

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## Minutes of The Peak Area Meeting Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018, The Maynard, Grindleford

### Present:

Rob Greenwood (Chair)	Becky Hammond (secretary)	Henry Folkard
Pete Lancaster (Oread MC)	Cameron Anderson	Michelle Cullimore-Pike
Kim Leyland	Geoff Nichols (Castle MC)	Sean Jennings (Castle MC)
Adam Peel (Bassetlaw HMC)	Frag Last	John Gresty
Steve Clegg	Alan James (UKC)	Neil Foster
Alison Cairns (National Council rep)	Andy Cairns (Climbers Club)	Clare Reading (FRCC)
Eleanor Roddick	John Graveling	Toby Archer
Steve Clark	Gerald Paillipson	Peter Judd
Spencer Ramsey	Henry Folkard	Glynis Judd
Zoe Spriggins (BMC Officer)	Rab Carrington	Simon Lee (UK Bouldering, BMC)
Lynn Robinson	John Cook	Ange Haswell
David Brown (National Council rep)	Graeme Hammond	Jen Haswell
Michael Smith (Yorkshire Ramblers Club)		

### In attendance

Les Ainsworth (BMC president candidate) Carl Bedson

**39 signed in  
40 people present**

### 1. Apologies:

Austin Knott, Andy Tickle (Friends of the Peak, and Derbyshire Pennine Club), Simon Jacques, Mark Warwicker

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

One amendment: Mark Vallance has already been made an Honorary Member

### 3. Actions from previous meetings

- Write to ORG thanking them for their work – Rob Greenwood has not yet done this

### 4. Ring Ouzel monitoring (Kim Leyland)

We're now in the middle of the Ring Ouzel nesting season. They are mostly using their usual territories. The first pair have fledged at Burbage. There have been a couple of predations and one possible disturbance at Stanage Flying Buttress.

Two years ago there were 30-40 pairs across Stanage and the Eastern Moors. They are now increasing in number and spreading further south to Curbar and Baslow.

There's been an amazing response from volunteers helping to cover Stanage (which was previously monitored by Bill Gordon when he was the warden). There are approximately 12 people helping with monitoring. They will be asking for more volunteers next year. If you're interested please contact Kim (email [kleyland@btinternet.com](mailto:kleyland@btinternet.com)). Rob Greenwood described his experiences monitoring the Ring Ouzels at Curbar, and said how much he was enjoying.

Mark Anderson, the new Stanage warden, is finding his feet quickly and supportive.

Kim also mentioned that he had found a Ravens nest at Gardoms which fledged last week. It was found very late in the season. It appears to have been successful even though there had been quite a lot of climbing done near it (according to UKC logbooks).

**Phil Bartlett** interrupted the meeting. He objected to the title of "BMC Organisational Review Implementation" on the agenda. He asked whether people were aware of the important discussions that were going on. Various people said that yes, it had been extensively discussed at previous meetings. He asked whether Becky Hammond (secretary) was a member of BMC staff – she clarified that she is a volunteer. There was a request from the floor

to revert to the agenda.

#### **5. Access updates (Henry Folkard)**

As always, most updates are in the Peak Area Newsletter <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/peak-area-newsletter-may-2018>

##### **Ravensdale**

The nesting restriction on the whole crag (imposed by Natural England) has been extended to the end of May. A Peregrine has been seen in the area, but no nest found. PDNPA are supportive of our position of objecting to the whole-crag “precautionary” nesting restriction. Luke Barley of the National Trust has also been helpful, pointing out the success of voluntary selective nesting restrictions.

Henry feels that Natural England are not taking their responsibilities for access seriously.

##### **Brexit**

Yes, this will affect access & conservation! Cath Flitcroft (BMC Access & Conservation Officer) has provided a long detailed response to a consultation.

##### **Chapel Gate**

Derbyshire County Council are consulting about repairs to the first section from Sheffield Road. It's a Byway Open to all Traffic (BOAT) but there is currently a Traffic Restriction Order banning motorised vehicles. The initial repair proposals weren't very good, but the new proposals look better with a more sustainable surface, and dealing with wet moorland.

