

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 28th August 2018

at the Sportsman's Club, 11 Queens Road, Aberdeen

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

Present: George Allan*, Alex Brown (AMC)**, Brian Cornock (Bailies of Bennachie), Frank Kelly (AHWC, observer), Alison Mitchell** (Treasurer and Ramblers Scotland), Carlos Oldani (Stockets HWC), Jean Robinson** (Cairngorm Club), Donald Thomas*, Ken Thomson* (Minutes Secretary), Dave Windle* (Chair)

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Beeley (Stonehaven MHW), Catherine Lacy** (Secretary and Cults HWC), Richard Spencer (MBA)
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none declared.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 22 May 2018:** approved (prop/sec: Donald, Jean)
4. **Matters Arising from above Minutes:** 5.3 *Website:* some redrafting was proposed, but decided against. A £20 room charge for the new location was confirmed.
5. **NEMT Management**
 - 5.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* It was reported that Catherine was chasing up 5 Organisational Members and “a small handful” of Individual Members. There were no more unidentifiable Members.
 - 5.2. *Finance:* Alison reported recent payments for ACVO subscription renewal and flyer printing, and receipts from donations from Sandy England's funeral (about £400 plus later cheques). £150 had been sent to SE Link as further support for the Hill Tracks Campaign. The following future payments were discussed, and agreed:
 - cost of new projector, if needed (from above £400)
 - £20 to mark Jen Anderson's retiral from SE LINK
 - £200 to Mend Our Mountains campaign, for Ben a'Ghlo pathworkIt was agreed to have the end-of-year accounts available for the 27 November 2018 Council meeting, preferably after examination by Malcolm Lamont; layout to be agreed by Alison, Dave and George.
George to check OSCR requirements for annual accounts and report.
Donald reported that gift aid form business had not yet been concluded, and it was agreed to keep this on the agenda.
 - 5.3. *LINK subscription:* LINK has consulted on changes to its subscription system; its preferred option would mean that NEMT's subscription would rise to over £200, phased in over three years. After discussion with Dave, George had advised LINK that it supported this option.
 - 5.4. *Website:* Donald reported that the accounts had been uploaded but that the information re Organisational Members was not very user-friendly, and was to be edited. The last-but-one issue of *Mountain Views* would be uploaded.
 - 5.5. *GDPR Compliance:* Donald tabled a draft final version of the NEMT Privacy Statement; this was agreed, subject to inclusion of the Trust's charity number and SCIO status, and that Maureen Stuchbury would be considered a voluntary Council member for GDPR purposes. Members would be advised in the next mailing that this Statement would be on the website, with the link published in *Mountain Views*. Donald to send Catherine the link, to go with the 2018/19 NEMT Lectures email (see next item: Carlos to remind Catherine).

5.6. *Mountain Views*: It was reported that Catherine was somewhat behind with the forthcoming issue, which was needed by 20 September, to go out along with the Lectures flyer 3 weeks before the first lecture. The membership recruitment leaflet was tabled, but not for distribution with the MV issue.

5.7. *Lectures*: It was noted that door-keepers were wanted. Dave to buy new projector if needed for the first lecture, for later reimbursement.

6. Consultations:

6.1 *Cairngorms Nature Action Plan*: Dave to meet with Roger Owen on 29 August, to finalise and submit NEMT response on 30 August. The Plan was thought generally not very inspiring.

6.2 *Coul*: it was reported that Ministers had called in the golf course application, though this might only gain time.

7. Threats to Wild Land

7.1 *Cairngorm Mountain*: George reminded Council of the two planning applications: one for dry ski slopes (to which NEMT had objected) and a second for Ptarmigan restaurant alterations. Neither had yet been decided. Dave and George had written to MSPs to press Ministers over the lack of a Glenmore Master Plan. No further news re community buy-out of the ski area, but this was thought unlikely in view of purchase and maintenance costs (over £10 million?).

7.2 *Wind Farms*:

- Hoy: not known if Brian had taken any action.
- Glendye: Save Clachnaben website updated re expected application in September; George to keep an eye out, for possible action in October.

7.3 *Hill & Hydro Tracks*: George reported as follows:

- *Dalnacardach (Beaully-Denny)*: A reply had been received from the Minister's office, but only re process for restoration. Dave to write to Scottish Hydro contact re remedial works, with FOI as a "threat".
- *LINK Hilltracks Campaign*: report (to be published in mid-September) argues for removal of permitted development rights for agricultural (but not forestry) purposes. A lot of work is being done to brief MSPs, and to generate a press campaign. Andy Wightman to propose Stage 2 amendment to Planning Bill, but only for land used for sporting purposes in National Parks and certain other designated areas (in National Scenic Areas, tracks already require full planning permission). Not all political parties are likely to support this. A consultation is expected re permitted development rights more widely.
- *Garvamore*: track (almost to Corbett summit) approved, but will become almost irrelevant if giant Glenshero application is approved, with wind farm all the way to Fort Augustus.
- *Glen Nevis*: a new track in woodland near bridge below Stob Ban was approved, though reduced to Argocat width.
- *Morrone*: approval had been given to replace infrastructure (e.g. mast) at summit; George's note re damage to access track had been deemed irrelevant but had been acknowledged.
- *Ardtalnaig*: track (south of Loch Tay, north of Corbett Creag Uchdag) approved but with conditions including restoration of 'illegal' alterations to existing track.
- *Pressendye*: he had objected on NEMT's behalf to the bike track near summit (application APP/2018/0522). A letter had been received from an individual

objector (Ruth Crawford, whom he had directed to our comments/objection), and from the applicant (but he had not responded to this).

- *Quoich*: NTS had withdrawn its application for a track above the wash-out, to be replaced by a higher version. NEMT has not commented/objected.
- *Glen Etive*: Seven hydro applications had attracted a huge number of objections, including from kayakers, although the main threat for walkers was access tracks (which after installation often need not accommodate landrovers or even argocats, and were often not reinstated) rather than powerhouses or water flows. George had objected/commented on 3 applications on the east side of the glen, one under Ben Starav (waterfall), one to the north of this, and one opposite the south end of Buachaille Etive Mor, with a track through recently planted native woodland, which George had proposed be extended;
- *Glen Spean*: the aluminium company has applied for scoping reports in areas near Ben Nevis (e.g. Allt a'Mhuillinn) and the Grey Corries. George and Jean to monitor these applications.

7.4 Jean reported that things were “hotting up” re *Bennachie*, with the Campaign very busy. Arup would be holding public consultations in October re alignments: dates to be emailed to NEMT members.

8. AOCB:

- *NEMT Communications*: Donald reported that a “joining problem” had now been “sorted”. After discussion and voting (6 vs. 4), it was agreed not to circulate to NEMT members details of a photographer talk re Nan Shepherd.
- *Online Membership Payment*: Donald reported that 2 or 3 companies were offering this service at a cost of about 3% plus cost of card reader. It was agreed to include this item on the agenda for the next Council meeting (Donald, Catherine, Alison).
- *ScotWays newsletter*: receipt reported by Maureen
- *Cotswold discounts*: needed information was supplied to Maureen
- *British Library holdings of Mountain Views*: “missing” issues (69, 71) supplied by Alison.

9. **Date of Next Meetings:** 7:30pm, 9 October and 27 November, in Sportsman’s Club.

Ken Thomson, 28 September 2018