

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

SCIO Scottish Charity no. SC 008783

Approved Minutes of Council Meeting, 7.30 pm 2 December 2025, Sportsman's Club, Aberdeen

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

1. Apologies: Donald Thomas*, Alistair Beeley (SMHWC), Roger Owen (SMHWC)**

2. Minutes of Council Meeting 30 Sept. 2025: the pre-circulated draft was approved.

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

4. NEMT Management

4.1. *Membership and Subscriptions:* Cath reported that all clubs and nearly all individuals had now paid their 2025 subs.

4.2. *Finance:* Alison reported that the Trust's bank balance stood at £11,797, after recent expenditures of £25 on room hire and £500 as a Bennachie pathwork donation (see 5.5. below). The 2024/25 FY had included two donations of £1000 and 3 *Mountain Views* postage costs but not the printer's bill (which was being chased up), and had resulted in a predicted deficit (of £2015), with the EoY balance being £12,015. The 2025/26 accounts were currently with the Independent Examiner, and a signed version was expected in time for the AGM.

4.3. *Website:* Donald had reported the home page updated, with a link to the SRN page.

4.4. *Mountain Views:* After discussion, Cath was authorised to send the MBA an e-copy, in reciprocity with their Newsletter. Ken reported that he had started on the Spring 2026 issue, and invited ideas and photographs. Ideas included a pre-election 'political' article, and more material on wildfires, LWSs (e.g. in Don near Corgarff) and Mar Lodge Estate.

4.5. *OSCR:* Donald had reported that all trustee information had been submitted.

4.6. *Future Council Meeting Dates:* These were agreed as (slightly different from agenda proposals) 20/1/2026 (after AGM), 17/3, 12/5, 18/8, 29/9, 1/12, and 26/1/2027 (after AGM).

5. Consultations

5.1. *FLS Angus Glens:* nothing to report.

5.2. *Glenskinnan (Kerloch) Wind Farm:* nothing to report, but may depend on Hill of Fare outcome.

5.3. *CNPA Core Paths:* Ken reported that he had not noticed anything "formal" as yet.

5.4. *CNPA Next Local Devt. Plan:* reported as still in early stages (see 7 below)

5.5. *Bennachie Pathwork:* it was reported that, after the NEMT donation (see 4.2 above), the Bailies had achieved £12,500 of their £100,000 target. Donald had reported no further update.

6. Threats to Wild Land

6.1. *Wind Farms:* Hill of Fare, Glen Markie; no update, except "industrialisation" comment.

6.2. *Pitfichie Bike Trails:* Ken reported that Jill Mathews had received Council's views (see minutes of 30.9.2025) with equanimity. It was agreed to drop this topic unless it re-emerged.

6.3. *Tracks, Pylons, Masts, Peatland:* George's "nil" report was noted. Mike reported that the 'dropped' Ryvoan mast was being re-pushed by some locals; Dave advocated "masts for people, not places". Dave reported high-standard peat restoration at Delnadamp, Ken suggested Aviva be approached re the Glen Dye Project; Ken to supply contact details to Cath.

7. AOCB:

7.1. Dave raised the issue of a future NEMT focus, following the successful masts campaign. Various suggestions were made, including pylons (thought too "low-level"), windfarms (e.g. Glen Markie; but NE focus preferred), support to JMT (await news), Balmoral estate future (thought unnecessary), signposting (e.g. ScotWays activity), and the next CNPA Local Development Plan. To be discussed/decided at January AGM and Council.

Ken Thomson, 8 December 2025