

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 3 March 2020

at the Sportsman's Club, 11 Queens Road, Aberdeen

Present: George Allan*, Brian Cornock (Bailies of Bennachie), Morna Harper** (Aberdeen Mountaineering Club), Catherine Lacy-Roberts** (Culter HWC), Alison Mitchell** (Ramblers Scotland), Carlos Oldani, Jean Robinson*, Richard Spencer** (Mountain Bothies Association), Donald Thomas*, Ken Thomson*.

* Charity Trustee as Individual Member; ** Charity Trustee as Organisational Representative
In the absence of Dave Windle, it was agreed that Donald Thomas should take the chair.

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Beeley, Debbie Fielding** (Cairngorm Club), Roger Owen, Dave Windle*
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** None declared.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 28 January 2020:** with one spelling correction, the draft minutes were approved.
4. **Matters Arising from above Minutes other than as below:** It was reported that (i) Dave had thanked Jenny Watson, Garry Cormack and Will Boyd-Wallis re the Adam Watson lecture; (ii) LINK had thanked NEMT for its Environmental Rights Centre donation, as one of only two received; (iii) the Annual Report had been sent in to OSCR after a couple of corrections
5. **Dates of Next Meetings:** confirmed as 21/4, 2/6, 25/8, 6/10, 1/12 and (after AGM) 26/1/2021.
6. **NEMT Management**
 - 6.1. *Council Membership and Charity Trustees:* Donald read out a list of Trustee Council Members as established at the AGM in January. It was agreed that other Club nominations (see list attached) would be invited to Council meetings but would have no votes.
 - 6.2. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Catherine reported that most SOs had been paid, but she queried 2 or 3 names. The XXL club was now the Aberdeen & Shire HWC.
 - 6.3. *Finance:* Alison reported payments of £200 to Aberdeen MRA, £1,000 to OATS for the Glas Allt path, and £500 to ACT Heritage for the Clachnaben path. The bank account on 31/1/2020 had stood at £12,482, and she now had digital access to the account.
 - 6.4. *Website:* Donald reported that the Spring *MVs* contents list was about to go live.
 - 6.5. *Mountain Views:* The 22/3 article deadline was noted. Distribution would be as previously.
 - 6.6. *Lectures:* The March Lecture arrangements were confirmed. No expenses claim for the February Lecture (which had attracted many young people) had yet been submitted: Dave to be asked about this. The use of the upstairs Sportsman's Club room was then discussed. After the January meeting, Dave and Alison had approached the bar person, and were advised that this room provided no more space than downstairs; its cost was not discussed. For March (as for February), the downstairs room divider would be opened, the TV switched off, and the bar area cleared of others. The Club Secretary would then be approached re the 2020/21 season. Other matters discussed included audibility (Dave to be asked about a mike), chair-shifting before and afterwards, revenue (now often over £100), other possible venues (mostly costing over £100 to hire, but Aberdeenshire Cricket Club at Mannofield a possibility to be considered). It was hoped that Debbie F. would bring some ideas for the 2020/21 season to the next Council meeting. It was agreed to keep maintaining a register for those attending the lectures.
 - 6.7. *Work Plan 2020-21:* The revised version tabled by Ken was accepted, subject to a new logo. Ken to send to Donald.

6.8. *Insurance* (discussed under 6.3 above): It was reported that the current PLI policy renewal premium was about £270 p.a., up slightly from the year before, and that Dave had suggested by email that it be dropped, since the original rationale (outdoor survey work) had ceased. Various points were raised (e.g. risk of fire during a crowded talk), and opposing views expressed. It was decided to continue the policy (Alison) but to review the position each year.

7. Consultations:

7.1. *HIE Consultants Cairngorm Mountain Masterplan*: this was discussed under 8.1 below.

7.2. *Trees*: A short discussion took place; Ken to table a short paper at next meeting.

7.3. *National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)*: George drew attention to future meetings in Aberdeen, and undertook to supply the appropriate information (12:30 and 14:00 on 30 March: see www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/get-involved)

8. Threats to Wild Land

8.1. *Cairngorm Mountain*:

- i. George reported that, following the meeting with HIE (see January minutes), he and the others had met with the two of the three consultants (360 Architects and Jura Consultants). Their work was constrained by the mandatory assumption that the funicular would be restored. He had pushed the ‘Vision’ idea that nothing should be built high that could be located lower down. He drew attention to the two online questionnaires, with their 8 March deadline. The consultants are expected to report in (late?) spring, with the (draft?) Masterplan (on the ski area infrastructure and visitor management) presumably to be published after that.
- ii. It was reported that Dave had drafted (but not yet sent) a “closed system” letter, for ministers etc. when timing thought appropriate.

8.2. *Hill & Hydro Tracks*: George reported that

- i. The SG review of the Prior Notification system had been expected to start in February but had not done so. LINK stood ready to respond.
- ii. Re Clova, (a): he had at last received a long letter from Angus Council responding to his request for its rejection of the alleged breach of planning conditions which he had submitted on the Glen Prosen/Clova ridge track. He considered further effort on that track not worthwhile, but LINK is consider writing to Angus Council re hill tracks generally; (b) there had been no further news on the appeal against removal of the “hotel track”; (c) CNPA had called in the application for a track (where wild cats sighted) west of the river and hotel.
- iii. CNPA monitoring by Sandy McIntosh and Carlos was working well.

8.3. *Wind Farms*: George reported that the Glenshero application are likely to go to a planning inquiry; LINK and JMT (but not NEMT) would be represented.

9. **AOCB**: Alison asked where newsletters/magazines (e.g. from APRS and ScotWays) posted to NEMT were now going. Donald agreed to ask Maureen Stuchbury to confirm that none were still coming to her.

Ken Thomson, 22 April 2020

NEMT Council 2020-21

"The persons serving on the Council shall be the Charity Trustees of the Trust for the purposes of the SCIO Regulations and other statutory requirements."

George	Allan	Individual	IndivMemb
Brian	Heaton	Individual	IndivMemb
Jean	Robinson	Individual	IndivMemb
Donald	Thomas	Individual	IndivMemb
Ken	Thomson	Individual	IndivMemb
David	Windle	Individual	IndivMemb
Debbie	Fielding	Cairngorm Club	OrgRep
Morna	Harper	Aberdeen Mountaineering Club	OrgRep
Catherine	Lacy	Culter HWC	OrgRep
Alison	Mitchell	Ramblers Scotland	OrgRep
Roger	Owen	Stonehaven Mountaineering & Hillwalking Club	OrgRep
Richard	Spencer	Mountain Bothies Association	OrgRep

Non-Trustee names below are invited to Council meetings but do not have voting rights.

Alistair	Beeley	Stonehaven Mountaineering & Hillwalking Club
Archie	Brock	Granite City Hillwalkers
Brian	Cornock	Baillies of Bennachie
Heather	Eddie	Aberdeen Hillwalking Club
John	Hughes	BOOTS
Liz	Jackson	Stocket Hillwalking Club
Tessa	Jones	Badenoch & Strathspey Conservation Group
Gus	Jones	Cairngorms Campaign
Dawn	MacKinnon	Aberdeen & St John Mountain Rescue Association
Susan	Matthews	Cairngorms Campaign
Alan	Murray	Ellon Hillwalking Club
Carlos	Oldani	Stocket Hillwalking Club
Alison	Riddell	Scottish Rights of Way & Access Society
Somersal	Shepley	Alford Women's Outdoor group
Bob	Sivewright	Turriff Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club
Peter	Brawley	Aberdeen & Shire HWC (ex-XXL)