

## **BMC CYMRU NORTH WALES AREA MEETING**

**Minutes of the meeting held at Lodge Dinorwig, Dinorwig, Gwynedd, LL55 3EY  
on Thursday 28 January 2016.**

‘Thanks’ were given to Simon and Sonni, proprietors of the new Lodge Café, Dinorwig for hosting us for the evening.

**APOLOGIES:** Many.....

**A.O.B:** No issues.

**AGM Minutes@Plas y Brenin (31/10/15):** No issues or matters arising.

**MATTERS ARISING:** None

**ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** None.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **6.1: BMC representation and Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage scheme**

Planning accepted doubling the size of it. Opportunity to become consultee with representation in the form of BMC objection re. issues around the scheme. Land exchange and de-registration for public access, i.e. footpath closures etc. Visual impact of the proposed dams being positioned right on the boundary of Snowdonia National Park. Objection of the ‘features’ of the plan. Awaiting a comprehensive response and Kate Ashbrook (general secretary of the Open Spaces Society) is keen to get views. Welsh Government to grant common land changes. Some people “for” the development, some “against”. Keep up to date with developments via Facebook page of the Snowdonia Society. “Registration of Concerns” of common-land issue – Open Spaces Society – John Harold encouraged everyone to check them out.

#### **6.2: The BMC & Wales – the future?**

BMC engaged in the process to improve its commercial links and structure. Funding may not extend across the border. Tom Hutton commented that measures should be taken to ensure that BMC Wales doesn’t lose out. Elfyn Jones mentioned that representation is from 3 x persons with Wales split in to 3 areas. 20% (approx.) of BMC’s funding comes from Sport England. No money from ‘SPORT WALES’ – no separate constitution. Andy Newton commented that an ‘independent constitution’ may be the way forward without cutting ourselves off from the BMC – balancing act involving politics from Cardiff.

#### **6.3: Welsh language policy for BMC Cymru Newsletter**

Wales’ bi-lingual is a country issue. Politically, there are ‘Brownie Points’ to be had by translating BMC Cymru Wales Newsletter into Welsh. E.J. said he would raise the subject with the BMC Office in Manchester and report response at next meeting.

#### **6.4: TremFest 2016**

Annual Tremadog Festival will be held 6-8 May 2016. Jim & Julia Kelly to organise the event in the usual way. BMC press to publicise event to clubs and universities in the region.

#### **6.5: Llanberis Mountain Film Festival**

LLAMFF 2016 will be held 4-6 March 2016. This is now a BMC-supported event requiring volunteers for all sorts of tasks. Info to be shared locally and via the BMC press.

#### **6.6: BMC and Tradfest 2016**

TRADFEST will be held 10-12 June, 2016. Great event supported by the BMC, Climbers' Club, V12, DMM. James McCaffie (new BMC Youth Officer) to promote to young climbers.

#### **6.7: Dinorwig Quarry rockfall**

Rockfalls in Dinorwig Slate Quarry. Huge falls in Mordor & Lost World. Some ladders are now unsafe also!! There is a new manager @ First Hydro and climbers have recently been asked to leave the Trango Tower Area. E.J. trying to set up a meeting in order to 'smooth things over'... yet again!

#### **6.8: South Wales Area Hill Wwalking Day**

To be held at Pen y Fan (meet at Storey Arms) on Saturday 6 February. Purpose to engage walkers in some 'walking & talking'. Publicised via the BMC Newsletter.

#### **6.9: Visit Wales 'Year of Adventure'**

"Find your Epic" on 2- 4 April as part of the Year of Adventure.

#### **6.10: Range West Safety Briefings**

Pembroke safety briefings valid until 2017 (see website for briefing dates.) There is a major NATO exercise planned for 10 -11 April – NO ACCESS!!! We may see more total closures on MOD land in the future due to armed forces re-structuring etc.

#### **6.10b: Yn Ni Padarn Peris Hydro Scheme**

Alan Hughes spoke about the potential to get involved in the share offer for this development. 1,000 shares available at £2.50 each. 3 -4-5% returns in first 3 years (projected?). Meeting at Electric Mountain on 27 Feb in the Boat Room. All welcome ... with your cheque books!!?%

#### **6.11: Ground Conditions Reporting 2016**

Anne Vowle gave a presentation of the ground conditions for Snowdon reports. Nat.Park wardens involved – climb up mountain and make observations re. snow, ice, temps etc. These are sent to the Met Office and reported the next day. Simple, factual information on snow conditions and advice on appropriate clothing. (see: [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)) Target audience is for visitors outside the Snowdon Area. E.J. mentioned that the info could be linked to the Cwm Idwal temperature gauges and turf reports.

#### **6.12: New Access Database Plan**

NOT DISCUSSED

#### **6.13: BMC Challenge Event Guidance update**

Andy Newton noted that challenge groups don't realise the impact they are having on the landscape. Painting 'waymarkers' ... NO WAY!!!!!! It was raised that it would be good to find out what the National Trust's view/policy is re. its land?? Excessive signage was also mentioned at a previous SLATEMAN event.

**6.14: BMC Women's Think Tank.**

Address BMC issues to improve participation of women in climbing. In the BMC women are under-represented roughly 20/80 split women to men.

**6.15: BMC Mend the Mountains Campaign**

BMC Access & Conservation Trust money available to projects in upland areas. £100k crowd-sourced funding for footpath works. Snowdon – upper section of the Watkin Path – issues of erosion etc. On-going, long-term work requiring £100,000 launched in Feb 2016.

**6.16: Snowdon Partnership update**

Helen Pye reported on the “management strategy for Snowdon”. John Harold mentioned the ‘Visitor Giving Project’ at pilot stage at present. There was a public meeting in Llanberis 2 weeks ago. 15 businesses attended and 12 registered an interest to get involved... large and small.

**6.17: Save the Conwy Campaign**

John Harold spoke about concerns of the threat to Conwy Falls from a Hydro Scheme Application. The decision has been deferred for the third time. The Nat. Park is engaged in the scrutiny of the application along with National Resources Wales. ... Water Abstraction License for an industrial-scale development. Decision in March 2016? E.J. mentioned “it’s a bit of a game of who blinks first!”

**6.18/19/20.** Items noted with nothing to report on.

**7: AOB:** Litter on Snowdon!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Terrible and Snowdon Mountain Railway needs to take responsibility to clean up the summit site at the end of each day. The issue of serving alcohol in the Summit Station Café was also mentioned as a source of the glass bottles that are littering the area. Snowdon Partnership has noted this.

***The meeting ended at 10.40pm.***

***Next meeting, prior to National Council AGM in May. Date and location to be advised.***