

## NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

### Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 18 April 2017

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

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

**Present:** Peter Aikman (MBA), Hamish Clunas (Aberdeen HWC), Brian Cornock (Bailies of Bennachie), Brian Heaton, Alison Mitchell\*\* (Treasurer and Ramblers Scotland), Jean Robinson\*\* (Cairngorm Club), Donald Thomas\*, Ken Thomson\* (Minutes Secretary), Dave Windle\* (Chair)

**1. Apologies:** George Allan\*, Alistair Beeley (Stonehaven M&HWC), Catherine Lacy\*\* (Secretary and Cults HWC), Carlos Oldani (Stockets HWC)

**2. Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none declared

**3. Minutes of Council Meeting 7 March 2017:** after correction of wording in item 12.2, the draft minutes were approved.

**4. Matters Arising from above Minutes:** Actions were reported as follows:

5.2: Work Plan 2017/18: this had been finalised, with items numbered.

5.4: Room hire costs: see minute 5.2 below.

6.2: Wild Land Assessment Technical Guidance consultation: Ken had submitted a response, to be sent to Donald for the website.

8.2: LINK Hill Tracks Donation: Alison had not yet progressed this, and requested a clearer audit trail for future decisions of this type. After discussion, it was agreed that future minutes would record a decision proposer, who would be responsible for supplying the Treasurer with necessary information (addressee, bank details, etc.).

10: Mountain Views: Maureen would continue with distribution.

11: Lectures: Dave had dealt with the microphone and door staffing issues. Carlos had not yet held a 2017/18 planning meeting, but was expected to do so soon. Dave had offered a “snippet” in Mountain View on locator beacons, but this had been declined.

### 5. NEMT Management

5.1. *Financial Update:* Alison reported that the old bank account had been closed, and archive files had just been received from Susie Smith. The balance transferred on 17 March had been £9107, and £120 had been received from RBS as compensation for delays. Income from the February and March lectures had been £51 and £26 respectively. The balance on 23 March had been £11304, and a £200 payment to LINK was due: see item 4 (8.2) above. George had requested a statement for OSCR.

5.2. *AGS FPCC Room Payments:* Ken had claimed, and been reimbursed, for the January Council meeting; no claim had yet been received from Catherine for the March meeting. In future, Alison would prefer to make direct payment to the FPCC, by cheque if possible. Dave to investigate.

5.3. In concluding, Alison expressed her thanks to Liz Lindsey and Suzie Smith, and suggested that such thanks be recorded at the next AGM and Annual Report.

### 6. Consultations

6.1 *SNH Technical Guidance on Wild Land Assessment:* See item 4 (6.2) above.

6.2 *Onshore Wind Farm Policy:* No submission.

6.3 *SG Peatland and Energy Policy Statement:* Dave was preparing a NEMT response but would not include “numbers” (e.g. efficiency costs) calculated by Ken. He would include comments from Jean, circulate a final draft for comment, and then submit.

## 7. Threats to Wild Land

- 7.1 *Glendye Wind Farm*: No further developments reported, except that George A. had identified a SNH/Aberdeenshire Council documents (see <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/11393/section6lct22moorlandplateauxmarch2014.pdf>, at <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/the-strategic-landscape-capacity-for-windfarms>) which dealt with the issue and area, and which he believed greatly strengthened the case against the Glen Dye proposal.
- 7.2 *Wind Farms and Wild Land*: Brian H. reported that he had received an official reply as regards the Creag Riabhach precedent of allowing a wind farm on designated Wild Land; this said that Scottish Ministers would continue to recognise Wild Land as important, and to “strike a balance” between renewable energy and landscape commitments. After brief discussion, it was agreed that Brian would hold this correspondence as a NEMT consultation archive (**All Council members** to send Brian similar items, past or future). Brian reported that it was believed that a neighbouring landowner was considering a judicial review of the Creag Riabhach case, based on public consultation at remote urban centres.

## 8. Hill Tracks:

- 8.1 *Cairngorm*: No update.
- 8.2 *George Allan*: had reported by email to Dave that (i) LINK had interviewed candidates for track monitoring; (ii) tracks on the Ben Alder estate and at south Drumochter had been badly reinstated; (iii) he was monitoring paths and tracks in other areas, e.g. Loch Quoich, and Ardtalnaig Farm S. of Loch Tay; (iv) he was trying to contact a Heads of Planning Scotland group about widening categories of ‘permitted development’.
9. *Mountain Views*: Ken reported that Catherine was confident about posting out the forthcoming issue next week.

10. **Lectures**: See item 4 (11) above.

## 11. AOCB:

- 12.1 *SNH Online Path Survey*: Chris York had requested NEMT support for this, though concerned about the investment/maintenance balance. **Ken** to send **Dave** some points for a message recommending this survey to NEMT members.
- 12.2 *Dry Ski Slope on Cairngorm*: **Dave** to ask **George** to monitor planning applications, and **Dave** to liaise with Cairngorms Campaign etc., in anticipation of objections. Jean queried the grounds for objecting; Dave highlighted landscape.
- 12.3 *Bennachie*: Jean reported that the area had recently received local special landscape designation approval, and that the Inverurie Business Group preferred the eastern A96 route, which was good news. Brian C. reported that two £10K projects were being funded, one for wildlife cameras, and another for a “Digital Bennachie” mobile app for the Colony Trail. A historic garden was to be established next to one of the colony houses.

12. **Dates of Next Meeting**: Tuesday 30 May (re-arranged from 23 May)

Ken Thomson, April 2017