

**NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST**  
SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

**Approved Minutes of Council Meeting held at 7.40 pm Tuesday 28 January 2025**

at Sportsman's Club, Aberdeen

**Present:** Mike Duguid\*\*, Morna Harper\*\*, Brian Heaton\*, Alison Mitchell\*\*, Donald Thomas\*, Ken Thomson\*, Dave Windle\* (Chair).

**Apologies:** Alistair Beeley, Catherine Lacy-Roberts\*\*, Rob Mackay, David Milne, Allan Moore, Roger Owen\*\*

*\* Charity Trustee as Individual Member; \*\* Charity Trustee as Club Representative*

1. **Minutes of Council Meeting 3 December 2024:** the pre-circulated draft was approved.
2. **Matters Arising, other than as below:** None.
3. **NEMT AGM 2025 (held previously to Council):** The actual and potential appointments as Council Members/Trustees were noted. Cath to confirm as necessary.
4. **NEMT Management**
  - 4.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* No report. Cath is still to supply Donald with a PW-protected membership list.
  - 4.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the current Trust's bank balance stood at £14,623, after receipt of most SOs earlier in the month plus £1.72 for a MV sale, and £25 spent on room hire. Under 4.5 below, it was agreed to donate £1000 to NTS MLE for the Quoich Path Appeal: Alison to action.
  - 4.3. *Website:* Donald reported very little recent activity. It was reported that adding https to the website URL was not possible with the current website host, and it was decided not to pursue.
  - 4.4. *Mountain Views:* It was reported that Ken had offered to take over from Dave as text collector/editor, with Cath remaining as final MV editor and distributor. The deadline for authors – as on Dave's list, with one or two possible additions (e.g. Donald's "Favourite Place(s); and see below) – was agreed as 15/3/2025, with production of the Spring 2025 expected 4-6 weeks later. Dave/Ken to act as necessary.
  - 4.5. *Lectures:* Arrangements for Ben Dolphin's talk on 11/3/2025 were reported as being in hand, but the following items were decided/clarified:
    - Roger Owen to host (e.g. speaker's meal, seating) and chair (in-person only), with projector etc. to be collected and set up. Mike offered to explore the supply of a mike.
    - Marketing, using "poster" supplied by Donald once details known to him, by Cath to membership (and P&J, with Dave as back-up), plus Mike/Donald to AU contacts/clubs, and Ken to JWS contacts
    - Talk to be free, but donations invited, to go to Ben for NTS MLE, with NEMT to make up to £100 if necessary.
    - Alison to investigate room hire cost and capacity [subseq. reported as £50 and 48 chairs]
    - MV article on talk (and donation) to be contributed by RogerIt was agreed to discuss future talk(s) in May.
  - 4.6. *Future Council Meetings:* Dates agreed as 25/3, 13/5, 19/8, 30/9, 2/12, and 20/1/2026
  - 4.7. *NEMT Work Plan:* Dave proposed that the 2024 Plan be repeated; to be confirmed in March if no suggestions meantime.
5. **Consultations**
  - 5.1. *CNPA on Fire Management:* Ken reported that he had made no further NEMT submission. Dave reported that CNPA were encouraging estates to draw up Wildfire Management Plans. Some discussion took place on the expected CNPA byelaw, and on strimming vs. muirburn: a future MV article re technology wildlife, carbon, etc. was thought to be of possible interest.

5.2. *National Energy System Operator (NESO) on Strategic Energy Planning*: Dave and Ken had submitted similar responses, drawing attention to Wild Land Areas in Scotland.

## **6. Threats to Wild Land**

6.1. *Peatland*: Mike reported that he was awaiting the disappearance of snow, and the availability of multi-spectra mapping. Planned work on Glen Dye Moor was noted; Dave to visit.

6.2. *Tracks, Pylons, etc.*: George had nothing to report.

6.3. *Masts*: George had reported that (i) NEMT had objected to 78 proposals, and commented on, but not objected to, a small number of others, e.g. southern end of Corrieyairack. Otherwise, 14 had been withdrawn but may be resubmitted, 16 had been approved; 4 had been refused; and 2 had had a refusal successfully appealed. (ii) Ryvoan withdrawn but may be resubmitted, despite many objections; Flow Country mast refused; Am Mullach (west of Glen Tanar) withdrawn. (iii) Masts Coalition: no significant developments since last report.

6.4. *Wind Farms*: Nothing reported

6.5. *Glen Prosen*: Nothing reported

6.6. *Other*: The forthcoming MV article by Chris Soulsby on LWSs was noted.

7. **AOCB**: None.

Ken Thomson, 26 March 2025