

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm Tuesday 3 December 2024 at the Sportsman's Club, Aberdeen

Present: Hamish Clunas (AHWC)**, Mike Duguid**, Allan Moore (MBA)**, Alison Mitchell (RS)**, Donald Thomas*, Ken Thomson (CC)*, Dave Windle* (NEMT Chair) [Charity Trustee as *Individual Member; as **Organisational Representative]

1. Apologies: Alistair Beeley, Morna Harper (AMC)**, Roger Owen (SMHWC)**

2. Minutes of Council Meeting 1 October 2024: the pre-circulated draft was approved.

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

4. NEMT Management

4.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* No report. [Cath to circulate any update?]

4.2. *Finance:* The Chair congratulated Alison on providing audited accounts well on time; the Independent Examiner had suggested only a minor additional Note, on the NEMT donation. Alison reported that the Trust's bank balance currently stood at £13561, following payments of £210 and £632 for *Mountain Views* printing and postage, and £25 for October room hire, and receipts of £35 for sales of Adam Watson books, and NEMT subs of £16.50 (Turriff HWC), £50 (Ellon HWC including donation), £54.75 (Aberdeen MC) and £12 (Individual Member). It was confirmed that no MBA subscription was payable, on grounds of reciprocity. Standing Order subs would be due on 10 January 2025.

4.3. *Website:* Donald reported no recent activity except updating of *MV* contents and contents list. He and Mike would liaise over converting the website to https status.

4.4. *Mountain Views:* Dave to circulate proposed contents of Spring 2025 issue towards the end of the year; some suggestions made.

4.5. *Lectures:* Roger's email re Shaila Rao's staff giving a talk was noted; he would be asked (by Dave) to report back re possible speaker and date.

4.6. *Future Council Meetings:* It was confirmed that 28/1/2025 (after AGM), and 25/3/25 had been room-booked, and that the remaining 2025 date suggestions (13/5, 19/8, 30/9, 2/12), and post-AGM 20/1/2026, seemed suitable.

5. Consultations

5.1. *CNPA Fire Management:* NEMT had no useful comment to make; Ken to consider whether a short confirmation response should be sent (by him).

5.2. *Earba Pumped Storage Scheme:* No further information.

5.3. *Electricity Infrastructure Consenting:* Dave reported that he had circulated a draft to Council and then submitted a NEMT response.

5.4. *Loch Quoich Pumped Storage Scheme:* No further information

5.5. *Cairngorm Capercaillie Project Emergency Plan 2024-30:* No further information; to be removed from standard agenda.

5.6. *Cairngorms Future Land Use Study:* No further information; Ken to report if ...

6. Threats to Wild Land

6.1. *Peatland:* Sites visited presented few objectionable immediate features, but longer-term effects, e.g. failure, worth monitoring. Mike to report back in/after spring.

6.2. *Tracks:* George's report was considered: no new applications.

- 6.3. *Pylons*: No NEMT action needed.
 - 6.4. *Masts*: George's report was considered, with its tally of 77 NEMT objections to date, along with other details, e.g. 48 mast proposals currently active, and the regrettably successful Creag Dhu mast appeal. It was noted that the Ryvoan mast application had just been withdrawn in the face of many objections, but might well be re-submitted. George's summary of the Mast Coalition situation was also noted, e.g. RAG procedure, and flickers of policy hope. Ken reported the current An Mullach (Glen Muick) application which he was investigating (and probably objecting to).
 - 6.5. *Wind Farms*: No news: Hill of Fare to be kept on the agenda, but Beinn Bheag (SE of Loch Quoich) dropped unless more heard.
 - 6.6. *Large Woody Structures (LWSs)*: A short discussion noted Chris Soulsby's concerns (see *MV A/W 24/25*, pp. 26-27), various uncertainties, and Roger as an authority who might be asked (by Dave) for more information.
- 7. AOCB:**
- 7.1. *NEMT Spending* (some under 4.2 Finance above): procedure re decision-making discussion, e.g. January AGM "in principle" and suggestions, and subsequent Council meeting(s) to finalise. Alison noted current NTS Mar Lodge Estate appeal re funding for Glen Quoich pathwork, and others mentioned. [Subsequent to meeting, she and Mike sent Ken more Quoich details, which Ken has circulated.]
 - 7.2. *Third National Park* Donald noted some interest in the campaign.
 - 7.3. *January 2025 AGM*: Arrangements briefly discussed: Alison has booked room; Dave to prepare Annual Report, with accounts included; Ken to contact Cath re member notification etc.

Ken Thomson, 5 December 2024