

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 10 October 2017

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

* Individual Member Trustee; ** Organisational Representative Trustee

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

- 1. Apologies:** Carlos Oldani (Stockets HWC)
- 2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest:** D.W. declared a recent CHWC donation.
- 3. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting 29 August 2017:** After correction of some trustee designations and some minor points, these were accepted as a correct record.
- 4. Matters Arising from above Minutes:** Actions were reported as follows:

Minute 4.1 of 30 May: *MBA new bothies:* D.W. reported that MBA had not yet formally adopted a policy, but that there seemed to be general support in that quarter.

G.A. reported results of MBA member questionnaire survey (%s Y/N/DK):

- More shelters reduce pressure: 47/20/33
- MBA should work with like-minded organisations: 88/12
- New simple shelters are needed where none exist: 70/6/24
- Should the range of people using bothies be broadened: 43/33/24

P.A. reported that the MBA were to gather views from e.g. JMT, and that **many** were **in favour of new** bothies. G.A. suggested that, even if new bothies became MBA policy, NEMT could influence MBA action in the NE. P.A. commented that new bothies were more likely to be constructed in the NW.

Minute 12.3 of 30 May: *Membership subs:* C.L. would send a breakdown of subscription matters (though not an “advance” one) to Trustees.

Other 30 May action items had been fulfilled.

5. NEMT Management:

11.1 *Financial Update:* A.M. reported that on 26/09/2017 the bank balance stood at £10,943.01. Two club fees had been recently received, along with a £20 donation from Drennan Watson, and £66 from sales of *Mountain Views* (MV). She awaited C.L. to report the number of missing subs.

11.2 *Membership subscriptions:* C.L. reported that she had not yet checked the situation with the Treasurer, but that at least 3 people had not yet paid. Out of 24 emails re standing orders (SOs), she had received only 2 replies; she planned to insert a reminder/enquiry with copies of MV. She had received 6 resignations. She still awaited 22 bank mandate forms despite paper and email communication. She had received 66 SO forms, and 10 people preferred to continue with cheque payment. It was confirmed that the XXL club has joined, which meant that 13 clubs were now organisational members.

11.3 *Annual Report:* G.A. reported that he had been sent a reminder from OSCAR, and that he or the Treasurer would submit by end-June 2018 a financial statement, signed and dated by the Chair, along with the Annual Report and the Independent Examiner’s report. He asked that the accounts be placed on the NEMT website, as requested by OSCAR: AM and DT to progress.

6. NEMT AGM 28 November 2017

6.1 Annual Report: It was agreed that A.M. would send the accounts to C.L. by end-October, though they need not be independently examined by then. G.A. noted that trusteeship, office-bearing, membership, etc. should be correctly designated, e.g. “organisational” not “club” membership.

6.2. Other AGM arrangements, e.g. subscription proposals, nominations: It was agreed that there was no need to alter subscription levels, but that Individual Member trustees would need to be re-nominated. D.T. was asked to check his status as AMC representative (or not). G.A. agreed to nominate all except himself. C.L. to invite organisational and individual trustee nominations.

7. **Consultations:** none extant, but G.A. reported that the draft CNPA Major Issues Report was due to go out for consultation “soon”; he would keep an eye open, via e.g. Parkswatch.

8. Threats to Wild Land

8.1 *Cairngorm:* G.A. reported that

- a. D.W. had written to Grant Moir (CNPA Chief Executive) re the “masterplan” with its two dry ski slopes and Ptarmigan revamp. Natural Retreats had withdrawn an application to CNPA (but not apparently to Highland Council) for planning permission for the ski slopes. D.W. would write again to Grant Moir. K.T. asked if a NR masterplan was actually wanted; G.A. opined that it might reduce the risk of “drip-drip” development.
- b. The Save the Ciste campaign was gathering momentum, but that it behoved all to be careful what was wished for, since some members were commercial. He had asked to be added to the campaign’s notification list.
- c. He had recently inspected the “mess”, and could report that much had been improved.

8.2 *Glendye:* G.A. reported that the windfarm application had been postponed until March 2018, possibly due to an access issue. He would be “surprised” if the application were to be successful, given its prominence from the Cairn o’Mount.

