

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 7 June 2022
held via Zoom

Present: Hamish Clunas, Mike Duguid, Debbie Fielding**, Morna Harper**, Brian Heaton, Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Secretary), Alison Mitchell** (Treasurer), Ken Thomson*, Dave Windle* (Chair) [Charity Trustee as *Individual Member; as **Organisational Representative]

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Beeley, Roger Owen**, Donald Thomas*
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 19 April 2022:** the pre-circulated draft was approved. Discussion of “matters arising” then took place, as minuted below[¶], except for:
4. **Other Matters Arising, other than as below:** None
5. **NEMT Management**
 - 5.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath reported that she had made contact re John Hughes[¶], and that a photograph would be available. After brief discussion, it was agreed that this, plus a short note on John’s involvement with ALOAF and Hill Tracks, should go into the next *Mountain Views*. Cath to obtain the photo, Dave to draft text with Alison. Cath also agreed to chase up 3 subscriptions.
 - 5.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the bank balance stood at £12,304.77, with recent payments to Imprint for *Mountain Views* printing (£510), MV postage (£157), Anna Fleming’s lecture fee (£150), 3 Sportsman Club subscriptions (£75), Zoom charges (£14.39), and website domain fee (£60). Receipts included membership fees from the Aberdeen (£57), Turriff (£25), Culter (£43.50), Stockets (£43.50) and Ellon (£100) clubs, along with MV sales (£43), and Adam Watson book commission (£1.96). There had been no action yet on Gift Aid[¶], but Alison would get around to this. It was agreed to discuss the operation of the MV QR code at the next Council meeting.
 - 5.3. *Website:* In Donald’s absence, no report.
 - 5.4. *Facebook:* Roger had initiated a public NEMT Facebook group[¶], and Dave asked all Council members to post some text and photos before the next Council meeting.
 - 5.5. *Mountain Views:* The Spring 2022 issue had appeared and been distributed on time[¶]. Dave to circulate a draft contents list for the Autumn issue before the next Council meeting.
 - 5.6. *Lectures:* Deb had nothing recent to report, but agreed to make a start on planning the 2022/23 series for the next Council meeting. She would welcome suggestions. It was agreed to alternate these talks between Zoom and the Sportsman’s Club.
 - 5.7. *Discounts:* Cath reported that she was “almost there” with these[¶], and would circulate members after hearing from Cotswolds.
 - 5.8. *Dates of Next Council Meetings:* These were agreed as: 23/8, 4/10, 29/11 and 24/1/2023.
6. **NEMT Policies**
 - 6.1. *Biking:* Dave reported that CNPA were to get back to him on his Strava maps letter[¶]; he would chase up as necessary.
7. **Consultations:**
 - 7.1. *Cairngorms Capercaillie Project:* Dave and Roger had attended the meeting in Ballater on 31 May, along with a range of interests including landowning, keeping, etc. There was

as yet nothing hard to circulate, but Dave expected something similar to the Speyside approach, i.e. voluntary agreements as to cycle routes, dog-leading, advisory signage, etc.

8. Threats to Wild Land:

- 8.1. *Dalwhinnie Rail Crossing*: Cath reported that ScotWays had issued a request for reports of usage over past years. Mike had sent them a Strava map, which had been found useful. Cath to circulate the Scotways request to NEMT members.
- 8.2. *Hill and Hydro Tracks*: It was noted that George had supplied information of track width guidance, and had reported on the Glen Lethnot telecoms mast (for both, see agenda).
- 8.3. *Cairngorm Mountain*: Nothing to report, except a proposal to erect a rope tow in Coire Cas. Nick Kempe was reported as upset over this, but Dave “not much concerned” since amidst other uplift infrastructure. It was agreed that NEMT would not object.
- 8.4. *Wind Farms*: Brian had lodged an objection to the Glen Dye proposal. Highland Council had approved the Sallachy wind farm (close to a Wild Land Area) which had received strong local support due to significant money income to the local community. JMT was taking this seriously since this approach was likely to become more common, and was difficult to contest.
- 8.5. *Mountain Hares*: Dave to send out a link to recent report/information

9. AOCB: None

Ken Thomson, 26 August 2022