

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton
Manchester M20 2BB

Road Tel: 0161 445 6111
Fax: 0161 445 4500

www.thebmc.co.uk

BMC Cymru/Wales Mid Wales Outreach Group Meeting

The Druid Inn, Goginan 21st November 2012

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Meeting commences at 20.00

Thanks to all those attending (17 persons):

Tom Hutton, Dan Harris, Steph Duits, Terry Taylor, Don Sargeant, Simon Finch, Gareth Williams, Tim Sparrow, Piers Nesbitt, Mike Brooks, Pete Trickey, Anyela Camargo, Toby Everard, Dave Williams, Doug Kerr, C. Gilbert, Elfyn Jones.

Apologies were received from (2 persons):

Simon Longworth, Huw Gilbert.

Minutes from last meeting (1st September 2012) agreed.

Landscape:

In August the BMC agreed to support the Mountaineering Council for Scotland's manifesto on onshore wind farms.

See Link: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/lps.asp>

BMC to agree its own landscape charter on the 22nd November.

Nant y Moch Windfarm Application delayed until Spring 2013.

See Link: <http://nantymochwindfarm.com/>

Mynydd y Gwynt (Sweet Lamb) proposal at advanced stage. Test drives for turbines done.

Mynydd y Gwynt proposal just as close to Pumlumon as Nant y Moch

Mid Wales Group are concerned about the potential cumulative impact of these developments.

Elfyn Jones to look into status of Mynydd y Gwynt.

Brechfa Forest Wind Farm Application refused by Carmarthenshire County Council on the 20th November.

Consultation on Review of CRoW Act and Other Access Matters

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) review of open access maps closed on Friday 23rd November.

9-8 representations made by BMC Cymru

Once consultation closes, CCW must produce provisional maps of representations which only the landowners may comment on.

Currently, even where coastal land qualifies for open access land, sea cliffs are excluded; maps go to top of the cliffs but not the high water mark. Salt marshes and sand dunes are also excluded.

In Wales, BMC want to pursue to sea cliffs.

Rhoscolyn landowner objecting to climbers using cliffs.

Welsh Government Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development John Griffiths interested in doing site visit with the BMC.

John Griffiths is pro access and keen to improve access for recreation.

Wants Welsh model for access.

BMC group has been set up to look at the effect of group access on crags (e.g. climbing clubs, freshers groups, outdoor centres).

Intends on providing guidance.

The group is looking for examples of good and bad practice. Email elfyn@thebmc.co.uk if you have any examples.

Mid Wales group raise concern about the use of local crags by commercial enterprises; they sometimes arrange to pay landowner fees and then this is also expected of individuals.

BMC opposed to this behaviour and will only agree to support it if there is no other choice.

BMC membership offers third party liability, some landowners will therefore only allow members to climb

If a landowner makes a crag available for commercial use, it does not make them liable.

Responsibility to make users aware of hazards and then users are responsible for themselves.

It is suggested that the BMC could encourage clubs to 'give something back' e.g. crag clean ups or to adopt a crag.

Craig Pant Ifan for example is often used by groups, instructors could be briefed to do something beneficial while they are.

Could invite commercial enterprises in Mid Wales to group meetings.

Problem – ‘no climbing’ signs have been erected at Friog Quarry and Moel y Gest. It is not known who erected the signs.

BMC AGM

AGM held on 24th November, request for people to come along.

Mid Wales Mountaineering Club

In the first BMC Mid Wales meeting there was a call for a club.

Around 40 said they would be interested in joining a club.

Yahoo group set up and all those who expressed an interest invited to join.

Only about 20 joined.

Out of 20, only 5 or 6 active.

What do people feel about its future?

Yahoo Group very good, includes email alerts.

BMC meeting are also very good for people to meet.

Dan Harris has received emails about people wanting to join the club, but have no experience. Yahoo group not set up for such people as it is not a formal organisation.

Question asked if there was anyone willing to guide on a non-commercial basis?

Issues with taking out under 18s and liability.

Agreed to keep Yahoo Group going; join here: http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Mid_Wales_MC/

Facebook Group also set up: Join/Like here:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/337018393063836/?fref=ts#!/pages/Mid-Wales-Mountaineering-Club/371171816300363>

And here:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/337018393063836/?fref=ts#!/groups/337018393063836/?fref=ts>

Mid Wales Guidebook

Doug Kerr and Dave Williams are jointly coordinating

Don Sargeant will email map of areas and list of crags that need visiting

Would like to deliver book over the next 12 months

The guidebook will take the form of a supplement to the existing Meirionnydd guide.

The Supplement will be based on the existing areas from Meirionnydd guide (with modifications) namely:

1. Rhiniogau
2. Cadair Idris (extended southwards as far as Tywyn)
3. Arennig Fawr
4. Yr Aran
5. Berwynion (extended eastwards to the border)

together with two new areas:

6. Elenydd North (North Ceredigion Coastal, Plynlimon, Upper Severn, Upper Wye and Elan Valley areas)
7. Elenydd South (South Ceredigion Coastal, Llyn Brianne/ Upper Towy areas)

Moelwyns to be produced separately.

There will be a guidebook meeting held at 7.15 on the 6th of December at the Druid Inn, Goginan. All welcome.

Pembrokeshire

Annual meeting with conservation bodies and MOD successful. Only one infringement last year (at Stackpole Head)

It has been a bad year for choughs

This year so the fewest ever climbers visiting the crags.

No firing December 14th to January 7th; 6th April to 21st April and 2nd August to 31st August. Outside these dates mid-week will be taken up by firing.

There is a liability with belay stakes. Don't place them yourself because of unexploded ordnance.

BMC have arrangement with MOD to place stakes

In Range West, only 100 attended briefing and only around 50 actually climbed there.

Next year's Range West Access will be the same as this year.

Provisional briefing dates are 30th March, 25th May, and 27th July. Check BMC website closer to time for confirmed dates.

Restrictions listed from Hobbyhorse Bay – lots of new routes!

Bolt Fund

Tom Hutton asked group to donate to the bolt fund and collection take - £70.86 donated.

Money has been used in Mid Wales e.g. Barmouth Quarry

Chairmanship

Tom Hutton moving to North Wales, would anyone like to take over chairman role?

Nobody does, Tom Hutton happy to continue.

Please email bmccymrymidwales@live.co.uk if you want to volunteer.

AOB

Doug Kerr asks if meeting can be moved around a bit and held a bit earlier e.g. Tuesday or Thursday.

Machynlleth will be the venue of the next meeting, on a Tuesday and at 7pm. Dates and venue to be confirmed – watch this space!

Meeting closes at 22.00