

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 6 October 2020
held via Zoom

Present: George Allan*, Brian Cornock (Bailies of Bennachie), Debbie Fielding** (Cairngorm Club), Morna Harper** (Aberdeen Mountaineering Club), Catherine Lacy-Roberts** (Culter HWC), Alison Mitchell** (Ramblers Scotland), Roger Owen**, Donald Thomas* (from 8:15pm), Ken Thomson*, Dave Windle*

* Charity Trustee as Individual Member; ** Charity Trustee as Organisational Representative

1. **Apologies:** Carlos Oldani
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 25 August 2020:** The draft version was approved without change.
4. **Matters Arising from above Minutes other than as below:** None
5. **Dates of Next Meetings** (via Zoom until further notice): 1/12 and (after AGM) 26/1/2021.
6. **NEMT Management**
 - 6.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath reported that nothing had yet been heard from the Alford and Ellon clubs, but that another member (Jennifer Brodie) had been (re-)recruited. Cath to contact Alford and Ellon clubs again.
 - 6.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the balance on 30 Sept 2020 was £10,348.28, after payment of £25 as ACVO subscription, and receipt of £21.75 as AHC membership fee. An invoice for £425 for 350 copies of the 40th anniversary Mountain Views has been received, along with £18 Adam Watson book royalties.
 - 6.3. *Website:* Donald had nothing to report.
 - 6.4. *Membership Leaflet:* George noted that no new leaflet would be produced this year.
 - 6.5. *Mountain Views:* Dave and Cath were congratulated on producing a “sterling” 40th anniversary issue. Cath reported that club copies had just been posted.
 - 6.6. *Lectures:* Debbie reported that all was arranged for 7 October, with “plenty” (up to 200) of bookings, George to chair, and Donald to collate questions. Alison agreed to receive and pay David Hetherington’s invoice for the agreed amount: Deb to inform David. Ken suggested that, if possible, Eventbrite be readied to receive November bookings at the end of the 7 October lecture. For January or February 2021, Mike Rivington had offered to speak on snow cover, and another suggestion was a speaker from RSPB Abernethy: contacts needed. Roger suggested approaching Simon Richardson for a climbing lecture, and Mark Aitken for first ascents in Nepal and/or Sherpa culture.
 - 6.7. *George Allan:* George announced that, due to the increased workload of his involvement in Climate Action, he would be resigning his Trusteeship and Council membership at the end of this meeting. He would maintain his main current NEMT responsibilities as follows, feeding reports to Dave and Ken:
 - *Cairngorm Mountain:* until the Scottish Government had announced its approval for replacing the funicular or an alternative development.
 - *Hill Tracks:* until the Permitted Development review (now pushed back to Stage 3 of the Planning Bill), alongside Sandy McIntosh and Carlos Oldani.Alison agreed to replace George as NEMT’s newsletter and annual sub link to ACVO (George to action). Dave undertook to raise the NEMT membership leaflet for Council

consideration next summer. A replacement for George on the Cairngorm Mountain work would be considered at the December meeting.

7. NEMT Policies: Mountain Biking: Dave reported that he had received helpful material, but had not yet completed his work on this: to be considered at the December meeting.

8. Consultations: George reported a current SG consultation (closes 12 November) on extending permitted development rights (PDRs), in particular as regards tracks (which landowners might misuse) for (a) digital infrastructure and (b) peat restoration. He understood that LINK would comment on (b), and he would consider and consult as to whether NEMT should do likewise.

9. Threats to Wild Land: George reported as follows:

9.1. *Wild Land Assessment:* NatureScot had recently released technical guidance on Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas

9.2. *Cairngorm Mountain:* a FoI request to HIE and an SP question by John Finnie MSP elicited the fact that HIE had submitted the business case regarding the funicular to the Scottish Government. Three further developments were:

- Dave had written to the SP Audit Committee, which had then debated the A-G's report on HIE; a good debate although not all questions had been raised.
- There had been wide media coverage
- All NE Scotland MSPs had been written to (and other non-SNP MSPs emailed), with response from the Conservatives, whose Shadow (Oliver Mundell) would be briefed on 7 October.

9.3. *Hill and Hydro Tracks:* Little to report, with almost no proposals coming forward. Thanks to LINK, Angus Council were pursuing the non-permitted Glen Beanie track.

9.4. *Wind Farms:* CNPA have objected to the Cloiche WF, an extension of Stronelarig.

10. AOCB:

10.1. *OSCR:* Ken reported that Donald had raised the need to report to OSCR by June 2021.

10.2. *Trees:* Morna asked about the fate of Ken's paper on increased woodlands in the Cairngorms. Ken agreed to circulate this to Council members shortly after the 4 November lecture on the same topic, so that at the 1 December Council meeting a decision could be taken as to future action, e.g. website posting, proposals to AGM on 26 January, article in *Mountain Views* Spring 2021, etc.

Ken Thomson, 1 December 2020