

**NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST**  
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

**Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 4 June 2019**  
at the Sportsman's Club, 11 Queens Road, Aberdeen

**Present:** George Allan\*, Alex Brown\*\* (AMC), Brian Cornock (Bailies of Bennachie), Catherine Lacy-Roberts\*\* (Secretary & Culter HWC), Alison Mitchell\*\* (Treasurer and Ramblers Scotland), Carlos Oldani (Stockets HWC), Richard Spencer (MBA), Donald Thomas\* (Chair, in absence of Dave Windle), Ken Thomson\* (Minutes Secretary)

\* Charity Trustee as Individual Member; \*\* Charity Trustee as Club Rep

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Beeley (Stonehaven MHW), Debbie Fielding (Cairngorm Club), Roger Owen (Stonehaven M&HC), Dave Windle\*
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 23 April 2019:** with two corrections, these were approved.
4. **Matters Arising from above Minutes:** see below.
5. **Dates of Next Meetings:** *These were agreed* as 27/8, 8/10, 26/11 and 28/1/2020
6. **NEMT Management**
  - 6.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Catherine reported 2 or 3 possible new individual members, but some clubs still to pay their subscriptions
  - 6.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that she had paid for printing *Mountain Views* (MV) and for web services, and there had been some income from shop sales of MV. She had received a note of thanks from Malcolm Lamont for the gift card sent to him. She had been notified that the LINK subscription was due to increase, as expected, from £125 to £150. The Trust's balance on 26 April had stood at about £12,000, and she asked for Council agreement that she could link online sight of the Trust's balance and recent transactions to her personal account: *this was agreed*.
  - 6.3. *Website:* Donald reported that this had been updated with the previous MV issue and consultation responses, and he requested the recent MV for similar treatment.
  - 6.4. *Mountain Views:* Catherine reported that she would be away in early September, and requested material by 9 August, so that the issue could be posted in mid-September. Contents to include: Adam Watson tribute, Clachnaben path and nearby windfarm application, and Ramblers Scotland as a campaigning organisation. Contributors to submit material by 9 August.
  - 6.5. *Lectures:* Alex reported that 4 speakers had been agreed: Andy Howard (on hare photography) on 30/10, Simon Sawers (on NZ trip) on 11/12, Kenny Webster (on AMRT) and Nick Kempe. Di Gilbert had declined, and he would seek a climbing speaker. Some discussion took place on alternative locations, in terms of convenience, space, etc.; it was reported that Kings College did not charge charities. It was agreed that, for simplicity and other reasons, such as the recent break-even situation, 2019/20 lectures should continue at the Sportsman's Club.
  - 6.6. *Leaflet Distribution:* George introduced his email paper (copy to be filed with minutes), and discussion took place on textual details. *It was agreed* that a number of new outlet locations should be explored, e.g. Inverurie shops (George), Transition Extreme, visitor centres. *It was agreed* that two leaflets (membership

and lectures) should be maintained (Donald disagreeing but willing to accept for a further year).

7. **Adam Watson Event:** Ken reported that Roger had emailed him and Dave to say that Des Thompson had expressed willingness to help, but that a personal contribution as well as a forward-looking ecological one was needed; it was felt that Dave, as well as the “Watson video”, would fulfil this need. *It was agreed* that it was important to get a date fixed, preferably in mid-October or in November. Ken to convey this to Roger.

8. **Consultations:**

- 8.1. *SG Environmental Governance:* Ken reported that the NEMT response had been submitted on time.
- 8.2. *Forestry & Land Scotland (FLS) Draft Corporate Plan:* Ken reported that SG had recently put out this document for public consultation, with a deadline of 5 July but with few mountain-relevant references. Ken to consider a draft NEMT response.

9. **Threats to Wild Land**

- 9.1. *Deborah Long, new LINK CEO:* George reported that this meeting had been useful as a general introduction, and that it had been agreed that NEMT would be contacted re any LINK/National Park meetings.
- 9.2. *Mar Lodge Estate Tracks:* A meeting with David Frew was scheduled for 14 June.
- 9.3. *Planning Bill:* George reported that Stage 3 was scheduled in the following weeks, with 5 “full consent” amendments from Andy Wightman. Clubs and Individual Members were to be invited to write to MSPs in support, or to sign a Green petition. If the amendments failed, a second opportunity would arise during the subsequent SG review of planning permissions, although this would probably aim at loosening rather than tightening planning control.
- 9.4. *Cairngorm Mountain:* The CNPA Working Principles document was noted. The Ptarmigan restaurant extension had been approved. George had objected to an application to Highland Council (with no CNPA call-in) for a tube slide and zipwire near the lower car park, on the basis of e.g. colour, despite its temporary/removable nature.
- 9.5. *Wind Farms:* Nothing reported from Brian. CNPA has objected to the Glenshero windfarm, effectively a southern extension of Stronelairg. The Glen Dye application was still awaited.
- 9.6. *Hill & Hydro Tracks:* George reported as follows:
- (i) ATV damage: on the agenda of the CNPA Working Group.
  - (ii) Rottal (Glen Clova): Angus Council had approved the mast application, but with landscape conditions re tree-planting.
  - (iii) Glen Clova/Proven ridge: response received from Angus Council re approved but over-engineered track. George considering response.
  - (iv) Carn Elrig (Glen Quoich): response from CNPA still awaited.
  - (v) NE of Blair Atholl: retrospective application re borrow pit reclamation and vegetative strip approved with these conditions
  - (vi) Glen Gour hydro scheme: no Wild Land assessment, but approved by Highland Council despite officer objections.
10. **AOCB:** George reported that Lorna Byers had been in touch re a 10 June meeting of the Cairngorms Archive Trust, and George suggested that NEMT could donate a set of MVs. Catherine to check availability (alongside NEMT’s own complete set).

Ken Thomson, 28 August 2019