

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 8 October 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), Catherine Lacy-Roberts** (Secretary & Culter HWC), Jean Robinson*, Alison Mitchell** (Treasurer and Ramblers Scotland), Carlos Oldani (Stockets HWC), Donald Thomas*, Ken Thomson* (Minutes Secretary), Dave Windle* (in the chair)

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

1. **Apologies:** none
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 27 August 2019:** draft minutes *approved* without correction.
4. **Matters Arising from above Minutes:** Minute 6.6: Catherine, Jean and George to meet immediately afterwards to decide on distribution of *MV* and leaflets. George to report back at next meeting.
5. **Dates of Next Meetings:** *agreed* as 3/12 (not 26/11) and (post-AGM) 28/1/2020.
6. **NEMT Management**
 - 6.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Catherine reported that all clubs and IMs had paid except Granite City Hillwalkers whom she would re-contact, and 2 or 3 IMs, 2 of whom she would chase up.
 - 6.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the latest *MV* printing costs would be put into the 2019/20 financial year, but that recent printing of flyers had been paid for before the year end.
 - 6.3. *Website:* Donald reported that the previous *MV* issue had been made live, but that the Adam Watson event link was yet to be activated.
 - 6.4. *Mountain Views:* It was reported that the Autumn/Winter issue (#80) had been produced on time, and those responsible were congratulated. Dave undertook to draft a Spring 2020 issue contents list for the January 2020 Council meeting. Catherine lamented the paucity of photographs, and it was agreed that all members of Council would send her two *MV*-relevant photos (not plain “views”) per issue, with resolution, colour, caption, attribution, permissions, etc. as applicable. Sandy McIntosh was suggested as a further source of suitable photographs, but he was thought to have contributed enough already.
 - 6.5. *Lectures:* Alex reported that he was moving to Fife in November, and would therefore have to relinquish his local responsibilities although most 2019/20 arrangements were in place, and he could handle flyers from Fife. Door staffing for forthcoming lectures were agreed as: 9 Oct. – Alison; 28 Oct. – Jean (speaker to get accommodation at the Dutch Mill); 11 Dec. – Catherine and Alison (Dave to host). Maureen was reported as willing to fill any gaps.
7. **Adam Watson Event:** Alex reported that flyers were to be distributed soon (Ken reported that “Macaulay Road” should be “Drive”), and that Eventbrite “booking” was up and running. Other items were raised and decided as follows:

- Audience donations and contact details: not to be requested; NEMT to pay for refreshments if JHI charged for these
- Speaker: no charge expected; accommodation etc. to be handled by Roger
- On-site management of chairs etc.: Ken and Donald (Dave to deliver NEMT display to Donald); Hillgoers Adam W. bookstall: Dave to check.
- Opening: Roger (possibly after a JHI welcome); no door staffing required
- Adam Watson Youtube file: Alex to download for Ken and/or JHI to upload
- Marketing: usual channels plus Universities (incl. Student Unions) and JHI.
- Invitations: Dave has already issued to family as appropriate.

8. Proposed LINK-sponsored Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland: the nature and role of this Centre, if established, were briefly discussed. It was decided that Dave should ascertain these features more clearly, and, if satisfied, he should offer £500 as a NEMT contribution to its establishment.

9. NEMT Anniversary (40 years, not 30!): It was decided that commemoration should take the form of the Autumn/Winter 2020 issue of *Mountain Views*, perhaps half to consist of articles on NEMT developments, successes, themes, etc., some by invited authors such as Drennan Watson, Roger Owen and/or Nick Kempe. Dave and George would bring some suggestions to the January meeting of Council. Catherine reminded that an issue over 100 pages would approximately double the postage cost, but this was considered acceptable.

10. Consultations:

Ken reported that a NEMT response to the Forestry & Land Scotland (FLS) Strathspey Land Management Plan Brief had been acknowledged, along with notification that no immediate FLS action was expected. Dave reported that he had written to Alison Johnstone MSP on her Private Member's Bill on Protection of Mammals.

11. Threats to Wild Land

11.1. *Cairngorm Mountain:* George reported that the funicular was out of action for the foreseeable future, with repair costs estimated at £12 million and removal at £15 million. HIE might be allowed to go ahead with repair (even if partial removal would be much cheaper), even without an area Master Plan. Audit Scotland was interested in recent CML/HIE finances, and would report to Parliament, where HIE staff had been grilled at Committee.

Re the planning application to flatten ground south and west of the Day Lodge for snow-making purposes, more information had been submitted but no further progress was reported.

Cairngorm Vision: The NEMT document had been revised in light of comments from other voluntary organisations; its major themes were that (i) nothing should be on the mountain that could be sited elsewhere, (ii) skiing facilities should be reduced but modernised; (iii) there was no sustainable argument for a funicular, so that it should be removed (which could be done over 10 years or so); (iv) a Centre for the Mountain Environment at the base station should be considered. If the voluntary organisations were happy with it, the Vision would be made public.

11.2. *Hill & Hydro Tracks:* George reported as follows:

- (i) *Planning:* following passing of the Bill, the Scottish Government had produced a major document, partly re the review of Permitted Development Rights (PDRs). To some surprise, this had asserted that hill tracks “would be

reviewed as a priority”, which was good but not necessarily significant news. He, Beryl Leatherhead and Helen Todd would meet in early November to consider the “best” hill tracks (i.e. open moor, not necessarily forestry, tracks) to be used to inform the review. Ministers would be lobbied directly, since the voluntary organisation views were well known.

- (ii) *Glen Shiro Forestry/Moor Track*: Highland Council had decided to condition approval on standard track width but not a central grass strip.
- (iii) *Glen Clova*: CNPA had decided to enforce removal of the upper section of the unapproved track above the hotel, and to require retrospective application for the lower section; the estate could appeal up to end-October. This decision had been good publicity for the LINK-led campaign.

11.3. *Wind Farms*: Nothing reported.

12. AOCB:

- 12.1. It was decided that NEMT mail could in future go to Catherine rather than to Maureen (George to advise) and that Donald could remove the OSCR-registered NEMT address from the website.
- 12.2. It was decided that the deadline for Annual Report material (text and accounts) should go to Catherine by 6 January 2020, in time for distribution to members two weeks before the AGM: Dave, Alison, Catherine.
- 12.3. A replacement for the Aberdeen Mountaineering Club Council representative would be identified at the AGM.

Ken Thomson, 4 December 2019