

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting, 7.30 pm 30 Sept. 2025, Sportsman's Club, Aberdeen

Present: Hamish Clunas (AHWC), Mike Duguid (CC)**, Morna Harper (AMC)**, Catherine Lacy-Roberts (CHWC)**, Alison Mitchell (RS)**, Donald Thomas*, Ken Thomson*, Dave Windle* (Chair). * *Charity Trustee as Individual Member*; ** *Charity Trustee as Club Representative*

1. Apologies: Allan Moore (MBA), Alistair Beeley (SMHWC)**

2. Minutes of Council Meeting 19 August 2025: the pre-circulated draft was approved.

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

4. NEMT Management

- 4.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* No report on non-payers. Cath and Alison to chase up.
- 4.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the Trust's (end of year) bank balance stood at £12,248.09, after expenditure of £170 to SE Link (same as previous year), £276.53 on *Mountain Views* postage etc. (printer's bill not yet received) and receipt of £87.65 from *MV* sales. The August room hire charge had been waived.
- 4.3. *Website:* Donald reported that he had updated *MV* postings, and posted the revised "Aims" page. It was agreed to remove the "Mast Mania?!" icon from the home page.
- 4.4. *Mountain Views:* Publication of the Autumn 2025 issue (no. 92) was noted; Ken apologised for inadvertently omitting articles by Roger Owen and Morna H., but would include them in the Spring 2026 issue. Ideas for that issue included upland flood management from a JHI source, a "My Favourite Place(s)" piece, and a review of a new Deeside climbing guide.
- 4.5. *Lectures:* In view of lack of ideas and enthusiasm, no further action; it was felt that Aberdeen already hosted a sufficiency of talks.
- 4.6. *Future Council Meetings:* dates as previously agreed, i.e. 2/12, and 20/1/2026. Ken to propose 2026 dates, and send them to Alison for Sportsman's Club booking, and Council approval.

5. Consultations

- 5.1. *Glen Prosen:* A recent FLS Open Day was noted, but no further information or action.
- 5.2. *Hill of Fare:* The recent Public Inquiry was noted; the Report was not expected until late 2026.
- 5.3. *Glenskinan (Kerloch) Wind Farm:* Some posters noted, but no further information/action.
- 5.4. *CNPA Core Paths Consultations:* The recent "informal" consultation was noted (Ken and others had made personal submissions); the formal (public) one was expected later in 2025.
- 5.5. *Bennachie Pathwork:* Donald outlined the Bailies' £100,000 "Help Your Hill" appeal for repair of about 1km of the main approach through woodland. It was agreed that NEMT should contribute £500: Alison to implement.

6. Threats to Wild Land

- 6.1. *Pitfichie Bike Trails:* Council considered Gravitare NE proposals, as drawn to its attention by Jill Matthews, a "concerned resident". It was felt that the NE location of a new trail not on existing walker routes was better there than elsewhere, especially with a different starting point for vehicular "uplift" facilities. Dave and Ken to draft and send a response to Jill M.
- 6.2. *Peatland:* It was noted that Carlos and Sandy were reporting new planning applications to George Allan. Dave reported one recent application, not of NEMT concern.
- 6.3. *Tracks, Pylons, etc.:* George's "nil report" was noted.
- 6.4. *Masts:* Ditto.
- 6.5. *Wind Farms:* No new activity, other than in 5.2 and 5.3 above.

7. AOCB:

- 7.1. Donald almost ready to submit Trustee data to OSCR.
 - 7.2. Ken reported ongoing CNPA LDP consultations/surveys; no NEMT involvement at this stage.
- Ken Thomson, 3 December 2025