

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

**Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Tuesday 29 November 2022**  
at the Sportsman's Club, 11 Queen's Road, Aberdeen

**Present:** Mike Duguid, Debbie Fielding\*\*, Morna Harper\*\*, Alison Mitchell\*\* (Treasurer), Donald Thomas\*, Ken Thomson\*, Dave Windle\* (Chair) [Charity Trustee as \*Individual Member; as \*\*Organisational Representative]

**1. Apologies:** Alistair Beeley, Hamish Clunas, Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Secretary), Roger Owen\*\*

**2. Minutes of Council Meeting 4 October 2022:** the pre-circulated draft was approved.

**3. Other Matters Arising, other than as below:** None

**4. NEMT Management**

4.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* no report from Cath, but it was reported that the Granite City club had paid a belated fee of £9.

4.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that:

- The bank balance stood at £11,632, after payments for 350 copies of *Mountain Views* (posting £138, printing £510), and receipt of £60 from sales of *MV*. Discussion ensued on *MV* charging and revenue collection; it was agreed to continue current arrangements for one more issue. Meanwhile Dave would collect any revenue at TX.
- The Independent Examiner Malcolm Lamont would inspect the accounts later in the week.
- She was prepared to arrange Gift Aid claims but was handicapped by the unsatisfactory state of the membership records. Discussion ensued on whether these could be improved, and/or subscription payments could be regularised. Alison agreed to formulate what she needed for Gift Aid purposes e.g. the names of all those paying by a certain date each year. It was discussed whether a “subscription holiday” could be offered until a fixed date (e.g. end-January) but it was pointed out that non-SO payment might be difficult to arrange some time after membership registration.

4.3. *Website:* Donald reported the issue of *MV* was “ready to go once the embargo period had expired. He had arranged a text link to Facebook, separate from the previous one.

4.4. *Facebook:* see above

4.5. *Mountain Views:* the Autumn 2022 issue had been posted out in mid-October. Dave would circulate draft contents for the Spring 2023 issue prior to the January Council meeting.

4.6. *Lectures:* Debbie reported the cancellation of the October talk, but that arrangements were in hand for the next four talks, all to be held at the Sportsman's Club at 7:30pm unless otherwise specified:

- 15/12/2022: Carolyn Robertson on the Capercaillie Project
- 12/1/2023: Max W. on the Revive project (at 7pm to allow the speaker to catch a 9pm train)
- 16/2/2023: Megan Parker on the Glen Dye Moor Project
- 16/3/2023: Helen Howe on the Geomorphology of the Cairngorms (by Zoom)

Discussion ensued on payment methods; Donald agreed to explore an Eventbrite booking system, at a single price of £3, with cash (£2 or £4) to be extracted at the door. The Sportsman's Club room hire of £50 would be paid on the night, ideally out of door takings.

It was agreed that, once Debbie could confirm the December speaker, Cath should circulate all members with the December and January arrangements.

4.7. *Discounts*: Nothing to report.

4.8. *Dates of Next Council Meetings*: These were agreed as 24/1/2023 (post-AGM, at the Sportsman's Club), 7/3, 16/5, 22/8, 3/10, 5/12 and 23/1/2024 (post-AGM). *NB: these dates differ in number and identity from those previously circulated.*

4.9. *AGM Arrangements*: It was agreed that

- Cath should compile the Annual Report (Chair's report, certified accounts, etc.) for circulation to all members along with the AGM agenda and (from the website) the draft 2022 AGM minutes;
- Dave should book the Sportsman's Club room for 24 January 2023.

## 5. NEMT Policies

5.1. *Biking*: Mike displayed Strava maps for Ben a'Bhuird, Ben Avon, etc., for March and September 2022, based on a two-year rolling total of routes taken (not necessarily all by bikers). Little change (e.g. new routes) could be detected, though braiding by bikers appeared less than routes followed by walkers. Mike reported that Strava were now paying more attention to privacy issues. It was agreed that:

- Council should monitor the issue every 6 months, in order to assess any change
- NEMT members should be asked (e.g. via *MV*) to photograph damage to paths or plateau terrain, with dates and exact locations, and if possible type of damage e.g. by bikes or boots.

Dave agreed to draft a *MV* article on the topic, and Ken agreed to report back on a GB-wide Zoom meeting on e-bikes to be held on 30 November.

5.2. *NPF4*: Ken agreed to draft a *MV* article on this topic for the next *MV* issue.

5.3. *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*: It was noted that Roger had drafted a NEMT policy, apparently based on the Mountaineering Scotland one. Discussion ensued on whether NEMT needed such a policy. While some felt this desirable, e.g. to attract a more diverse NEMT membership and to encourage them into the hills, others (including the Chair) felt differently. It was agreed to do nothing meantime unless the matter cropped up.

## 6. Consultations:

6.1. *Glen Dye Moor Project*: Dave had submitted a NEMT consultation response.

6.2. *Wildlife Management (Grouse) Bill*: It was noted that Dave had circulated draft NEMT responses to the public consultation, with one or two comments being received. It was agreed that Dave should submit these comments after a few days, to allow for any further comments.

## 7. Threats to Wild Land:

7.1. *Dalwhinnie Rail Crossing*: It was reported that a SG Minister was taking an interest in this topic, at Dalwhinnie and in her constituency.

7.2. *Hill and Hydro Tracks*: Council received with appreciation George's report, on (a) peat restoration in Glen Isla (now approved), and (b) the Glen Banchor track application (now withdrawn).

7.3. *Cairngorm Mountain*: recent developments were briefly discussed, with renewed running of the funicular thought unlikely in 2023.

7.4. *Wind Farms*: Dave proposed to write to the local Hill of Fare Windfarm Information Group, offering (a) to attend meetings as a NEMT representative and (b) to offer, in principle, some financial support as was done for the Glen Dye windfarm proposal. This

was agreed. It was felt by some that permission was likely to be granted in the end, but others felt that the major landscape objections might prevail.

**8. AOCB:** It was reported that:

- OATS had received a £100,000 grant, which was likely to be spent on the An Teallach approach.
- An event commemorating the Land Reform Act 2003 was to be held at the Scottish Parliament on 18 January 2023.

Ken Thomson, 29 January 2023