

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 22nd May 2018

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

* Charity Trustee as Individual Member; ** Charity Trustee as Club Representative

Present: George Allan*, Brian Cornock (Bailies of Bennachie), Catherine Lacy ** (Secretary and Cults HWC), Alison Mitchell** (Treasurer and Ramblers Scotland), Carlos Oldani (Stockets HWC), Jean Robinson** (Cairngorm Club), Donald Thomas*, Dave Windle* (Chair)

1. Apologies: Peter Aikman (MBA), Alistair Beeley (Stonehaven MHW), Alex Brown** (AMC), Ken Thomson* (Minutes Secretary), Stuart Young (XXL HWC). Received after the meeting: James Brownhill, Culter HC.

2. Declaration of conflicts of interest: none declared.

3. Minutes of Council Meeting 10 April 2018: with the following corrections, the minutes were approved, proposed by George, seconded by Jean:

8.3f Hilltracks: add at the end: Details of future monitoring to be decided at the next meeting (viz 22nd May).

12. AOCB: note that the last line should read MBA's **2019** programme (not 2018).

4. Matters Arising from above Minutes:

5.2 Finance: Annual report and annual accounts have now gone to OSCR.

5.6 Projector: Donald will liaise with Dave to expedite projector repair.

5. NEMT Management

5.1. Membership and Subscriptions: Catherine reported that this year 91 members have paid by standing order; of the 9 members who pay by cheque, 4 have renewed so far; the remaining individual membership consists of 2 who pay via Charities Aid Foundation plus 3 Life members. One new member has joined since the last meeting. Catherine is about to email 2018 subscription renewal notices to organisational members (i.e. clubs and affiliated organisations). Note: clubs are bodies whose primary purpose is hillwalking or mountaineering, whereas other bodies which simply support the aims of NEMT (or where the sizes of the organisations are too disproportionate) are affiliates. See 5.3 below.

5.2. Finance

- Aberdeen Grammar School FP Club has doubled its room fee and added VAT, bringing the charge to £24 per meeting. As the sale of the building appears to be imminent, agreed to cancel the July GC meeting and Dave to rebook the final 3 meetings at the Sportsman's Club (likely charge £20 per evening).
- Cults HC has queried the size of our funds. After discussion, agreed that a more suitable target would be around £9,000. **Dave** to respond to Cults HC accordingly.
- **Alison/Catherine** to check with Inland Revenue about the necessity to keep signed forms for Gift Aid – if not, such forms to be destroyed securely. Bank details also to be destroyed securely after passing on to bank.
- Recent payments were the MV bill £635 and 1 year domain hosting £60.

5.3. Website: **Donald** to upload the pre-current edition of MV and the annual report and accounts. **Catherine** to send him the current edition of MV. **George** to redraft

website page about member clubs and affiliated organisations, to clarify the difference between them.

- 5.4. *GDPR Compliance*: Donald had attended a helpful workshop on GDPR. Agreed that we do not need to obtain further consent from our members to receive material relating to NEMT or similar organisations. Retention period for personal data is given as 6 years after cessation of membership in our constitution, so will advertise this in our Privacy policy. **Donald** to complete Privacy policy.
- 5.5. *Mountain Views*: Catherine reported the mailing had been lengthy, difficult and expensive because the weight of the individual copies had been over 100g. She therefore asked Dave & George if they could reduce the size in future. They agreed to precis consultation responses for MV while sending full responses to Donald to put up on the website. Donald will then send Catherine the appropriate links to go into MV. Deadline for Autumn/Winter issue 10th August 2018.
- 5.6. *Lectures*: Carlos reported he had completed the winter lecture bookings:
 - Wed 10 Oct Keith Fergus (Photographer) "Great Scottish Journeys"*
 - Wed 14 Nov Will Boyd Wallis "Conservation & Land Mgt in CNP"*
 - Wed 12 Dec Rob Mackay "Trekking in Nepal"*
 - Tue 22 Jan Graham Marr "Gaick Pass"*
 - Wed 20 Feb Ian Ralston "Hillforts"*
 - Wed 20 Mar Martin Moran "Higher Ground"*Agreed the first and last speakers will receive a professional fee. Also agreed to book the upstairs room for all lectures: larger, smarter and considerably less noisy.

6. Consultations:

- 6.1 *Community Engagement*: see website for further info (previous minutes).
- 6.2 *SNH Invereshie*: our response (from Dave) requested no unnatural planting, promote natural regeneration, plus various comments about signage, paths etc.

7. Threats to Wild Land

- 7.1 *Cairngorm*: George reported there is nothing further on the dry ski slopes proposal, but Natural Retreats have submitted planning application for revamping of Ptarmigan restaurant (interior plus altering viewing platform, all within the existing footprint). No objection made by us to this. However, the lack of a Master Plan for Cairngorm is the main issue for us, so Dave has written to G Moir, CNPA, saying we're intending raising this at a political level - they will write to local MSPs asking that the question be raised with the Minister.
- 7.2 *Glendye Wind Farm*: nothing further expected until summer 2018.
- 7.3 *Culachy windfarm*: appeal failed so no windfarm here. Landscape grounds were quoted as a reason.
- 7.4 *Caplich windfarm*: thrown out by government, again citing landscape effects on neighbouring Wild Land areas.
- 7.5 *Hill & Hydro*:
 - *NTS Glen Quoich*: their application for a replacement track west of current washed-out track has been withdrawn, they are likely to submit a full planning application for this track.
 - *Dalwhinnie quarry*: planning application for existing small quarry to be enlarged hugely for a now 35-year life has been objected to as size inappropriate, ditto lifespan (as stated intent actually far briefer). Would be visible from two Wild Land areas.

- *Dinnet Estate*: Prior Notification for maintenance of 2 existing tracks. Commented (but not objected) on various grounds such as lack of protection of water courses.
- *Dalnacardach*: this section of Beaully-Denny construction track has no planning permission. Awaiting result of site meeting before objecting.
- *LINK Hilltracks Campaign*: the LINK Hilltrack report (Track Changes 2) will be published in the autumn. Future monitoring of planning applications – agreed that **George and Sandy** to continue to monitor CNP applications only, and seek more volunteers to help with this. **Catherine** to redesign new member areas of interest letter to reflect this. Under GDPR, any such information to be passed to Dave and George for action and not kept.
- *Bennachie*: Jean reported nothing further of interest so far.

8. AOCB: none.

9. Date of Next Meeting: 7:30pm, **28th August 2018 (note 10th July meeting cancelled) location to be confirmed.**

Post meeting note: Peter Aikman emailed prior to the meeting that Strathy South windfarm has been allowed, which puts a question mark over the Croft House bothy, situated only 60m from a tower.

Catherine Lacy 22nd May 2018