

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of The Peak Area Meeting Wednesday 9th April 2014, The Maynard, Grindleford.

Present:

Neil Foster (Chair)
Lynn Robinson (Secretary)
Henry Folkard (Access Rep)
Louise Hawson (Access Rep)
Rick Gibbon (Access Rep)
Sophie Milner (The National Trust)
Chris Milner (The National Trust)
Simon Lee (BMC National Council Rep)
Will Harris (BMC)
Niall Grimes (BMC)
Dan Middleton (BMC)
Becky Ellis (Peak Climbing Club: PCC)
Graeme Hammond (PCC)
Tim Waterhouse (PCC)
Alan Sanderson (PCC)
Jim Slater (PCC)
John Gresty
Dave Parry
David Brown (PCC)
Duncan Campbell
John Cook (Castle MC)
Linda McLeish (Castle MC)
David Pendlebury (Castle MC)
Craig Offless
Paul Mitchell
Clare Reading (FRCC)
Phil Robins
Graham Parkes
Rick Scott
Andrew Elliott
Mark Vallance (CC)
Helen Tuck (The National Trust)
Mike Waters (FRCC/CC)

64 people signed in

Graham Richmond
Rob Greenwood (CC/Alpine Club)
Yvonne Alexander
Mike Kelly
Simon Dab
Caroline Ashman
Bryony Weathers
Gemma Purser
Pete O'Donovan
Emily Convery
Katy Coutts
Tim Grice
Chris Radcliffe (Oread MC)
Gill Radcliffe (DMC)
Graham Sutton (CC/Ceunant)
Ian Smith (CC)
Stephen Coughlan
Richard Wheeldon (CC)
Tom Ripley
Alan James (UKC/Rockfax)
Ed Chard (Thornbridge Outdoors)
Jo Astill
Dan Slatcher (Ceunant)
Meg Slatcher (Ceunant)
A J Stephenson
Benjie Wilcox
Gordon Macnair
Nick Longland
John Graveling
Chris Moor
Andy Elliott
Steve Clark
Mina Leslie-Wujastyk

72 people present

1. Apologies:

Claire-Jane Carter
Andy Tickle

Ross Burnage
Martin Kocsis

John Horsecroft
Martin Wass

Neil welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced staff from the BMC office, including Dan Middleton, Niall Grimes and Will Harris.

2. Actions from the last meeting (held on 12th February 2014)

None.

3. Access Update

Stanage Forum – Feedback from meeting held on the 29.3.14. Louise Hawson gave an overview and update. In summary, it was set up in 2000 to act as a stakeholder sounding board. A vision and management plan was developed taking into account the different land users views. The Forum has monitored the delivery of the plan. In 2012 the timeframe for the plan ran out.

At the recent Forum five questions were asked, including; “How can the Estate generate money?” and the main issues discussed were charging for parking and access and improving the area. It was felt that there wasn’t a need for a new vision.

40-50 people attended, of which approximately half were climbers. The budget and business plan is still not clear. The Peak Park National Park Authority (PPNPA) were going to sell-off Stanage, but they have done a U-turn and decided to keep the management of it. The concern from the BMC is on what basis was the decision made – is it that the PPNPA thought they could make money, which could have a detrimental affect on climbers freedom in the future.

Henry gave an overview that the North Lees budget has been cut by £35,000, and that the PPNPA needs to make £60,000 per year, and the only income can come from visitors. The Stanage Estate is on Open Access land, however, accessibility can be made very difficult. Historically, the Estate was bought with public money, therefore it should remain public land.

It was commented that people should find out who the Independent Board members are (of the PPNPA) and lobby them, as it is not a membership organisation like the National Trust or RSPB.

It was discussed as to whether people should pay for parking. Some people thought it reasonable, but only if they knew how the money was going to be spent.

The future of the campsite is a worry. The parking at Burbage North is on common land, therefore the PPNPA has no right to charge parking. However, Hooks Car, Plantation and Dennis Knoll is on their land.

