

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

**Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 1 June 2021**  
held via Zoom

**Present:** Alistair Beeley, Brian Cornock, Morna Harper\*\*, Catherine Lacy\*\*, Alison Mitchell\*\*, Donald Thomas\*, Ken Thomson\*, Dave Windle\* (Chair) [\* Charity Trustee as Individual Member; \*\* Charity Trustee as Organisational Representative]

1. **Apologies:** Debbie Fielding\*\*, Roger Owen\*\*,
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 20 April 2021:** the draft was approved without change.
4. **Matters Arising, other than as below:** Ken reported that the late-April Zoom meeting held by ARCH, a community archaeological group based in Inverness and interested in C19 OS surveyor sites, had not resulted in anything specific.
5. **NEMT Management**
  - 5.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath reported that she was still chasing a couple of individual members, and about six organisations, for their 2021 subscriptions.
  - 5.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the bank balance on 1/6/2021 stood at £10,481. Since the last Council meeting, several Clubs and Organisations and a few individual memberships had paid their annual subscriptions. The £60 annual website fee had been paid, and £560 and £152 for MV printing and postage respectively. MV sales had resulted in £48 credit. No action had yet been taken on HMRC Gift Aid, but she hoped to start this soon.
  - 5.3. *Website:* Donald had nothing new to report.
  - 5.4. *Mountain Views:* The Spring 2021 issue was commended for its quality. Dave undertook to draft a contents list for the Autumn issue by end-June, and the deadline for manuscript was agreed as 20 August.
  - 5.5. *Lectures:* Debbie's emailed report was noted, and ideas were discussed for a further three speakers/topics, beyond the three provisionally confirmed by her, i.e. Roger Owen on Albania; Jill Matthews on Bennachie; and Grant Farquhar on Climbing. It was suggested that, if the Borders Forest Trust idea fell through, Andrew Painting should be invited to speak on Mar Lodge Estate and his new book. Along with Will Clark on Mountain Biking and a speaker on Skiing, this would complete an attractive 2021/22 programme. Other possibilities in Debbie's report included: SRUC on Upland Agriculture; Glen Feshie update; Roger Owen on Freshwater and Climate Change; Clive Mitchell on Geology  
  
Dates etc. were discussed as follows: (i) a regular week day was preferred, and Thursday suggested as a change from Wednesdays (Donald cannot make Tuesdays); (ii) the first and fourth weeks in the month should be avoided (this would also avoid the AGM near-clash at end-January 2022); (iii) Zoom should be used at least until the end of 2021 (a social event at the Sportsman Club in November was suggested).
  - 5.6. Debbie to pursue these suggestions, and to fix dates, as she sees best, with Council approval in August.
  - 5.7. *Dates of Next Council Meetings* (via Zoom until further notice): 24/8, 5/10\*, 30/11 and 25/1/2022 (\* possible clash with the "Challenging Upland Futures" event at Perth)
6. **NEMT Policies**
  - 6.1. *Trees:* Dave reported that he had not had time to prepare a draft consultation paper, but would do so before the next Council meeting.

## **7. Consultations:**

- 7.1. *ESS complaint*: It was agreed that a suitable case would be NatureScot's lack of initiative in challenging Invercauld Estate over raptor poisoning. Dave to progress.

## **8. Threats to Wild Land:**

- 8.1. *Hill and Hydro Tracks*: George's report (on Balavil and Morrone tracks) was noted, with some discussion over the Clova Hotel proposal for 8 chalets nearby: it was agreed that NEMT should not object to this, but confine its comments to suitable tree management. It was agreed that NEMT should not be seen as opposing the temporary erection of a mountain rescue antenna on Morrone.
- 8.2. *Cairngorm Mountain*: Dave reported that he had submitted a NEMT comment on the Coire na Ciste application as circulated, with additional remarks on waste disposal.
- 8.3. *Wind Farms*: nothing reported.

## **9. AOCB:**

- 9.1. *LINK*: Alison asked for, and received, authority to pay the £170 subscription.
- 9.2. *Brian Cornock*: Brian reported that he was retiring as a Bailies of Bennachie trustee, and hence from his role on the NEMT Council. He would continue to try to find a Bailies substitute.

Ken Thomson, 25 August 2021