8.3 *Hill and Hydro Tracks:* G.A. reported as follows:

- a. Aldtalnaig estate south of Loch Tay: photos of bulldozed track had been sent to Perth & Kinross Council as part of the LINK hilltrack’s campaign. PKC had then investigated and advised GA that that this was work on existing tracks but much more than routine maintenance. PKC has ordered the estate to stop work and that applications should be submitted. Two new tracks (one north of the Corbett north of Crieff) had been proposed but then withdrawn, probably because of their purpose. These are likely to be resubmitted as a full planning application rather than a prior notification.
- b. Glen Clova Rothal estate: proposals for two new tracks objected to, and then withdrawn after “dislike” from Angus Council.
- c. Drumochter: removal of Beauldy-Denny track: estate had applied to remove tree-screening condition (should have happened by mid-July!) since conifers exist; G.A. had objected; estate had suggested copses not straight lines; G.A. supportive but wants to speak to the CNPA Planning Committee since he mistrusted the estate.
- d. Corrieyairick: Stronelarig track near Melgarve up onto Meal h’Aise, lower stretch “for forestry”, upper “for peat restoration”; G.A. to consider objecting to top section, partly since obvious link over ridge to estate on other side. Planning application not yet lodged.

- e. Glenfinnan: north of road, track to two small lochans to be created for hydro; no wild land assessment or track proposal; G.A. has objected.
- f. Glenfeshie: prior notification of 13 miles of new track (with some removal and narrowing) to remove conifers and encourage regeneration, and to manage deer numbers; G.A. has applauded purpose but has queried if all track is needed permanently. CNPA may not call in.
- g. Kinghouse: most mountaineering etc. bodies have objected to 3-storey hotel extension; G.A. has also objected, though briefly.

9. Mountain Views: C.L. reported some printer trouble, but copies expected the next day (after supply to printers on 19 Sept.!). D.W. suggested changing the printer; C.L. preferred to “have a word”. D.T. wondered if new software (e.g. MS Publisher?) would help; several thought not.

10. Lectures Winter 2017/18: A5 flyer to go with MV, A4 flyer to be emailed. The 25 October lecture was in hand, with B&B for speaker; D.W. to renew 3 Sportsman’s Club memberships. For 22 November, D.W. would be away; C.O. and B.H. to co-host.

11. AOCB:

11.1 Bothies: P.A. reported from NE and N area MBA autumn meeting that:

- a. Corroul: number of seats increased from 2 to 4
- b. Faingouran: £3.5K to be spent on replacing “ballroom” ceiling (and other work?)
- c. Hutchinson: windows replaced with toughened glass
- d. Ruighe-aiteachain: work almost complete: 2 toilets and septic tank
- e. Ryvoan: plans to install Dowling stove; roof needs replacing
- f. Sheiling of Mark: door to be replaced, along with improved light access.
- g. Red House: not yet to go ahead, but toilets to be as at Corroul (i.e. not septic tanks); lower roof marks?? to be retained (Historic Scotland)
- h. Glendubh and Craig: work due at both
- i. Schoolhouse: Caiplich windfarm objected to; decision awaited.

11.2 Talks: G.A. had spoken to Ellon MC

11.3 Munro Society: the Society had issued hydro track survey forms (D.T.).

11.4 TMTP (Mountains & People): Adopt-a-Path scheme being re-activated (D.T.).

11.5 Clachnaben: K.T. reported that Dougie Baird of OATS (Outdoor Access Trust Scotland, previously COAT) was thinking of a car park charging scheme, to ensure sustainable funding of path maintenance, and asked for NEMT reactions; these included: (i) parking diverted elsewhere; (ii) cash machine problems (e.g. emptying by G4S, as at Glen Muick?!); (iii) an annual comprehensive pass?

11.6 Future NEMT plans: D.W. suggested that the Trust be more pro-active next year, e.g. in recruiting clubs. It was agreed to consider such suggestions in January and/or March, as part of the next annual NEMT work plan.

12. Dates of Next Meeting: Tuesday 28 November (following the AGM).