##### **Wirksworth / Shining Cliff and Forestry Commission proposals**

Our response to the FC's consultation pointed out that they have taken no account of recreational use in their 50 year plan. The FC have responded that they don't take think about recreational use in their planning!

##### **Running Hill Pits**

Some of this is open access under CRoW, and some of it is not. You may be asked to leave.

##### **Conies Dale**

This is a bouldering venue near Sparrow Pit. The climbing itself is on open access land, but the easiest approach is not. The PDNPA access team are in discussions with the landowner about creating a permissive path. In the meantime, climbers are asked to stay away to avoid jeopardising the negotiations.

##### **Beerhouse Buttrees**

The old pub where people used to park is being/has been redeveloped and therefore no longer available for parking. Park in the nearest available layby on the A6.

##### **Masson Lees**

No further developments since the last meeting. The Derbyshire Dales planners haven't received any requests for planning permission, but will let Ian Milward know if they do receive anything.

##### **Buxton to Matlock railway**

A consortium including the quarries is looking at re-opening this line. No planning applications made yet, or approaches to landowners.

##### **Roaches – nesting birds**

On Pebbledash

##### **Moorland fires**

Fire risk is currently very high. There was a big fire on Big Moor south of Curbar on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May, and a smaller fire a week ago. Please be vigilant and phone 999 if you see any possible fires.

#### **6. Update from Peak Area Hill Walking Reps (Peter Judd)**

##### **Great Ridge torchlight photo**

This was a fundraising event for Mend Our Mountains Make One Million (MOMMOM). Originally Peter's idea but implemented by Carey and Inigo from the BMC office. Thanks to the local Mountain Rescue Teams, the National Trust (especially Ted Talbot), all of the marshalls, everyone who participated, and Matt Le Voi (Lakeland Mountain Guides) for the inspiration.

**Peak Mountaineering Pick & Play event**

Was well supported by BMC members, and cleared lots of rubbish from around Millstone and Owler Tor.

**Peak Limestone Festival 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September**

Primarily a climbing event, but will include a walk.

**MOMMOM Cut Gate project**

Has been “adopted” by the mountain bikers. There’s a sponsored walk later this month.

**Hillwalking Implementation Group**

Has been paralysed due to the ongoing organisational review which has absorbed people’s time and left questions over funding.

Lynn Robinson expressed thanks to Peter for the Great Ridge event.

**7. BMC Organisational Review Implementation (Alison Cairns)**

Perhaps a better title would be “BMC Articles of Association”.

There has been extensive discussion of these topics at previous meetings.

Alison explained the latest updates, including Option A and Option B for the revised Articles of Association. There was some positive progress as a result of the Open Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Many Option B supporters have now moved to supporting Option A (the final version of which was published on 17<sup>th</sup> May). BMC members still have to choose between the two options.

In addition, John Roberts has put forward a resolution which would act as a fallback and mandate to move forward, if Option A was not passed.

Information was circulated about the options, and how to vote online. There is also information available on the BMC website.

**8. Candidates for BMC Presidency**

Lynn Robinson and Les Ainsworth both gave presentations, and took questions.

Various people expressed their opinion that they felt Les was being overly negative about the BMC and how well it functions, and questioned the accuracy of some of his assertions about things that had happened in the past. Les said he would take that feedback on board.

**9. BMC Officers (Zoe Spriggins)**

Nothing additional to add.

**10. Peak Area Newsletter**

People were asked to note the latest edition of the newsletter. Many thanks to Dave Parry and John Coefield for this latest edition. As always contribution and photographs welcome: Please send to: [peakarea@gmail.com](mailto:peakarea@gmail.com).

**11. Any other business****Livestreaming**

If livestreaming of meetings is considered, we’d be willing to be a pilot. Felt it could be a good way to engage more people if technical issues can be resolved.

**12. Date, time and venue of the next meeting**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 7.30pm at The Maynard Arms, Grindleford, S32 2HE (food available from 6.30pm)

The Area AGM will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.