

BMC area meet, Siabod Café-11/06/2018

1 - AE explains he is Chairing the meeting on behalf of TJ who is away.

2 - JB will act as secretary.

3 - Apologies-Tim Jepsom, Kate Worthington, Anne Vowles, Tarquin Shipley, Mike Piccroft, Marty Wall, Will Hardy, Simon Panton, Steve Jones, Rusty Bale, Carlo Forte, Mike Raine.

4 – a) Corrections. None.

b) Matters Arising. None.

4. - (again) Access. EJ.

- a) Craig y Forwyn – National Council agreed permission to secure access. Hogan have agreed to a consultation, but this will happen after the sale of the caravan park. Until then please stay away from central section. Looking positive but it will still move slowly. Room thanked Andy Boorman for pushing the point at national Council.
- b) Crimiau area - Issue with a landowner in the Crimpiau area. Owner does not agree that his land is CROW land. National Park is observing and following up if continues.
- c) Ormes, Gogarth, LLeyn - Due to delayed arrival of sea birds looks likely that the nesting bans will be extended possibly into August for coastal areas. No Diamond till much later. Check Regional Access Data Base, now in handy App form.
- d) Llandulas cave – Parking, again! If it's busy, go elsewhere or park away and walk in. PJ pointed out that it could also be mountain bikers.
- e) Castle inn – Victim of its own success. Many problems, 155 people counted using it one weekend, parking, bottom roping through lower offs, music, misuse by some minibus groups (not local centres, but from out side the area) How to get the message across? Organised groups, please use the nature reserve carpark and walk over.
- f) Marian Bach, Llysfaen – Landowners on top of cliff strongly object to climbers. Despite their objections they do not own the cliff. Please keep a very low profile, do not top out, lower off only and please do not use with groups.
- g) Tremfest – 80 folks turned up and it was a success. EJ thanked Mike and Sally Raine for their work. Sunshine and no scares!
- h) Ormes, Pigeon Cave area – Country park warden has been approached about the commercial use of Pigeons Cave for a zip wire and water slide(?). This would need consent from landowners, SSSSSSI (when do the esses stop?) Etc. RW pointed out that the company is local and already does a lot of event abseils etc. AB felt that it was not really a suitable venue for heavily organised high number throughputs, LR was concerned that they were after exclusivity for an area that is used by LEA type centres, paying may set precedent. EJ said that there was nothing in writing yet so nobody knows what they are proposing yet, one to be aware of.

- i) Bodesi Hydro – EJ stated that the BMC has a policy of not disagreeing with these types of things unless there is a recognised threat to access or another area of BMC interest but it is worth BMC members being aware of what is going on. Dan Yates of Save Our Rivers gave a very informative talk on the nature of small scale hydro within the national park and other upland areas. The main points seem to be that these schemes only operate due to build subsidies, this one is only powerful enough to run about 8 showers off, the power itself will not be used by the property but sold to the grid and will only run at this output for approximately one third of the year. Whilst each scheme has an environmental impact done the accumulative effects of many schemes in one catchment has not been studied. LR felt that the National park should not be the place for this and spoke about the Llanberis infinity pool problem, and RW spoke about the loss of bat roost and damage to trees, stream beds etc seen within the Llanberis Pass by the hydro schemes there. What started as one led to most tributaries of the Afon Nant Peris being damned and did we want this happening unchecked within the Ogwen, Nant Ffrancon catchment. AE pointed out that he felt that the thin end of the wedge analogy was fair here. EJ restated that the BMC has no fixed policy and didn't want to be seen as a NIMBY organisation when it came to things like this, but members could find out more at the consultation at the Capel Curig community centre consultation and he would hopefully have more information. CL spoke about the track extension from Bryn Poeth and the disparity when OVMR wanted a small amount of drainage put in for the rescue helicopter landing zone.

5. - BMC AGM.

a) Voting (online/proxy) AE started by asking if everybody had voted or received the email about voting. PJ said that he had not received the email and had received nothing about the process and questioned whether the BMC was setting itself up for criticism and lack of transparency with online voting. EJ The BMC is using an outside organisation for the online vote to avoid criticism. The room felt that there was enough information elsewhere and the standard forms of voting were still available to members so this was another way. LR not a club member just individual and had received the emails PJ is only a club member and had not, AE said he would take the information to National Council to see if it was related to club membership or if some people had just fallen through the net. All acknowledged that this would be too late for online voting but the other traditional avenues proxy etc were still available.

b) Discussion on options. AE Had everyone in the room already voted, and if not, did they understand what they had voted for? It appeared that most in the room had. He then read TJ's statement. PJ had some questions on option A, a fear that it was a members group currently and this would default it to a governing body. KS referenced information on the BMC website in which Andy Syme addressed all of the points and concerns raised. EJ stepped in to try to answer them. Most confusion came from who would actually appoint the board and who they were accountable to. BMC not currently operating in a legal manner. National council can make the board act illegally and this is not allowed by company law which is what the BMC has been for a while. The Review came back with an option A to bring the BMC in line with the law and enable it to continue with tier 3 funding which it is heavily reliant on, examples given included youth officer, clubs officer etc. Option B would mean that the BMC would only be able to draw down on tier 1 funding and it would still be operating in a dubious area of the law as a company so it would have to cease to exist in its current form. Tier 1 funding is for single year or short term single issue funds and cannot be used for wages

etc. Concern with option A meaning that the leadership was not accountable to members was discussed and both AE and EJ said that that was misunderstood and ultimately any member of the board would be able to have a vote of no confidence brought against them and also the members still had the power to vote people on and off the board at the AGM. DL pointed out that of the 44 that pushed the option B 33 had now removed their names from the list after getting more information on both options.

6 - Hillwalking. AE mend our mountains main point of focus at the moment, please donate or get others to. PJ asked where the money was going, what transparency? EJ said that was made clear on the MOM website. AE working on a hillwalking symposium, one or 2 days discussion for interested parties.

7. – Youth. BMC North Wales Youth Meet a success, lots of 3 star classics ticked and no rescues AE wanted to thank Caff for heading up such a successful weekend.
8. -National Council meeting. Thanks to Andy Boorman and John Cousins for attending and sitting through 6 hours of option A and B discussion and pushing the Craig y Forwyn issue. AB wanted to acknowledge EJ work over the years.
9. Wales area update. No info from WK. EJ late season nesting going to be a problem in the Gower etc same reasons as further North. Developing issue with inner city climbing venue within Swansea due to building development on the land. Mid wales some issues, Staffordshire climbing club want to install lower offs at a crag to remove conflict etc all on national database and in EJ update.
10. Clubs. Clwb Mynydda Cymru happy with the vote.
11. Mountain training UK RW Work on rock skills 1,2 and 3 ongoing, not a qualification scheme but a competency education-based series of courses. Launches August for interested providers, scheme goes live the following year. Should be good for clubs.
12. Date of next meeting to be announced, early to mid Sept to allow for national council meeting if the BMC still exists after the AGM!
13. Suggestions for future speakers?

