

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Tuesday 10 October 2023
at Sportsman's Club, Aberdeen

Present: Hamish Clunas (AHWC)**, Mike Duguid (CC)**, Brian Heaton*, Morna Harper (AMC)**, Andy McNicoll (MBA)**, Alison Mitchell (RS)**, Roger Owen (SMHC)**, Ken Thomson (CC)*, Dave Windle* (Chair) [Charity Trustee as *Individual Member; as **Organisational Representative]

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Beeley (SMHWC/LINK), Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Culter HWC)**, Roger Owen (SMHC), Donald Thomas*
2. **Minutes of Council Meeting 15 August 2023:** the pre-circulated draft was approved.
3. **Matters Arising, other than as below:** None.
4. **NEMT Management**
 - 4.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Nothing to report, but Cath to supply Donald with a password-protected membership list.
 - 4.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the Trust's bank balance stood at £13,736, after payment of LINK subscription (£170), room hire (£25) and reimbursement to Dave for Hill of Fare donation (£500). The financial year having ended, she would prepare the accounts for examination by Malcolm Lamont and then the AGM at end-January.
 - 4.3. *Website:* no report.
 - 4.4. *Mountain Views:* Dave reported that the current issue was with the printers; he hoped to collect and distribute within a few days although this might be delayed for a week or more.
 - 4.5. *Lectures:* Mike reported that he had found it difficult to arrange talks, and raised a number of possibilities on each of which Council gave their views. It was agreed that he should focus on a December event combining a social drink with a presentation from a local retailer, and possibly individual comments on items of kit, with later talks in January, February and March 2024. It was confirmed that (a) Cath would communicate lecture details to NEMT members, (b) talks would be held in the Sportsmans Club, probably but not necessarily on Tuesdays (Mike to check room availability, especially in December), (c) equipment was available from Dave etc., including a microphone though this was probably not essential, at least initially.
 - 4.6. *Future Council Meetings:* 5/12 and 23/1/2024 (after the AGM).
5. **NEMT Social Events:** (a) see 4.5 above for drinks event; (b) Dave reported that he had been offered a November date for a Glen Feshie visit, but considered that a visit after the clock change next spring would be preferable; this was agreed, and he would respond appropriately.
6. **Consultations:**
 - 6.1. *Glen Dye Moor:* Dave reported that he and Donald had inspected revised plans at Strachan on 23 August, and Ken reported on a meeting by him and Donald with Pippa Paterson of Scottish Woodlands, when repair and maintenance of the main Clachnaben path was discussed, e.g. an OATS survey followed by mainly contractual work. Ken suggested that he check that the Aberdeenshire Council Access Officer was aware (this was agreed), and that Scottish Woodlands be made aware of the controversy over BrewDog operations at Kinrara (this was not agreed).
 - 6.2. *Glen Gairn Mast:* It was noted that this had recently been approved by Aberdeenshire Council.

- 6.3. *Luibeg Mast*: It was noted that this application had recently been withdrawn from CNPA Planning, but was likely to be re-submitted. It was agreed that, in that event, a substantial opposition campaign was important, and could be helped by a number of NEMT actions, e.g. as listed in a paper by George Allan. Mike raised a number of issues for consideration, including cost to the public purse; Facebook communication; MR knowledge (e.g. of local incidents) and views (if extractable); coverage and alternative sites; wildlife records (e.g. NESBREC); those “in charge”. Ken agreed to consolidate these points with George’s list, for Council to consider before or at the next Council meeting (on 5/12).
- 6.4. *Glen Prosen Estate*: Dave agreed to draft and distribute a high-level response to the FLS invitation for land management advice, for him to submit to FLS soon after 31/10.

7. Threats to Wild Land

- 7.1. *Tracks, Pylons, etc.*: Council received with appreciation George’s report. Mike reported possible blockage or diversion of the normal route through Bovaglie in Glen Girnock. Roger had reported that he had yet to hear from the South Esk Catchment Partnership's coordinator re the Sturdy Hill phone mast application.
- 7.2. *Wind Farms*: Brian noted that (i) the most recent (Spring 2023) Hill of Fare Group’s newsletter had specified one less turbine, but that all seemed ready for formal application by the developer, and that (ii) the Shepherds’ Rig proposal near Carsphairn in Southwest Scotland had been approved in view of the changed policy framework, i.e. NPF4.
- 7.3. *Cairngorm Mountain*: It was noted that the funicular had once again been closed, the Bike Park was being little used, and roadside parking restrictions had recently been proposed.

8. AOCB: none.

Ken Thomson, 12 December 2023