

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Tuesday 14 May 2024

at Sportsman's Club, Aberdeen

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

1. **Apologies:** Brian Heaton*, Roger Owen (SMHWC)**, Donald Thomas*
2. **Minutes of Council Meeting 26 March 2024:** the pre-circulated draft was approved.
3. **Matters Arising, other than as below:** None.
4. **NEMT Management**
 - 4.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath had issued subscription requests
 - 4.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the Trust's bank balance stood at £144.20, following payments of £200 to HOFWIG (Hill of Fare), and £25 and £50 to the Sportsman's Club for room hire and two memberships respectively, and receipt of some club and individual subscriptions.
 - 4.3. *Website:* Donald reported (in absentia) that he had added nothing (e.g. on masts) lately, but would pay the web hosting invoice. Mike reported that he had prepared a longish article for the website, but would now expand it somewhat in light of an article in *Mountain Views*.
 - 4.4. *Mountain Views:* Cath delivered copies of the Spring/Summer issue to Council members.
 - 4.5. *Lectures:* Nothing to report
 - 4.6. *Future Council Meetings:* 20/8, 1/10 and 3/12 (all booked), and 28/1/2025 after the next AGM.
 - 4.7. *NEMT Work Plan:* The revised Plan circulated by Dave on 1/4/2024 was formally approved.
5. **Cairngorms Connect Visit, 18 April:** It was reported that this had gone well (and at no charge to NEMT). Some of the ranger/forester presentations had been "obvious", others less so.
6. **Consultations**
 - 6.1. *CNPA Fire Management:* Dave had responded, in terms of supporting ranger wishes re bye-laws.
 - 6.2. *Earba Pumped Storage Scheme:* Ken reported that he had submitted a "neutral" NEMT representation, raising concerns over visual appearance of dams, etc.
 - 6.3. *Loch Quoich Pumped Storage Scheme:* It was agreed to consult the NEMT membership over such schemes, both in general (e.g. Clach Glas, Earba) and Quoich in particular, perhaps using a MScot link to convey information. Dave would circulate a draft questionnaire to Council members, and then finalise for Cath to send to individual and club members, for all to respond by end-June.
 - 6.4. Cairngorm Capercaillie Project Emergency Plan 2024-30: it was reported that this had been delayed; when draft plan issued, Dave would consider NEMT involvement (or not).
7. **Threats to Wild Land**
 - 7.1. *Peatland Restoration:* It was reported that Mike had investigated a couple of NE sites by satellite imagery (and would do more), and that other Council members had visited some sites. In general, it appeared that work was being carried out responsibly, with no long-term damage being obvious.
 - 7.2. *Tracks, Pylons, etc.:* George's report noted unconsented work on the Far Ralia estate.
 - 7.3. *Masts:* George's report noted further SRN meetings with MScot/JMT/etc., who were developing a red-amber-green scheme. A further meeting was planned for 4 June, with Ken to attend if possible. NEMT had objected to a further 8+ masts, making 39+ in total (22 active, 9 withdrawn, 6 approved, 1 refused). It was reported that mobile signal had improved in several proposed mast locations.
 - 7.4. *Wind Farms:* Nothing to report.
8. **AOCB:** A new book (James Fenton: *Landscape Change and the Scottish Highlands*) had been gifted to NEMT

Ken Thomson, 21 August 2024