

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.50 pm Tuesday 5 March 2019
at the Sportsman's Club, 11 Queens Road, Aberdeen

Present: Debbie Fielding (Cairngorm Club), Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Secretary & Culter HWC), Alison Mitchell** (Treasurer and Ramblers Scotland), Carlos Oldani (Stockets HWC), Jean Robinson*, Richard Spencer (MBA), Donald Thomas*, Ken Thomson* (Minutes Secretary), Dave Windle* (Chair).

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

- 1. Apologies:** George Allan*, Alistair Beeley (Stonehaven MHW), Alex Brown** (AMC), James Brownhill (JMT)
- 2. Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none.
- 3. Minutes of Council Meeting 29 January 2019:** these were approved without correction.
- 4. Matters Arising from above Minutes:** see below.

5. NEMT Management

- 5.1. Membership and Subscriptions:** Catherine reported 2 Life Members, 84 Members paying by Standing Order and 12 by cheque, plus 2 charity aid foundations (CAFs), making 100 paid-up Members assuming that the CAFs pay when notified of the new bank account. She undertook to circulate a report. It was confirmed that George had circulated a new NEMT letterhead.
- 5.2. Finance:** Alison reported that she had paid the insurance policy premium at £268.22, a rise of some £20 over the previous year. Ken queried why the Trust needed such an expensive policy when few or no risky activities were being undertaken. AM and DW to investigate the matter, and to circulate a note on their findings.
- 5.3. Website:** Donald reported no outstanding issues.
- 5.4. Mountain Views:** Dave reported no outstanding issues, though nothing had yet been received from Brian and Rob. Dave undertook to submit a summarised version of the CNPA LDP consultation response (see 6.2 below). Donald had submit a press release on the Clachnaben path project (see 8.3 below). Ken offered to submit a short article on Scottish Land Reform following a recent Aberdeen conference. Catherine agreed to underline the NEMT email address on the inside MV cover page.
- 5.5. Lectures:** Carlos reported that all arrangements were in place for the next Lecture on 20 March. For next season (2019/20), Dave reported that Alex Brown had agreed to succeed Carlos, and undertook to register himself, Catherine and Donald as Sportsman's Club members. He also reported that Liz Lindsey had asked to step down from her Lectures duties. It was agreed that, pending a substitute, one of the usual two meal hosts would normally carry out her work. Catherine agreed to advertise for a volunteer via MV and email.
- 5.6. Leaflet Distribution:** In George's absence, it was agreed to carry over this item to the next meeting.
- 5.7. Work Plan 2019-20:** the draft circulated with the agenda was approved.

6. Consultations:

- 6.1. *SG Forestry Strategy*: Ken apologised for not, in fact, having formulated and submitted a NEMT response.
- 6.2. *CNPA Local Development Plan* (due 5 April): Dave reported that a draft response had been circulated, and would be submitted once points raised by Jean (borrow pits) and by Alex and Debbie (if any) had been incorporated.
- 6.3. *SG Environmental Governance* (due 11 May): It was agreed that Ken should draft a possible NEMT response after input from Dave.

7. Threats to Wild Land

7.1 *Cairngorm Mountain*: Little to report, with no update on the snowmaking equipment, which had not helped much in a poor ski season so far. Repairs to the funicular would be expensive. It was speculated that repairs were likely to be carried out regardless despite some media suggestions that the site should be restored to nature.

7.2 *Wind Farms*: Nothing reported.

7.3 *Hill & Hydro Tracks*: George's paper was noted, as including:

- (i) Planning Bill: Start of Stage 3 still uncertain, but Andy Wightman again to lodge an amendment to bring tracks under full planning permission.
- (ii) Carn Elrig (Carn na Drochaide, NW of Braemar): has been raised with CNPA.
- (iii) Balavil (Monadhliaths): meeting of LINK and senior CNPA staff has been arranged for 12 March to discuss ATV-created tracks, based on LINK report.

8. AOCB:

8.1. *Adam Watson Event*: It was agreed to plan this as one of the 6 NEMT 2019/20 series, ideally with Des Thompson (Head of Ecology at SNH, and close friend) as speaker: Dave to approach him. Other possible speakers were mentioned. Other matters raised included:

- a. Finance: not a great NEMT concern, but perhaps donate any surplus to e.g. Cairngorms Campaign
- b. Location: somewhere larger than the Sportsman's Club would be wanted, for an audience perhaps around 150 if widely advertised: suggested possibilities included Kings College, T&L Building Foresterhill, James Hutton Institute, RGU
- c. Advertising: perhaps use EventBrite

8.2. *NEMT Trustees*: Richard was confirmed as a NEMT Trustee on behalf of the MBA, and Jean agreed to serve as an Individual Member Trustee.

8.3. *Clachnaben Path*: Donald reported that the Cairngorm Club had obtained a Heritage Lottery grant of nearly £10K for this, but would welcome a Ramblers contribution if one could be agreed in April.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**: 23 (not 9) April 2019, in the Sportsman's Club. Dates of future meetings: 4/6, 27/8, 8/10, 26/11, and (unless altered to suit Catherine) 28/1/20 (AGM and Council).

Ken Thomson, 26 April 2019