

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

**Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 2 March 2021**  
held via Zoom

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

**Present:** Brian Cornock, Brian Heaton, Morna Harper\*\*, Catherine Lacy\*\*, Alison Mitchell\*\*, Carlos Oldani, Roger Owen\*\*, Donald Thomas\*, Ken Thomson\*, Dave Windle\* (Chair)

1. **Apologies:** Debbie Fielding\*\*
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 26 January 2021:** The draft version was approved without change.
4. **Matters Arising, other than as below:** None
5. **NEMT Management**
  - 5.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath reported that she had still to issue reminders, and to investigate online discounts, e.g. Cotswold. Four new members had been recruited, two using old forms. She agreed to supply Donald with an updated list of email addresses.
  - 5.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that (i) the bank balance at 28/2/2021 stood at £10,915 and (ii) expenditure since the last Council meeting had included a couple of monthly Zoom subscriptions and reimbursement to Debbie of lecturers' expenses. Dave reported that general opinion about renewing PLI insurance was *not* to do so, at least until lectures recommenced. *It was decided* to await information from the Sportsman's Club about their insurance position. It was understood that NEMT equipment stored in Trustees' homes was covered by their household policies.
  - 5.3. *Website:* Donald reported that the most recent *Mountain Views* was now available online.
  - 5.4. *Mountain Views:* Dave reported that all was in hand for the next issue.
  - 5.5. *Lectures:* Debbie's emailed report was noted, including that she had contacted the P&J about the forthcoming lecture, and that she had requested Catherine to send out details to members a week beforehand. Her suggestion that the autumn 2021 lectures should continue the Zoom series *was agreed*, with the position as regards the early-2022 lectures to be decided nearer that time.

The position as regards securing donations via lecture bookings was discussed. It was too late to implement a system for the March lecture since about 80 bookings had already been made. It appears that donations can be made via Eventbrite at a charge of 2%, but that two methods are needed, with and without the donation option.

It was agreed that Donald had authority to spend £48 if the Zoom audience were likely to exceed 100, but that in practice only about two-thirds of bookings actually attended.

The streaming of lectures via Facebook or Youtube was also mentioned. The social aspect of Club-held Lectures was noted as being of value, and Dave suggested the possibility of alternating between physical and virtual meetings. Donald agreed to investigate the possibility of making Club-held lectures also available online, either directly or by recording. In view of the low cost (£15 per member, i.e. £45 in total), *it was agreed* to continue Club membership, as and when that again became available.
6. **Work Plan:** The draft version circulated beforehand *was agreed*.

## 7. NEMT Policies

- 7.1. *Mountain Biking*: Dave's revised paper (circulated in advance) was discussed, and agreed as an "internal" document, with the Cycling UK code of conduct to be linked to the NEMT website, along with a short "context" paragraph (to be drafted by Donald). However, it was suggested that: (a) the paragraph on electric bikes should be amended/enlarged to make it clear that e-bikes were welcome to utilise purpose-built trails etc. (Dave agreed to circulate draft text on this); and (b) the whole document could be placed online with the above paragraph serving as a non-negative introduction.
- 7.2. *Trees*: No further action at this time.

**8. Cairngorm Campaign AGM 16 December**: Ken reported that the Campaign had now issued notice [not yet online] listing all Directors although as yet without a Convenor.

**9. Consultations**: None relevant were noted.

**10. Threats to Wild Land**: and discussed as follows:

10.1. *Hill and Hydro Tracks*: George's report was noted, i.e. that the launch of Scottish Government's consultation on tracks and permitted development was still awaited, and that there had been no recent applications of note in the Park. Over the past few months, he was aware of only two non-consented tracks constructed under lockdown, one in Glen Isla (already reported to Council) and one in Clackmannanshire: in both cases taken up by the relevant Councils. He remained suspicious that more may emerge.

Dave reported that the CNPA ATV guide would be in the forthcoming issue *Mountain Views*. The possibility of adding it, despite an awkward format, as a direct NEMT website link, along with a NEMT "welcome", was noted: Donald to investigate.

10.2. *Cairngorm Mountain*: Dave reported on the 29 January meeting of various interested bodies (though not the Campaign) as follows: (i) Dave Morris wanted a Public Inquiry, but this seemed unlikely unless perhaps under pressure from Edward Mountain MSP, who had written to HIE; (ii) there was general thought not unanimous agreement that the current repair contract could not be stopped; (iii) "jobs" were not a useful focus for campaigning; (iv) Audit Scotland were unlikely to become involved until after completion; (v) the "red lines" (e.g. plateau access) remained.

10.3. *Wind Farms*: Brian reported that (i) the Lowther Hills application in the Borders had been refused on the novel ground of "unacceptable visual impact"; (ii) the next stage of the Glen Dye application appeared impending; and (iii) the Corriegarh 2 Wind Farm application (in the Monadhliaths) appeared to resurrect part of the original application, and included 3 prominent turbines to which he (like Mountaineering Scotland) proposed to object.

**11. Dates of Next Council Meetings** (via Zoom until further notice): 20/4, 1/6, 24/8, 5/10\*, 30/11 and 25/1/2022 (\* possible clash with the "Challenging Upland Futures" event at Perth)

## 12. AOCB:

- 12.1. *Climate Week North East Active Events*: It was agreed that Cath should draw members' attention to some of these events between 12 and 21 March.
- 12.2. *Summer 2021*: CNPA/NTS preparations (rangers, toilets, parking) for the expected rush of returning visitors were noted.

Ken Thomson, 20 April 2021