

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

**Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Tuesday 24 January 2023**  
at the Sportsman's Club, 11 Queen's Road, Aberdeen

**Present:** Alistair Beeley (SMHWC/LINK rep), Hamish Clunas (AHWC)\*\*, Mike Duguid\*\* (CC), Debbie Fielding\* (CC), Morna Harper (AMC)\*\*, Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Culter HWC)\*\*, Andrew McNicoll (MBA), Alison Mitchell (RS)\*\*, Allan Moore (MBA), Roger Owen (SMHC)\*\*, Ruth Payne (CC), Donald Thomas\*, Ken Thomson (CC)\*, Dave Windle\* (Chair) [Charity Trustee as \*Individual Member; as \*\*Organisational Representative]

1. **Apologies:** Brian Heaton\*
2. **Conflicts of interest:** None declared.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 29 November 2022:** pre-circulated draft approved without correction.
4. **NEMT AGM 2023:** decisions and appointments noted.
5. **Other Matters Arising, other than as below:** None.
6. **NEMT Management**
  - 6.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath reported two new members.
  - 6.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the Trust's bank balance stood at £12,983.86, after receipt of member SO payments in early January, £5.25 from the Stocket HWC and £18 as January talk donations via EventBrite, and payment of £25 to the Sportsman's Club for room hire. A "plan", based on a membership list, to claim gift aid for years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 remained to be formulated and implemented. It was agreed that this plan should be presented to Council at its March 2023 meeting, although 100% accuracy was not required. Dave reported no *MV* revenue from TX, even though issues "disappear".
  - 6.3. *Website:* Donald reported that new information had been posted, while changes to December/January talks had involved him in a good deal of work. The Autumn 2022 issue of *MV* was ready for uploading.
  - 6.4. *Mountain Views:* Dave noted that he had distributed a list of contents for the Spring 2023 issue; it was agreed to add a Glen Clova article, while the Editorial would include mention of Jeremy Leggatt's Rewilding project; Roger noted that the NES Biodiversity Partnership had been asked for advice re the Beldorney estate. It was agreed that MS should be submitted by 15 March, for *MV* publication in mid-April.
  - 6.5. *Lectures:* Debbie reported that the December talk had been cancelled due to snow, while the January talk had been held online, with good attendance (n = 35-40) and a useful Q&A session after a short presentation. The 16 February talk on Glen Dye, and the 16 March talk on geomorphology, would be held online. It was decided that the cancelled 2022 talk on capercaillie should, if possible, be held in April, online or in person according to audience responses in February and March, and on personal and Sportsman's Club availability. Dave agreed to check both, for 6 or 20 April.
  - 6.6. *Shop Discounts:* No report.
  - 6.7. *NEMT Work Plan 2023:* Dave's update was accepted after some "slimming down".
  - 6.8. *NEMT "Social":* It was agreed to consider this at the next Council meeting.

- 6.9. *Dates of Council Meetings*: These were agreed as: 7/3, 16/5, 22/8, 3/10, 5/12 and 23/1/2024 (post-AGM).
7. **Cairngorm Campaign AGM 2022**: Donald reported that the Campaign's activities during the year 2021/22 had been reported, and that its office-holder posts had been filled.
- 8. NEMT Policies**
- 8.1. *Biking*: NEMT members are to be asked for photographs of damage caused on Cairngorms plateaux etc., for evidence to be supplied to CNPA, along with updated Strava maps from Mike. Ken will summarise an e-bike webinar in *MV*.
- 9. Consultations**
- 9.1. *Wildlife Management (Grouse) Bill*: Dave reported that he had submitted a NEMT response to the public consultation.
- 9.2. *SG Biodiversity Strategy*: It was agreed that NEMT need not respond to this consultation.
- 10. Threats to Wild Land**
- 10.1. *Dalwhinnie Rail Crossing*: It was reported that Network Rail had erected fencing, and seemed unlikely to concede better access. It was agreed to drop this item from future Council agendas.
- 10.2. *Hill and Hydro Tracks*: Council received with appreciation George's report on (i) a Glen Banchor resubmission following a slightly different line; he had objected again, and had asked to speak on behalf of NEMT at the Planning Committee meeting; (ii) a "poor" application to upgrade a forestry track south of Newtonmore; he had raised questions with Highland Council, and understands that it has gone to Prior Notification.
- 10.3. *Cairngorm Mountain*: renewed funicular operation noted, but little else reported. Item to be kept on the Council agenda, mainly as regards plateau monitoring.
- 10.4. *Wind Farms*: Little reported but possible future developments noted on farms on the Monadhliaths, Hill of Fare and south of Clachnaben.
- 11. AOCB**: None.

Ken Thomson, 8 March 2023