



Local Area Meeting - Cyfarfod Ardal Leol

Tachwedd 21 November 2018

Gwesty Padarn

Llanberis

Minutes - Cofnodion

1. Croeso/Welcome

This meeting followed on directly from the AGM.

Attendance: 37 members (7 female) including Tim Jepson (chair) and Elfyn Jones (BMC A&C Officer)

2. Secretary – Ysgrifennydd

In the absence of a Secretary, Kate Worthington kindly offered to take notes.

3. Apologies - Ymddiheuriadau

Martin Doyle, Mike Rosser, Anthony Eccles

4. Minutes/Cofnodion (Vaynol, Nant Peris, 4/9/18) - Matters Arising

i. Dave Stanley has now been appointed as 'Project Manager' – two days per week.

ii. BMC AGM now confirmed – 31 March 2019 in Buxton. Resolutions need to be submitted by 13 February.

iii. Implementation Group is now renamed Organisational Development Group (ODG)

iv. The All-Wales Working Group met for the first time on 13 October 2018

v. EJ will submit a bid for funds for the Dudodyn Bridge replacement to ACT, but as ACT is currently short of funds (due to Mend our Mountains commitments), they are not accepting bids for new projects until 2019."

5. Items for AOB - Itemau am UFA

There were no items submitted for AOB

6. Chair's Business – Busnes Cadeirydd (TJ)

i. **Data Protection** regulations do not permit local areas to hold members' email lists.

TJ provided his email for direct contact.

Manchester Office has set up a website on which members can sign-up for local area, and marketing emails:

bit.ly/bmc-areas

Currently members in Wales can only sign-up for an 'all-Wales' area.

However, TJ is likely to continue to use Facebook for circulating local area information and notifications.

ii. Additional **Single-issue meetings** proposed, as a trial, in 2019. Pete Johnston raised the concern of how topics would be chosen. TJ, as chair, said he would decide a topic, based on suggestions from meetings or individuals. Proposals could be taken from a single-issue meeting for ratification/rejection at a local area meeting. Other organisations might wish to co-host a single-issue meeting.

The meeting approved the notion of single-issue meetings by a show of hands.

iii. **Prosiect Carneddau** - TJ brought this Heritage Lottery Fund proposal to the attention of the meeting. BMC Cymru did feed into the initial bid, but is not a funding partner organisation. Some concerns were expressed about ways in which Prosiect Carneddau might develop to the detriment of BMC members' interests, despite clear local educational and community benefits.

Mike Raine and Neil Hockley suggested that Prosiect Carneddau could be a suitable topic for a single-issue meeting, perhaps jointly with Plas y Brenin.

7. Access and Conservation - Mynediad a Chadwraeth (EJ)

The full report is available on the BMC Community website.

- i. **Pembrokeshire** Access arrangements with MoD are going well – no infringements by climbers. But climbers need to attend briefings and climb in Range West to justify future MoD involvement.
 - ii. **Tremfest** – Mike Raine confirmed his commitment to this event in 2019. Date yet to be fixed.
 - iii. **Craig y Forwyn** – discussions about BMC purchase or leasing are still on hold, Conwy Council having now rejected planning permission for development of the caravan site.
 - iv. Pay and Display machines are soon to be installed at **South Stack** by the RSPB, Ynys Mon's rejection of the plans having been overturned by Cardiff.
 - v. **Micro Hydro** proposals for Afon Bodesi have been dropped by the National Trust on the grounds of damage to landscape and rare lichens.
- However the meeting voted 35 For and 1 Against to ask Elfyn to write on behalf of BMC Cymru to object to a new planning application for a hydro scheme in Cwm Cynfal (Ffestiniog).
Update: That application has now been refused!

8. Reps. Reports – Adroddiadau

There was nothing for any reps. Present to report that was not covered in the Annual Report (included in the Minutes of the AGM).

9. BMC/Eisteddfod/Clwb Mynyddda Cymru - Penderfyniadau (MT)

Support for a BMC Cymru presence on the Clwb Mynyddda Cymru stand at the Eisteddfod (Llanrwst 2019) was approved at the last Local Area meeting in September.

Myfyr Tomos, representing CMC, told the meeting that a double unit would cost approx £2,300 and asked if there could be financial assistance with meeting this cost.

Ross Worthington thought this was not expensive; BMC should meet 50% of the cost.

EJ said he would liaise with Mountain Training Cymru and Outdoor Partnership re. sharing costs.

Mike Raine suggested that there should be a senior BMC officer present at such a prestigious cultural Welsh event.

EJ emphasised the importance of the event for influencing politicians.

TJ said that the timing was perfect for taking this opportunity to push for a stronger identity in Wales for the BMC.

10. BMC Strategic Plan – Cynllun Strategol 2018-2020

The ODG had asked all areas to include this item on their agendas and had produced much documentation and a slideshow to support chairs in presenting the progress of the ODG's work to date.

TJ admitted to finding the information difficult to digest, understand and summarise for this meeting. TJ reminded members of the process so far and explained that last year's recommendations now had to be converted into next year's decisions and those decisions then needed to be implemented. This might appear to some members be a relatively slow and repetitive process.

All the paperwork is available to all members on the BMC website and the ODG welcomed feedback from individuals or the meeting through local area reps. One member, Calum Muskett, had already offered feedback direct to the ODG. The whole ODG process needs to be seen to be transparent and democratic.

TJ quickly read through the two slides, as recommended by the ODG.

Mike Raine picked up on two points from bullet point 4, on slide 2.

- i. Why was it ... 'expected to take a longer time to resolve (options ... in Wales) than the other work underway'? **Action:** Dan Lane was asked to take this question to the ODG and the next NC.
- ii. It was wrong to clump 'Wales' and 'Competition Climbing' together in the same bullet point, when they were completely different types of issue.

Gareth Pierce (newly appointed Chair of the Board of Directors) agreed that the BMC's role in respect of competition climbing was like that of a governing body (eg to meet Sport England requirements and to access funding) whereas in all other aspects of its work its role should be as a representative body.

**11. BMC Cymru - Y Ffordd Ymlaen - The Way Forward for the BMC in Wales
Small Group Discussion and questionnaire
Trafodaeth mewn Grwpiau Bach a holiadur**

TJ briefly introduced this item by listing those governmental matters which are devolved in Wales. He then illustrated, by using Access and Government Consultation Papers as examples, how devolution has caused problems when a Manchester-based BMC needs to influence policy-making simultaneously both in England and in Wales.

Despite tight timing to explore these complex issues, a questionnaire was then handed out and members asked to work in small groups to discuss and offer answers/comments to the two multi-part questions which dealt with:

Q1: Options for strengthening the identity, presence and influence of BMC in Wales.

Q2: Use of the Welsh language within the BMC.

Thirty-seven members took part in the discussion, in nine small groups.

The questionnaire and its results are available as separate documents.

TJ made no apology for the difficulty of agreeing answers to the questions but reminded members that answers would have to be found before 'The Way Forward for the BMC in Wales' could be decided.

12. Any Other Business - Unrhyw Fusnes Arall

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 20.50

Lecture:

Tom Livingstone then gave an excellent talk and answered questions about his recent BMC-sponsored Himalayan adventure to Latok 1. Thanks, Tom.

Meeting dates for 2019

Tuesday 22 January

Tuesday 12 March

Tuesday 4 June

Tuesday 3 September

Tuesday 19 November (Area AGM)

Venues and Times to be notified when decided.