club), Donald Thomas*, Dave Windle* (Chair), Peter Aikman (MBA), Brian Heaton*, George Allan*, Maureen Stuchbury.

Apologies: Alistair Beeley (Stonehaven M&HWC), Alison Mitchell** (Treasurer and Ramblers Scotland), Ken Thomson*

- 1. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest:** none declared.
- 2. Minutes of Council Meeting 30 May 2017:** After the following corrections, **8.** Third line “(S)he will advise George etc” and Leatherland not Leatherhead, the draft minutes were approved.
- 3. Matters Arising from above Minutes:** Actions were reported as follows:
 - 4.1 (bothies): D.W. had written to Simon Birch at MBA expressing NEMT’s view that more new-build bothies detract from the wilderness of the landscape, and had received a response indicating that many and alternative views had been received. P.A. described the shortage of bothies in some areas, notably along the newly opened Cape Wrath Trail. P.A. to encourage Simon Birch to communicate MBA’s position.
 - 4.2 (Natural Retreats, Cairngorm): D.W. has received no views to collate.
 - 5.1 (Financial update: Web hosting continues.
 - 5.2 (Room bookings): C.L. has booked dates and A.M. has made arrangements for payment.
 - 9 (MV copies): DT hasn’t managed to catch the AMC representative. Copies for AMC will henceforth be passed to D.T.
 - 10 (Lectures): C.O. has booked the Sportsman’s Club Room for lecture series.
 - 12.1 (ACVO sub): ACVO subscription has been renewed.
 - 12.3 (membership subs): Keeping track of subscription renewals and payments has become more onerous because of the additional task of changing mandate details. D.W. offered to help C.L. who will send an advance breakdown of subscription matters to the Trustees before the next Council meeting.
- 4. NEMT Management:**
 - 4.1. *Financial Update:* In her absence, A.M. reported by email that as of 13/07/2017 the bank balance stood at £10,209, with membership fees and donations to the amount of £610.75 still to be credited to the account. Payments have been made for the printing of fliers and leaflets (£27) and ACVO subscription (£25).
 - 4.2. *Membership subscriptions:* C.L. reported that 73 members had sent in new bank mandate forms, with approx. 33 members still to respond - C.L. to chase these. Seven clubs had renewed their subscriptions; C.L. to chase the 5 outstanding clubs, and to follow up the proposed membership of XXL Club. She did not have the number of individual members who have not yet renewed, but could now confirm that 14 were overdue as of March 2017; these would be checked with the Treasurer before following up.
 - 4.3. *Date of AGM:* D.W will be abroad on 28/11/2017. G.A will chair the meeting but asked that his disappointment at the lack of other offers to do so be noted.
 - 4.4. *Annual Report:* A.M and D.W to submit their reports to C.L for compilation of Annual Report by the end of October.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 *SG Consultation on Community Engagement*: Ken had submitted a response on behalf of NEMT, and drafted a summary for *Mountain Views*.
- 5.2 *SNH report on Strategic Vision for the Uplands*: D.W. reported that he has submitted a report which will be included in *Mountain Views*.
- 5.3 *Student dissertation on Adventure Tourism*: D.W and D.T. reported that they had met with the Masters student, that the meeting was positive and useful, and that NEMT will be sent a summary of the findings.

6. Threats to Wild Land

- 6.1 *Cairngorm*: D.W. had written to Grant Moir, Chief Executive of the Park Authority, expressing the view that we need an agreed masterplan before deciding on the dry ski slope planning application. His response concurred. Current areas of particular concern are the planning applications for a dry ski slope on the area east of the existing car park, with marginally less concern over plans to extend the Ptarmigan restaurant.
- G.A. had inspected Coire Cas on behalf of NEMT, and in general reported that time, nature, grass seed and appropriate drainage channels are allowing some recovery. However, heavy machinery used to drag out redundant infrastructure is causing further erosion tracks which will require further restoration. There were mixed views as to the appropriateness of supporting the Save the Ciste campaign. G.A. to circulate the link. No NEMT action until discussed further.
- An Camas Mhor*: CNPA have renewed the time-expired planning application for a further 3 years.
- 6.2 *Glendye Wind Farm*: G.A. reported that as yet no application has been published. D.T. further clarified that a positive communication with Save Clachnaben suggests that the planning application will be submitted in October. <https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=Save+Clachnaben&oq=Save+Clachnaben&aqs=chrome..69i57.7144j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>
- 6.3 *Deer Management*. D.W. reported that the Government has instructed SNH to use existing powers. NEMT will take a stronger line with SNH. See MV for further information.
- 6.4 *Hill and Hydro Tracks*: G.A. reported that there has been a huge amount of activity for Link to respond to both by objection and comment. These included:
- Glen Clova: planning contravention notice issued by the National Park re hydroelectric track. Minister's Road: no application found for significant maintenance but Angus Council states that it was advised.
- Glen Prosen: failure to remove hydroelectric track and possible new tracks on the ridge to the west of Mayar: raised with the National Park.
- Monadhliath: claimed upgrading of track; assessed by CNPA as new, so may require full planning application.
- Ardtalnaig: no record of prior notification for upgrade; Perth and Kinross Council investigating. Also applications for two new track; concerns raised.
- Camusrory (near Sourlies Bothy) track: prior notification objected to on grounds that it is for shooting purposes only. Full planning application subsequently lodged; outcome awaited.
- Loch Treig, forestry track: concerns raised about the width of track
- Ben More, hydroelectric track: objection lodged to application.
- Glen Coe ski area, new track: SNH objection withdrawn after amelioration work, and track approved.
- A Link report with proposals is scheduled for 2018.

7. **Mountain Views:** C.L. required final articles in the next few days. J.R. to contact Save Bennachie, and B.H. to write small summary paragraph on Wind Farm applications.
8. **Lectures Winter 2017/18:** Carlos reported that the fliers are now available. Hosting and accommodation of first speaker required (D.W.). List of individual members and Clubs required for lecture publicity. C.O. to send publicity to C.L. who will send out to members 3 weeks before Lectures. C.O. to give Dan Bailey contact details to D.W.
9. **AOCB:** Copy of *Gaelic Landscapes* available for review: D.T. to review. M.S. has received change of address for James Friend, and will respond to British Library request for copy of MV. Scotways magazine copy taken by D.W.
10. **Dates of Next Meeting:** The next two meetings were scheduled for Tuesdays 10 October, and 28 November (following the AGM).

Ken Thomson, 11 October 2017