

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 26 January 2021
held via Zoom

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

Present: Brian Cornock, Debbie Fielding**, Morna Harper**, Catherine Lacy-Roberts**, Rob Mackay, Alison Mitchell**, Roger Owen**, Richard Spencer**, (Maureen Stuchbury), (Trevor Stuchbury), Donald Thomas*, Ken Thomson*, Dave Windle* (Chair), (Iain Young) (Names in parentheses in attendance though not Council members)

1. **Apologies:** Carlos Oldani
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 1 December 2020:** After the correction of two Trustee status denotations, the draft version was approved without further change.
4. **NEMT AGM 2021 Matters for Council Attention:** it was noted that office-bearers had been appointed as follows: Chair: Dave Windle, Secretary: Catherine Lacy-Roberts; Treasurer: Alison Mitchell; Independent Examiner: Malcolm Lamont.
5. **Other Matters Arising, other than as below:** None
6. **NEMT Management**
 - 6.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath reported that cheques were coming in, and that one new member had been recruited.
 - 6.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that (i) the bank balance at 25/1/2021 was £11,065; (ii) expenditure since the last Council meeting had included the monthly Zoom monthly fee plus an additional payment of £48 for a bigger audience. Income had come from membership fees (£12 but with several paying more) and a £34.99 Hillgoers commission.
 - 6.3. *Website:* Donald reported that the autumn newsletter was ready to go “live”.
 - 6.4. *Mountain Views:* Dave reported that he would re-draft the contents list circulated in December in light of comments received, and would re-circulate this, with a manuscript deadline of 15 March.
 - 6.5. *Lectures:* Debbie was congratulated on the success of the Lectures so far, with statistics circulated by Donald showing bookings of 430 (Lynx, October), 160 (Trees), 64 (OATS) and 299 (Snow), many made in the last 2 days, and attendances around two-thirds of these. It was agreed that a booking reminder should be sent out about a week before each Lecture. Debbie reported that Carlos had sent her emails relating to P&J announcements; she had not so far explored these since the format and cost had been unclear to her. It was thought that the P&J would accept any short announcement without charge, and Debbie agreed to try this in February/March. For the 2021/22 season, she would try to avoid Cairngorm Club dates as far as possible. Dave suggested that the format of the 2021/22 season Lectures should be discussed at the next Council meeting, since Sportsman’s Club membership would be due for renewal later in the year. This was agreed. Maureen suggested that the NEMT “spiel” at Lectures should mention the “very reasonable” £12 cost of NEMT membership, and Dave agreed to include this. Roger reported that SWT asked attendees to donate at each talk, apparently via Zoom and/or Eventbrite; Donald agreed to explore this, e.g. payment method. It was agreed that Deb could purchase a thankyou gift for Mike Rivington after his Snow talk.

7. **Dates of Next Council Meetings** (via Zoom until further notice): These were agreed as: 2/3, 20/4, 1/6, 24/8, 5/10*, 30/11 and 25/1/2022, with the possible clash (*) with the “Challenging Upland Futures” event at Perth to be considered, along with a possible NEMT presentation there, nearer that date.
8. **ACVO AGM 9 December**: Alison reported that she had attended this (by Zoom), but was doubtful if NEMT membership of ACVO was worthwhile. It was agreed to consider this membership before its renewal became due later in the year.
9. **Cairngorm Campaign AGM 16 December**: Ken reported that he had attended this (by Zoom). He had found the meeting hard to follow, but reported some possible changes in Board membership and in the Campaign’s future focus. It was agreed that he should contact the Campaign for up-to-date information, which was not available on its website.
10. **NEMT Policies**
 - 10.1. *Mountain Biking*: Dave’s policy paper (circulated in advance) was discussed. It was noted that it contained a good deal of background and discussion as well as actual draft NEMT policy. The rising use of electric bikes was noted. Dave agreed to consider any comments sent, and to produce a more focussed paper in time for the March meeting.
 - 10.2. *Trees*: No further action at this time.
11. **Consultations**: Dave reported that he had submitted a NEMT response on the SG Land Use Strategy. It was agreed that Dave and Ken would prepare a version for *Mountain Views*.
12. **Threats to Wild Land**: George’s report was noted and discussed as follows:
 - 12.1. *Hill and Hydro Tracks*: No recent reports of applications or even of illegal activity. No date yet for the Review of Permitted Development and Tracks. The track behind the hotel and due to be removed might “disappear” within proposed mixed woodland to be created mostly in that area. Dave reported that the CNPA’s Guide on ATV usage, to be used on ATV training courses, was rather “soft”; he would circulate it when appropriate.
 - 12.2. *Cairngorm Mountain*: Dave reported that he would attend a Zoom group meeting on 27 January, and would report back afterwards. He would focus on NEMT’s “red lines”.
 - 12.3. *Wind Farms*: Nothing reported.
13. **AOCB**:
 - 13.1. *NEMT Work Plan*: It was agreed to send Dave any revision suggestions, for consideration at the March meeting.
 - 13.2. *Dave Morris*: It was noted that Dave Morris had been awarded the RSGS’s prestigious Honorary Fellowship.

Ken Thomson, 3 March 2021