

Minutes of the BMC Cymru - North Wales Local Area Meet

8.00pm, Thursday 2 February 2017

Belle Vue Hotel, Bangor Gwynedd, LL57 2EU

Attendees

Iona Pawson, Craig Letham, Emma Wood, Ray Wood, Mike Raine, Gwyn Jones, Andy Boorman, David Lloyd, Jim Kay, Jimbob, Owain 'oz' Rice, James Kelly, Josh Moore, Freya Tomlinson, Anna Zelmer, Cenydd Lewis, Ian Martin, Richard Bale, Iolo Roberts, Charlie Beale, Stiwart Breese, Samantha Forrest, Ross Worthington, Adam Carry, Joseff Rhodri Evetts, Mark Evans, Mary Snowden, Marion Wintringham, Anne Vowles, Emily Jones, Cameron Robertson, Tiggy Price, Dave Brown, Dan Lane, Anthony Eccles

1. Apologies for absence,

Chris Forrest, Stephen Jones, Alex Kendall, Tabitha Angle-Smith

2. Note Issues for AOB

Save Beddgelert Forest

3. Accept minutes of the previous meeting - Caban Cyf - 11.11.16

Awaiting these

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere (from previous minutes)

None

5. Actions from previous meeting

Within agenda

6. Agenda Items

6.1 Introduction of new volunteers present

Dan Lane, National Council representative and Iona Pawson, Secretary, were introduced.

Introductions of the following people were also made: Andy Boorman - MT representative, Elfyn Jones - BMC & Conservation officer for Wales, Ray Wood - Access and Management Group

6.2 Wales Area update - Mid/South

Newsletters. It has been found that some members living in NE Wales and Mid Wales do not have a Welsh postcode. While the BMC areas follow postcode the post office doesn't allocate a Welsh postcode but an area postcode meaning you could have an English postcode. Up to 3000 members potentially are affected. It is possible 3000 more could be. ACTION: the BMC is looking into this.

6.3 Hillwalking update - Hillwalking Officer

There are plans to do a peer led informal walk in early April. Some interest in this was shown in the room. ACTION: Antony to come up with dates for that and create a page on the BMC area section with FB notifications.

Outdoor Survey of BMC members showed that hillwalking was 'by far the most common activity reported (42%)'.

6.4 Access and Conservation update - Elfyn Jones

Mend our mountains was successful last year and the BMC are looking at doing this again in 2017 to help members and non-members to put something back into the areas that we love and

use. This would help us to put something back and have a positive say on what happens in these areas. Should be launched at SHAFF this year.

Craig Ty Nywedd - normally restricted for part of the year, this has changed; 'Due to the national outbreak of Avian Flu the landowners and the managers of the pheasant pens and rearing sheds that lie below the crag have advised that all access to the crag and the surrounding land has been suspended until further notice.' (<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/View.aspx?id=992>)

Bolted lower offs and replacement of some fixed equipment has been agreed on some areas of the **Orme**. Contact Andy Boorman for more information and to help.

Hydro schemes

National Trust has agreed that they will not be putting schemes on some of the more popular and iconic areas in Snowdonia including the rivers Ogwen, Lloer. They have confirmed that they will be intending to put in applications for some areas in the Nant Francon and the Ogwen valley areas. They have planning permission for the Aberglaslyn and behind Cnicht.

Reminder that if you want to 'protest' against it write to them regarding this. EJ reminded the meeting that the BMC is not against Green Energy but has policies in place.

Discussion around one of the quarry faces that might be rebolted on **Anglesey**.

Beddgelert Forest - David Lloyd

Asking for support in objection to a proposed redevelopment of the campsite. Forest holidays have the right to apply for planning permission to build holiday lodges removing 140 of the 195 pitches, replacing with 25 luxury cabins. There is concern over the impact on the village economy and the loss of accessible affordable accommodation for outdoor users and BMC members / potential members. It was unanimously recommended that the national park reject the application at the recent village meeting. Objections to this redevelopment proposal need to be done by 10th February to the national park.

The question was put to the room of whether the BMC could write a letter of objection too? Mike Raine queried if we have enough information to object this as the BMC and made the point that we can't just object to something without due process. Ross Worthington asked for more hard facts of the impact in other parts of the country where similar redevelopments have gone ahead.

In response to this DL gave more information on other areas and how it might impact Beddgelert including the occupancy rates of the site currently. ACTION: On the grounds of a loss of amenities for our members the BMC should put forward a letter of objection for this.

6.5 Tremfest - Elfyn Jones

Brief summary of Tremfest given. Need volunteers to help with clearing vegetation, a team of 4-5 people to help organise the event, and agree a date (possibly mid May or later). There will be free accommodation, tea, cake, beer and prizes.

6.6 Climbing update and Youth Climbing - Sam Forrest

Sports council Wales have 2 funding streams. Both dictate that you go to your governing body. But climbing isn't on the list of governing bodies as there isn't a Welsh governing body and therefore there is this 'catch 22' of trying to get support.

Elfyn Jones

BMC only gets funding from Sports England. SE has changed how it funds NGBs. BMC is not a governing body but is aware of the issues and is looking at how it can adapt its strategy plan to accommodate this. Not all olympic sports get funding. Some Sports England money has been used to fund the British Squad. Sports Wales summary of funding noting that they are looking at getting more people active and outside rather than the development of athletes. Simon Lee appointed to look at commercial sponsorship for this area for the BMC.

The question was raised 'Does there need to be a BMC constitutional change or more proactive lobbying for this?'

British-Slovenia women's winter exchange

Looking for under 35 year old talented female climbers to join the exchange program this winter. If you are interested contact nick@thebmc.co.uk

Further details can be found here: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/women-winter-climbers-british-slovenia-meet-exchange-2017>

6.7 - National Council update

Nothing in particular

6.8 - Club update

Some dates to be noted regarding Club committee members.

6.9 - LLAMFF - Ross Worthington

This is LLAMFF's 3rd year. Dates are: 3-5 March. It helps promote this area of N Wales and outdoor activity. Brief summary of LLAMFF given; including films, workshops from various including AMI, Canoe Wales. Paul Pritchard and Alan Hinkes will be there too. ACTION: spread the word!

7. AOB

None - covered above

8. - Date of next meeting

Prior to the BMC AGM on 22/23 April. (Possibly Tuesday 18th April - Venue TBC)