

## **BMC MID WALES AREA MEETING**

**FERUARY 6th Aberystwyth. 7.00 pm**

**1. Apologies:** Doug Kerr. Pete Trickey. Hugh Gilbert. **In attendance:** Terry Taylor, Jane Lloyd Francis, Elfyn Jones (BMC Officer), Holly Addis, Ian Stevens, Sam Tolhurst, Tom Tolhurst.

### **2 .Matters Arising:**

It was reported that there is a problem with receiving newsletters from the BMC as these are distributed using a post code system. This then tends to group Mid Wales with the Midlands whereas it might be of more interest to be aligned with other groups in Wales. The BMC is aware that this is a potential problem throughout the regions and is looking at ways to address the problem. It was suggested that a mailing list system should be resurrected. It was also suggested that Facebook was a more reliable means of accessing information. It was noted that associating meetings with events was a more positive way to encourage better a attendance.

### **3. Secretary:**

It was noted that while Hugh Gilbert has been elected to chair future meeting there is currently no elected secretary. It was decided that this role could be on an informal voluntary basis until attendance grows, and formalised as and when necessary.

### **4. Wind Farms:**

There has been a significant campaign against wind farm development on Pumlumon in recent years, this paused when it seemed the development was no longer proceeding. However it was noted that Vattenhall has recently acquired (from SSE) the rights to take forward the Nant Y Moch wind turbine development area as identified in the Welsh Government's Strategic Search Areas on Pumlumon.

Peter Faulkes a local (Machynllech) BMC member and John Muir Trustee is the main contact on this matter but unfortunately could not be at this meeting.

It was also noted that a large section of land to the south of Nant y Moch and leading to the summit is currently for sale and could be acquired by a major conservation body, possibly NT.

### **5. Updates from BMC:** As above.

**6. Access:** There are two local quarries in Pennal and Corris which have been explored recently both of which will require formal agreements for access and this is under discussion.

**7. AOB:** TremFest needs organising but as the Tremadog cafe, carpark and camping are for sale it makes organising events in the future tricky due to the uncertainty. It was noted that the BMC was in the process of submitting an application to Sport England (SE) for funding for the period 2017 to 2020 (approx 20% of BMC funding is from Sports England) but the likelihood is that the funding package will be substantially less than in previous years by 30 to 40% and will have an impact on overall financial situation for the BMC. However it seems that SE are likely to support further development of the BMC's hill walking strategy. Hill walking is increasing as an activity and £112,000 was raised in 2016 through the "Mend our Mountains" (MoM) campaign to improve eroded paths, including for paths in the Beacons and on Snowdon. Professional fundraisers could be used by the BMC to raise funds for further path improvements when MoM 2 is launched in March.

It was noted that there is a large piece of loose rock on the crag slightly to the west of Cnwch Coch in the Elan Valley – **Craig Caban Fach? .....****Sam Tolhurst** undertook to inform the local rangers that it is potentially dangerous.

The evening concluded with a brilliant and entertaining presentation by Sam Tolhurst about a skill building trip to Norway which was really useful and informative for any young aspiring adventure climbers