

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Tuesday 7 March 2023
held by Zoom

Present: Hamish Clunas (AHWC)**, Morna Harper (AMC)**, Andrew McNicoll (MBA), Alison Mitchell (RS)**, Donald Thomas*, Ken Thomson (CC)*, Dave Windle* (Chair) [Charity Trustee as *Individual Member; as **Organisational Representative]

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Beeley (SMHWC/LINK rep), Mike Duguid** (CC), Debbie Fielding* (CC), Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Culter HWC)**, Roger Owen (SMHC)**, Brian Heaton*
2. **Conflicts of interest:** None declared.
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting 28 January 2023:** pre-circulated draft approved with one item to be revised.
4. **Other Matters Arising, other than as below:** NEMT “Social” event (taken under Item 5.8 below).

5. NEMT Management

- 5.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* One new member was reported, and it was noted that requests for annual club subscriptions were being sent out. The online application process seemed not to be working; it was agreed that the form could be removed from the website.
- 5.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the Trust’s bank balance at 6/3/2023 stood at about £13,000, after receipt of £18 from EventBrite, and payments of £25 for Sportsman’s Club room hire, and £14.39 for Zoom licence. In the absence of a simple membership database, Gift Aid claim was still pending, and it was agreed that Alison and Donald should arrange a claim to HMRC, even if imperfect/incomplete. It was further agreed that Dave would convene a meeting in April, to investigate a better membership database, and the implications of altering the membership year to the financial year, i.e. October-September, as suggested by Donald.
- 5.3. *Website:* Donald reported that his work had mostly involved updating event information.
- 5.4. *Mountain Views:* Dave reported that all seemed on track for authors to submit manuscript by the Editor’s deadline of 15 March, and publication in mid-April.
- 5.5. *Lectures:* Future lectures – both by Zoom - were confirmed, on 16 March (Geomorphology) and 20 April (Capercaillie). Some discussion then took place on the 2023/24 programme; it was agreed to postpone decisions until the May Council meeting, with Mike Duguid present. Alison suggested investigating the audience make-up (e.g. individual members, club members, or non-members); Ken agreed to explore with club representatives how NEMT talks were advertised.
- 5.6. *Shop Discounts:* Dave reported that Cath had made progress with some shops, e.g. Tiso, Hilltrek and Craighdon, and that she would disseminate these codes along with *Mountain Views*.
- 5.7. *Annual Report and Work Plan 2023:* Donald reported that the Annual Report had been sent to OSCR. The Work Plan agreed in January had been circulated with the agenda.
- 5.8. *NEMT Social Event:* Discussion covered (a) objectives, e.g. recruiting new members, possible Trust activities, and/or work volunteering, and (b) duration and location, e.g. an evening at the Sportsman’s Club, or part/all day (with coach hire, but cost thought not to be a constraint) at Glentanar, Mar Lodge, Bennachie or Burn o’Vat. It was agreed that

Dave would convene a Working Party of himself, Alison and Ken, to report back at the next Council meeting.

- 5.9. *Dates of Council Meetings*: These were agreed as: 16/5 (at Sportsman's Club), 22/8, 3/10, 5/12 and 23/1/2024 (post-AGM).

6. NEMT Policies

- 6.1. *Biking*: Dave reported that the next issue of *MV* would contain an appeal for members to submit evidence of damage to vulnerable locations. It was agreed to consider up-to-date Strava maps at Council every six months (i.e. next in May 2023).

7. Consultations

- 7.1. *Glen Gairn Mast Proposal*: Ken referred to papers circulated with agenda, and reported that he had as yet received no reply from Cornerstone Ltd. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that he would seek further information from a Council source.
- 7.2. *RSPB Abernethy*: Dave reported no response as yet from Uwe Stoneman to his suggestion of a visit in early April. It was agreed that Ken would attempt to contact Uwe, to clear up any Cairngorm Club/NEMT confusion.

8. Threats to Wild Land

- 8.1. *Loch Earba Storage Scheme*: Dave summarised this early-stage proposal, e.g. very large, sensitive area, small company (who may sell on after planning). It was agreed to "wait and see" but to keep the item on Council agendas.
- 8.2. *Hill and Hydro Tracks*: Council received with appreciation George's report, but had no immediate comments.
- 8.3. *Cairngorm Mountain*: funicular now in operation.
- 8.4. *Wind Farms*: Dave had registered with the Hill of Fare local group, and would include some montages in *MV*. The formal planning application was expected in April.

9. **AOCB**: None.

Ken Thomson, 17 May 2023