

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Tuesday 12 December 2023
at Sportsman's Club, Aberdeen

Present: Hamish Clunas (AHWC)**, Brian Heaton*, Morna Harper (AMC)**, Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Culter HWC)**, Andy McNicoll (MBA)**, Alison Mitchell (RS)**, Donald Thomas*, Ken Thomson (CC)*, Dave Windle* (Chair) [Charity Trustee as *Individual Member; as **Organisational Representative]

1. Apologies: none

2. Minutes of Council Meeting 10 October 2023: the pre-circulated draft was approved.

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

4. NEMT Management

4.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath still to supply Donald with a password-protected membership list.

4.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the Trust's bank balance stood at £13,776, after receipts of £79.62 from sales of *Mountain Views*, £9 as Granite City HWC subscription, £74 from two Individual Members (including a £50 donation), £10 as commission from Hillgoers, and expenditures of £109.17 for *MV* postage, £13 for *MV* envelopes, and £25 for room hire. Donald reported that he had supplied Eventbrite information on booking costs immediately after the August meeting (but unreported in October).

4.3. *Website:* nothing to report.

4.4. *Mountain Views:* The Autumn/Winter issue had gone out as scheduled. Cath queried the issue previously sent to Hamish Trench at CNPA (replaced by Andy Ford?), and undertook to sort out the address labels for spring 2024. Dave undertook to supply in time for the January Council meeting a contents list for the Spring 2024 issue, for which the MS deadline would be in March 2024.

4.5. *Lectures:* no report. Dave to email Mike.

4.6. *Future Council Meetings:* 23/1/2024 (after the AGM). Ken undertook to propose further 2024 dates at the next meeting.

4.7. *AGM Arrangements:* Alison had circulated draft 2023/23 accounts, to be sent to Malcolm Lamont for independent examination; these were approved, subject to a few minor edits. Cath to finalise and to distribute AGM papers to members in early January, i.e. 14 days before 23/1/2024, i.e. notice, agenda, draft 2023 minutes, Annual Report and Accounts.

5. Threats to Wild Land

5.1. *Tracks, Pylons, etc.:* Council received with appreciation George's report, and noted the 9 letters of objection to mast proposals sent to planning committees.

5.2. *Masts:* Four proposals in the Loch Ericht area were briefly discussed; two thought not to deserve objection; the other two might do so. Dave reported that he had written Sandy Bremner of CNPA about SRN concerns, and had received an anodyne response. Richard Thomson (MP for Gordon) had offered to contact MNOs (mast operators). NEMT Members had been asked to write to their MPs and MSPs, advocating prioritisation (rather than halting) of SRN roll-out. Dave had written to ERCS about solicitor assistance in opposing the Luibeg mast, and had been advised that this should be restricted to comment on a NEMT letter of objection once the proposal had been re-submitted. Dave opined that, if approval was forthcoming, NEMT was not sufficiently resourced to undertake judicial

review thereafter, but could support others. It was reported that NTS had taken up a “robust” position over SRN roll-out generally, and it was hoped that JMT etc. would do likewise if masts were proposed on its wild land (e.g. Knoydart?). Some further NEMT action points re Luibeg were noted, including a “warning notice” at Derry Lodge etc. Ken to draft a “striking” SRN-focussed A4 notice, for comment by Dave etc., and erection (after notification to NTS by Andy) at Bob Scott’s etc. The possibility of enticing MRTs into providing an opinion, or at least information (e.g. “incidents”), on the Luibeg mast (or others, or SRN) was discussed, but thought unlikely to succeed, though Andy might try.

- 5.3. *Wind Farms*: Dave reported that he was drafting a letter of objection (*in toto*, on landscape grounds) to the Hill of Fare proposal, and would seek comment from Alexander Burnett MP’s caseworker and from Council members before submission by the deadline of 2/2/2024. The Correen Hills proposal was briefly discussed, but thought not worth objection. No recent information re the Glen Dye wind farm.
 - 5.4. *Glen Prosen*: Dave had received FLS acknowledgement of his comments; no further news.
 - 5.5. *Cairngorm Mountain*: HC withdrawal of proposed roadside parking restrictions was noted, and also a forthcoming CNPA consultation on a campfire ban (which Council was minded to support).
 - 5.6. *Other*: It was noted that Mountaineering Scotland was consulting on a draft “Manifesto for the Mountains”, with a deadline of 4/1/2024. No NEMT action proposed.
6. **AOCB**: Discussion took place on providing of archival copies – paper and/or electronic - of *Mountain Views* to various libraries. Cath to act as she saw fit.

Ken Thomson, 24 January 2024