

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

**Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 30 November 2021**  
held via Zoom

**Present:** Morna Harper\*\*, Alan Henderson (Bailies of Bennachie), Catherine Lacy\*\*, Alison Mitchell\*\*, Donald Thomas\*, Ken Thomson\*, Dave Windle\* (Chair) [\* Charity Trustee as Individual Member; \*\* Charity Trustee as Organisational Representative]

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Beeley, Debbie Fielding\*\*, Frank Kelly, Roger Owen
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 19 October 2021:** after a minor correction, the circulated draft was approved.
4. **Matters Arising, other than as below:** none.
5. **NEMT Management**
  - 5.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath reported that one new member was being recruited.
  - 5.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the bank balance at 30 November stood at £11,103.54, after payments of £560 to Imprint for 350 copies of *Mountain Views* and £14.39 as Zoom subscriptions, and receipts of £654 as HMRC Gift Aid refunds for 2017/18 and 2018/19 (an earlier-year claim being disallowed), £40.99 as commission income from two Lectures, and £9 as Adam Watson book royalties. She would soon submit 2019/20 and 2020/21 Gift Aid claims, and thanked Donald for his assistance. She would send the 2020/21 accounts to the Independent Examiner later in the week; it was agreed that these would be checked by Dave, Donald and Cath on behalf of Council before submission to members in time for the AGM, and to OSCR.
  - 5.3. *Website:* Donald reported that he had uploaded the NatureScot mountain hare survey report, and the contents page of the Autumn 2021 issue of *Mountain Views*.
  - 5.4. *Mountain Views:* QR codes in *MV* were discussed as a means of payment/donation instead of cash via shop sales. It was agreed that a QR code for £2 would be simplest, and that Donald would send Cath suitable text to accompany the code. [At this point, Donald had to leave the meeting.]
  - 5.5. *Lectures:* Ken was reminded that he would be chairing on 9 December, and 20 January.
  - 5.6. *The Future of NEMT:* Dave reported that Brian Heaton might have to give up his NEMT wind farm work, which exemplified the problem of ageing Council members. It was agreed that, at the AGM, Dave should issue a “hard warning” that, if more and younger Council members could not be recruited, NEMT would be likely to wind itself up in 5 years’ time.
  - 5.7. *Dates of Next Council Meetings:* These were agreed as: 25/1/2022 (after the AGM), 1/3, 19/4, 31/5, 23/8, 4/10, 29/11 and 24/1/2023
  - 5.8. *AGM Arrangements:* Dave would draft and complete the Annual Report in time for Cath to send this out with the AGM Notice in early January.
6. **NEMT Policies**
  - 6.1. *Forestry:* Dave would finalise his summary of member responses to the September NEMT questionnaire, for insertion into *MV* in spring 2022.
7. **Consultations:**
  - 7.1. *Aberdeenshire Access Officer Response:* Nothing heard from Roger; topic to be dropped.

7.2. *CNPA Partnership Plan*: Dave would finalise his draft, and submit by 17 Dec.

**8. Threats to Wild Land:**

8.1. *Dalwhinnie Rail Crossing*: No further news.

8.2. *Tracks*: Council noted the following items in George Allan's report:

- Log storage/vehicle turning area, Glen Isla: GA's comments taken into account
- Mobile phone mast, Carn an Fhreiceadain, Monadhliath: objections lodged
- Track upgrade, Lochindorb: objection lodged

8.3. *Cairngorm Mountain*: No further news.

8.4. *Wind Farms*: No further news.

**9. AOCB:**

9.1. *Walking/Biking Tracks on Ben a'Bhuird*: Ken to ask if his contact can extract similar track maps for some other major Cairngorms mountain plateaux.

9.2. *Discounts*: Cath would update these for Donald in early 2022.

9.3. *Cairngorms Campaign*: Ken would attend (by Zoom) the AGM on 5 December, and report back anything of NEMT interest.

Ken Thomson, 26 January 2022