

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Tuesday 26 March 2024

at Sportsman's Club, Aberdeen

Present: Hamish Clunas (AHWC)**, Mike Duguid**, Morna Harper (AMC)**, Andy 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), Brian Heaton*, Catherine Lacy-Roberts (Culter HWC)**, Roger Owen (SMHWC)**
2. **Minutes of Council Meeting 13 January 2024:** the pre-circulated draft was approved.
3. **Matters Arising, other than as below:** None.
4. **NEMT Management**
 - 4.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Nothing reported. CL to issue Club sub requests (at 75ppm)
 - 4.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the Trust's bank balance stood at £14544, following payments of £25 for room hire and £530 for MV printing, and £4.50 received from the Stockets.
 - 4.3. *OSCR Report:* Donald reported that this had been submitted
 - 4.4. *Website:* Donald had added material as requested, with Mike to expand the material on masts.
 - 4.5. *Mountain Views:* It was reported that Cath had started editorial work, and hoped to send the issue to the printers in a week's time.
 - 4.6. *Lectures:* Roger had offered to convene a group of 2 or 3 to plan future talks. However, it was decided to stick to the recently decided policy of organising only "ad hoc" events, Dave to write to Roger to this effect. It was also decided to reduce NEMT payment for Sportsman's Club membership from 3 to 2 (Dave and Cath); Dave and Alison to effect.
 - 4.7. *Future Council Meetings:* 14/5, 20/8, 1/10, 3/12 and 28/1/2025 (all booked) after the next AGM.
 - 4.8. *NEMT Work Plan:* Dave said that he had not yet revised this, but would re-draft and email for Council comments. Ideas concerned masts, climate change, and non-windfarm developments.
5. **Cairngorms Connect Visit, 18 April:** It was reported that planning was in hand, but now included a fee (£50/hour). It was agreed that NEMT would fund this, Dave to liaise with Alison.
6. **Consultations**
 - 6.1. *SG Deer Management (closes 29/3/2024):* Dave had submitted a NEMT response.
 - 6.2. *CNPA Fire Management:* The three "options" (no, "high-risk" and "permanent" bylaws) were discussed, with no clear preference emerging. It was agreed that Dave would respond in terms of supporting ranger wishes.
7. **Threats to Wild Land**
 - 7.1. *Peatland Restoration:* It was reported that Beryl Leatherland had requested "more activity" over this. After discussion of methods, SG policy, planning, access tracks, effectiveness evidence, etc. it was decided that Mike would investigate a couple of NE sites, and report back.
 - 7.2. *Tracks, Pylons, etc.:* Social media had noted a connection route for the Glen Dye windfarm.
 - 7.3. *Masts:* George's report noted the current position, i.e. 30 objections submitted by NEMT (mainly him and Dave), most but not all in Wild Land Areas. JMT was adopting a "delaying" strategy which seemed to be having some effect, and the National Audit Office had queried the value of the SRN policy. It was agreed to maintain current NEMT monitoring activity.
 - 7.4. *Wind Farms:* Nothing to report (except Glen Dye item above).
 - 7.5. *Other:* None.
8. **AOCB:** Ken undertook to look at the "scoping opinion" on the Loch an Earba storage scheme, and circulate a draft "representation" if thought appropriate.

Ken Thomson, 15 May 2024