

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

**Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.50 pm Tuesday 23 April 2019**  
at the Sportsman's Club, 11 Queens Road, Aberdeen

**Present:** George Allan\*, Alex Brown\*\* (AMC), Brian Cornock (Bailies of Bennachie), Debbie Fielding (Cairngorm Club), Alison Mitchell\*\* (Treasurer and Ramblers Scotland), Carlos Oldani (Stockets HWC), Roger Owen (Stonehaven M&HC), Donald Thomas\*, Ken Thomson\* (Minutes Secretary), Dave Windle\* (Chair) \* Charity Trustee as Individual Member; \*\* Charity Trustee as Club Rep

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Beeley (Stonehaven MHW), James Brownhill (JMT) Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Secretary & Culter HWC), Jean Robinson\*, Richard Spencer (MBA)
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 5 March 2019:** these were approved without correction.
4. **Matters Arising from above Minutes:** see below.
5. **NEMT Management**
  - 5.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Catherine's email report was read out: one membership change (death of John Berryman) and two enquiries; nearly all January SOs and 2 CAF payments received; membership cards or cheque reminders posted out with *Mountain Views*, and organisations to be reminded during the week.
  - 5.2. *Finance:* Alison reported no non-routine activity. Dave's 26 March email to Council was tabled: the insurance premium had been paid in March 2019. After brief discussion, it was decided to consider stoppage at Council in January 2020.
  - 5.3. *Website:* Donald reported that the January Council minutes had been uploaded.
  - 5.4. *Mountain Views* (currently in distribution): Catherine's emailed report was noted. The issue was considered satisfactory despite with a few photo glitches. Dave undertook to treat consultation responses differently in future, i.e. as one page only, with the full response on the website. Distribution to be considered at next Council meeting (Catherine).
  - 5.5. *Lectures:* Carlos reported that UKC posts were not deleted but would disappear in time. He was thanked for a good mix of speakers over the 2018/19 season, and a small net financial surplus. Various suggestions for 2019/20 were made, e.g. Nick Kempe (Parkswatch), Di Gilbert (7 summits guide), David Frew (Mar Lodge Estate), Helen McDade (JMT), Ken Crocket (SMC publications), Kenny Webster (AMRT), Heather Morning (MS). It was reported that (i) sufficient doorkeeping personnel were available, but the next MV issue might appeal more; (ii) Dave, Donald and Catherine had been registered as Sportsman Club members in March.
  - 5.6. *Leaflet Distribution:* Discussion focussed on the design and use of the current two leaflets (one aimed at membership, the other at lectures); it was generally felt that one should be sufficient. George to table a note on this topic at next Council.
6. **Adam Watson Event:** Dave reported that Des Thompson had failed to respond to enquiry. It was suggested that Prof. Alison Hester, a landscape expert at the James Hutton Institute (JHI), should be asked to speak on a suitable topic (but not on Adam's career itself), perhaps on Wed. 9 or 16 October at JHI which was thought would be available and free (to NEMT and to attendees) on such evenings. Roger to progress.

## **7. Consultations:**

- 7.1. *CNPA Local Development Plan* (due 5 April): Dave reported that the NEMT response had been submitted, and would be posted on the NEMT website
- 7.2. *SG Environmental Governance*: Ken and Dave's draft NEMT response was considered. Roger queried the mention of NEMT in the response to Q3, and suggested that the UN's SDGs should be added as a "principle". After some discussion, he undertook to circulate comments and revisions in time for finalisation by the 11 May deadline.

## **8. Threats to Wild Land**

- 8.1. *Cairngorm Mountain*: It was reported that (i) some Speyside businesses had gone under, (ii) a local trust (the Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust, AGCT) had received a HIE development grant, and (iii) HIE was to revamp the Ptarmigan restaurant.
- 8.2. *Wind Farms*: Nothing new was reported for local wind farms. A new proposal east of the road to Lairg had been considered but was not thought worth objection, and the person who brought it to NEMT's attention has been advised.
- 8.3. *Hill & Hydro Tracks*: George reported as follows:
- (i) Following the Balavil decision, the LINK Hill Tracks Group had met with senior CNPA staff to consider what the Park might do about ATV-created tracks, perhaps as an example to the rest of Scotland. Byelaws were thought difficult to establish and to enforce, but the matter had been referred to the Upland Advisory Group (of which Dave is a member), and an intern is to be appointed to map existing tracks. The relevant wording in the current draft CNPA LDP had been criticised by LINK as "weak", and the Park is creating a slot on its website for the public to register areas of concern.
  - (ii) Grey Corries: one hydro track proposal withdrawn but might re-appear.
  - (iii) Carn Elrig (Glen Quoich): nothing yet been heard back from CNPA.
  - (iv) Mar Lodge Estate: Dave to convene a meeting with David Frew et al.
  - (v) Glen Feshie: application withdrawn, and estate/Nick Kempe meeting scheduled, which Nick hopes a rep from NEMT will manage to attend.
  - (vi) Clova/Prosen: track had been prior-notified as "repair" or similar but in fact major work had been carried out; George had alerted planners.
  - (vii) Rottal (Glen Clova): mast proposal not objected to but George had suggested appropriate paint colour for mast, box, etc., and that tree-planting should be a condition of approval.
  - (viii) Blair Atholl (NE): a poor retrospective application for track upgrade called in by CNPA. NEMT has commented, praising the Park for the call-in.
  - (ix) Glen Bancher: similar to previous. Inadequate information, so NEMT will object.
  - (x) Angus: LINK HT Group has ceased national monitoring and George and Sandy McIntosh are now restricting monitoring to the Park, but George suggested that this be extended to include 3 wards in Angus: this was agreed.
- Alison asked about the unsightliness of hydro work currently underway in Glen Muick; George advised that this was partly due to the pipes being laid under the track, and should be temporary.

9. **AOCB**: A meeting had been arranged on 6 May with the new LINK CEO, Deborah Long (George, Dave, Donald?).

Ken Thomson, 5 June 2019