

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held 7.30 pm Tuesday 25 August 2022
held via Zoom

Present: Alistair Beeley, Hamish Clunas, Alex Doig* (Bailies of B.), Mike Duguid, Morna Harper**, Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Secretary), Donald Thomas*, Ken Thomson*, Dave Windle* (Chair) [Charity Trustee as *Individual Member; as **Organisational Representative]

1. **Apologies:** Debbie Fielding**, Alison Mitchell** (Treasurer), Roger Owen**
2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none; it was decided to remove this item from future agendas.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 7 June 2022:** the pre-circulated draft was approved.
4. **Other Matters Arising, other than as below:** None
5. **NEMT Management**
 - 5.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath reported that 3 IM cheques were yet to clear, and that the Boots and Granite City Clubs had not yet responded; she would prompt them one more time.
 - 5.2. *Finance:* Alison had reported by email that the bank balance at 25/8/2022 stood at £12,355.02. There had been little activity, with two individual and one club membership fee received. The LINK membership fee remained to be paid £170 (same as last year). No action was reported on claiming Gift Aid; Dave considered it urgent that Alison do this.
 - 5.3. *Website:* Nothing new, but Spring 2022 *Mountain Views* ready for posting. DT wondered if his work on this was worthwhile. Roger agreed to add a Facebook link to the website.
 - 5.4. *Facebook:* Cath had emailed members (and especially trustees) to encourage postings.
 - 5.5. *Mountain Views:* Cath had just started work on the Autumn 2022 issue, which would not be early. Illustrations were needed; Mike agreed to supply some, according to the contents list. If a photo of John Hughes forthcoming, Dave agreed to draft a short obituary. Donald asked Cath to send URLs for external photographs. It was agreed that Cath should insert QR code text inside the cover page, next to the contents list.
 - 5.6. *Lectures:* Council responded to Debbie's pre-emailed suggestions as follows:
 - i) Dates: no objections to any of those suggested
 - ii) Topics (and speakers): Council preferences (not in order of priority or date):
 - a. Capercaillie Project (Dave to supply name and contact if necessary)
 - b. Mar Lodge Estate: Shaila Rao, though on her own area of ecology etc., not (primarily) on the Mngt. Plan
 - c. Revive: Dave to identify "Max" [Wiszniewski] as speaker
 - d. Cairngorms Geomorphology, either by Helen Howe or by Prof. Colin Ballantine
 - e. Glen Dye Moor Project, by Megan Parker of Scottish Woodlands
 - f. An activity/expedition topic/speaker, ideas from Council members to Debbie. The Borders Forest Trust topic/speaker was not particularly favoured.
 - iii) Location: Alternate (as far as possible) between the Sportsman's Club and Zoom, preferably starting with the Club in October. No hybridity, but DT agreed to record (with speaker's permission), for later showing.
 - 5.7. *Discounts:* Cath to insert a list in *Mountain Views*, with or without Cotswolds.
 - 5.8. *Dates of Next Council Meetings:* These were agreed as: 4/10, 29/11 and 24/1/2023.

6. NEMT Policies

- 6.1. *Biking*: Dave to chase up Murray Ferguson.

7. Consultations:

- 7.1. *Cairngorms Capercaillie Project*: Nothing to report.
- 7.2. *Glen Dye Moor Project*: Ken's July paper, and recent meetings, were considered, with discussion centring on (i) tree planting (e.g. speed, species, fencing), and (ii) parking and paths. Dave to circulate existing draft NEMT comments for finalisation over the weekend, and submission by 31 August.

8. Threats to Wild Land:

- 8.1. *Dalwhinnie Rail Crossing*: No update.
- 8.2. *Hill and Hydro Tracks*: Council received with appreciation George's report on proposals for a Tirriemore track, Coire Cas biking, Clova chalets and Clova afforestation.
- 8.3. *Cairngorm Mountain*: Council noted a recent *Private Eye* mention, and also peatland restoration proposals near the car park.
- 8.4. *Wind Farms*: Council noted a recent proposal for a large (and high) wind farm on the Hill of Fare. Alex reported that the Bailies were "undecided", and Mike that bikers seemed generally to disapprove. It was decided that, in view of the widespread visibility of this proposal, Dave should ask Brian to draft and submit a NEMT objection, though "informal" at this stage. Re the Glen Dye proposal, recent planting on Sturdy Hill was noted, and the public local inquiry [webcasts at dpea.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts].
- 8.5. *Mountain Hares*: No update.

9. AOCB:

- 9.1. Ken reported that he hoped to go to a HES "Workshop" at the Beach Ballroom on 1 Sept.
- 9.2. It was agreed that Dave should book a room at the Sportsman's Club for the next Council meeting, on 4 October (and presumably later dates: see Minute 5.8 above).

Ken Thomson, 4 October 2022