The BMC continues to keep a very close eye on the above – many thanks to everyone for their continued involvement.

Staden Quarry – application to build a water bottling plant. It cost £37,000 to put in a planning application form. The proposal includes building a tunnel between the quarry and A6, which will take 2-years to build; to build a two-story building and to dig out the quarry by a further six-metres. People should go to the website and object. The BMC is opposing the planning application.

4. BMC Limestone Guide Update

Niall gave an update on the Limestone Guide. Most of it is completed. Harper Hill is still to do. Gary Gibson is writing/editing/researching it with the support of Niall. It is being split into two guides; North and South. Still needed are action shots, especially of trad routes – please forward them to Niall (niall@thebmc.co.uk).

5. Introduction and BMC Vice-President Nomination

Mina Lelie-Wujastyk introduced herself. She is up for nomination as one of the BMC VPs at the forthcoming BMC AGM. Mina believes the BMC has made climbing possible and accessible and will do her best to represent climbers interests.

Post-meeting note – many congratulation Mina on being elected Vice President at the recent AGM. We look forward to welcoming you to other Peak Area meetings in the future.

6. Introduction and Stanage Festival

Will Harris has recently been appointed by the BMC. The two main aims of his role are:

- to help people who want to climb outdoors and to encourage them to do so safely.
- to support clubs.

Will is organising a Stanage Festival, and wants it to be an event that everyone can be involved in. He plans to be based in the Plantation car-park and ideas so far include; a BMC BBQ, lecture in the evening; master classes.

It is being held on the 28th and 29th June.

It was suggested that buses can be laid on from Sheffield and Hathersage.

Anyone who has any further ideas/can volunteer a few hours etc – then please contact Will directly – will@thebmc.co.uk

7. National Council Update

Simon Lee gave a summary of the main items discussed:

- there has been a 5% cut in Sport England funding;
- there has been a change of provider for the BMC's civil liability insurance;
- a raised subscription fee has been put forward for vote at the AGM;
- the BMC Fixed Equipment Policy Statement (of which this meeting has contributed) has been ratified.

In November Neil will have served his time as National Council representative for the Peak Area. If anyone is interested in being put forward to take over the role, then please talk to Neil.

8. Any Other Business

The National Trust – Sophie gave an update that 30-50 cattle will be grazing on Burbage, with the aim to improve habitat.

Standing Stones – the ravens will soon be off.

Ravensdale – there is a raven restriction.

Longshaw - two new bridleways are being opened on Longshaw.

Nature Improvement Area in the High Peak – the BMC is a member and the aim is to improve conservation and access. Visitor surveys will soon be taking place. Volunteers are wanted to go to car parks to survey people. These will be taking place in May, September and December. If people are interested in volunteering, then please pass on your details to Lynn (lynn.robinson@bmcvolunteers.org.uk) who will forward them to Louise who is organising it.

9. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

8pm June 4th, The Winking Man Pub, Buxton Road Upper Hulme, Staffordshire. ST13 8UH

Please note the slightly later time so that we can go for a climb/walk beforehand.

NEWSLETTER REMINDER

We are always looking for items for the newsletter, to put alongside the usual access issues.
Please send articles/photos to the newsletter editor, Martin Wass at peakarea@gmail.com
All articles considered.

The deadline for the next newsletter is 21st May

After supper Mina gave an amazing talk on “Self Efficacy in Climbing and Mental Strategies for Success” and gave a premier showing of the short film “Unfamiliar” – a ‘must-see’!

Many thanks Mina and all the best in your role as BMC Vice President and for future bouldering competitions!

AS ALWAYS:

- Chair of the Peak Area is Neil Foster – neil.foster@bmcvolunteers.org.uk
- Access issues/access volunteer work please contact Henry Folkard – henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk
- With regard to the meetings, agenda items or any other issues please contact Lynn Robinson, Peak Area Secretary – lynn.robinson@bmcvolunteers.org.uk
- Check out the Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/bmcpeakarea> and ‘like’ us if you can.