

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

**Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Tuesday 4 October 2022**  
held via Zoom

**Present:** Hamish Clunas, Mike Duguid, Brian Heaton, Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Secretary), Alison Mitchell\*\* (Treasurer), Roger Owen\*\*, Donald Thomas\*, Ken Thomson\*, Dave Windle\* (Chair) [Charity Trustee as \*Individual Member; as \*\*Organisational Representative]

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Beeley, Debbie Fielding\*\*, Morna Harper\*\*
2. **Minutes of Council Meeting 25 August 2022:** the pre-circulated draft was approved.
3. **Other Matters Arising, other than as below:** None
4. **NEMT Management**
  - 4.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath reported that she had not been able to contact the Boots and Granite City Clubs. It was agreed that these clubs should be approached in the usual way for the current (2022/23) membership year.
  - 4.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the bank balance at the FY end on 30/09/2022 stood at £12,355.02. The LINK membership fee of £175 had been paid. During October, she would claim Gift Aid for the years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22, and prepare the accounts for the Independent Examiner Malcolm Lamont.
  - 4.3. *Website:* Donald reported that he had added MV85 and the current Joint Winter Schedule of “Aberdeen outdoor” talks.
  - 4.4. *Facebook:* Roger and Donald agreed to post mutual website – FB links.
  - 4.5. *Mountain Views:* Cath reported that the Autumn 2022 issue had been received from the printers, and that she would post out club copies on Friday.
  - 4.6. *Lectures:* In response to Debbie’s email and timetable, it was agreed that
    - i) Ken would contact Debbie about the postponed or cancelled 13 October lecture, so that Cath could circulate members before then about that and future lectures.
    - ii) Shaila Rao, on some aspect of her Mar Lodge Estate work, was a good idea.
    - iii) Dave would contact George Allan about a possible “activity” speaker.
    - iv) Debbie should arrange physical and/or hybrid lecture dates, as appropriate
    - v) Ken would compile a list of “regular” week/month dates used by the JWS organisations, in order to minimise possible clashes of talks in 2023/24.
  - 4.7. *Discounts:* Nothing to report.
  - 4.8. *Dates of Next Council Meetings:* These were agreed as 29/11 (at the Sportsman’s Club, to check Zoom arrangements; Dave to book if necessary) and 24/1/2023 (post-AGM, ditto).
5. **NEMT Policies**
  - 5.1. *Biking:* Dave reported that NEMT had not been invited by LINK to the CNPA meeting on recreation in the Park. After discussion, it was agreed that NEMT should seek “evidence” for CNPA on “plateau biking”. Mike agreed to obtain updated Strava maps of plateau “hot spots”, for year-on-year comparison, and Roger suggested using “citizen science” to photograph these.
6. **Consultations:**
  - 6.1. *Glen Dye Moor Project:* Dave reported that he had submitted a NEMT consultation response. We would wait to see what would emerge.

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

- 7.1. *Dalwhinnie Rail Crossing*: No update.
- 7.2. *Hill and Hydro Tracks*: Council received with appreciation George's report on proposals for Clova chalets (appeal rejected, but a fresh proposal likely), peat restoration in Glen Isla (somewhat pointless unless NatureScot's concerns are addressed), and a proposed mobile phone mast on Càrn an Fhreiceadain (objections lodged, on landscape grounds).
- 7.3. *Cairngorm Mountain*: Ken drew attention to Nick Kempe's recent ParksWatch posting on the funicular.
- 7.4. *Wind Farms*: Brian reported that he had submitted a "rather bland" statement of objection to the Hill of Fare proposal (ECU ref. 00004592), based on visual impact. He agreed to circulate a list of local public consultation meetings to be held during the following week. It was agreed that a site visit would be useful, although visual impact would need to be assessed otherwise. It was thought unlikely that MS or JMT would take much interest in this application. Dave considered that liaison with local groups was essential, but expressed scepticism over involvement by the local MP or the "Scotland Against Spin" campaign group. Brian noted that he would be away for several periods during 2023, and asked that A N Other work with him to ensure monitoring etc. He also reported that the Inquiry Reporters for the Glen Dye wind farm were considering their conclusions.
- 7.5. *Mountain Hares*: No update.

## **8. AOCB: None.**

Ken Thomson, 29 November 2022