

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## Minutes of The Peak Area Meeting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011 The Maynard, Grindleford

### Present:

Neil Foster (Chair)  
Lynn Robinson (Secretary)  
Henry Folkard (Access Rep)  
Rob Dyer (BMC Office)  
Rick Gibbon (Access Rep)  
Dave Bishop  
Simon Jacques (Access Rep)  
Martin Kocsis (Mynydd CC)  
Alan Sanderson (Peak CC)  
Jack Symmons  
Chris Taylor  
Martin Wass (Newsletter editor)  
Gary Sheppard  
Phil Shorten  
David Pendlebury

Gareth Williams  
Tim Budd  
Dan Lane  
Thomas Lyons  
Steve Clark  
Clare Reading  
Simon Martin  
Caroline McCann  
Graham Parkes  
Trudi Materna  
Julian Materna  
Francesca Bethell-Collins  
Sophie Milner (National Trust)  
Rob Tresidder (Oread MC)  
Dominic Lee

Dave Parry  
Thomas Ramsden  
Phil Robbins  
David Brown (Peak CC)  
Andrew Elliott  
Matt Fennelow  
John Gresty  
Louise Hawson  
Nick Longland  
Mark Vallance  
Lindsay Gilbert  
Hugh Wheeler  
Linda McLeish  
Edward Northridge  
Frank, the Husky  
**44 people signed in +1 husky**

### 1. Apologies:

Niall Grimes  
Alan James  
Clare Brown  
Ian Carr

Simon Lee  
Steve Coughlan  
Geoff Nichols  
Adam Long

Ivor Delafield  
Reuben Brown  
Chris Moor  
John Camateras

### 2. Actions from the last meeting (held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011)

Agenda Item	Actions	Who Responsible	Progress
6	Neil to ask the National Council why notes from the specialist committees are ratified on an annual basis and not every 5 years?	Neil Foster	Neil raised this at the National Council meeting that was held on the 19 <sup>th</sup> February. Dave Turnbull noted that the Specialist Committee reports and forward plans required annual adoption and that it took little extra time to consider the Terms of Reference.

### 3. Access Areas Updates:

Neil invited **Rob Dyer, Access & Conservation Officer, BMC** to give an overview of his role. In summary:

- He covers access across England
- Supports local access representatives (Cath Flitcroft covers the policy side)
- Approximately 25% of his time is spent on Peak access issues.

**Rick Gibbon (Northern Peak):**

**Shooters Nab** – The National Trust has placed way mark signs at the bottom of the crag. Rob reported that the BMC signs, to place at either end of the crag, are in the process of being made. **South Yorkshire Local Access Forum (LAF)** – a local council statutory body. Because of the work of this LAF, climbing continues to be allowed at Shooters Nab. Rick commented that if people have the time, they should join their local one.

**Moordale** – The local council wanted to build houses on it. Due to the joint action of climbers and boulderers, hopefully an area will remain open to boulderers.

**ACTION: BMC signs to be placed at Shooters Nab.**

**Dave Bishop (Staffordshire):**

**Hen Cloud** – there is climbing restriction (due to nesting peregrines). Details are on the RAD

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmccrag/ViewCrag.aspx?id=129>

Once the chicks have hatched the situation will be reviewed.

**Henry Folkard (Access Rep Coordinator):**

**National Trust** - Jon Stewart has been appointed at the new National Trust General Manager for the Peak District. Sophie Milner was present at the meeting. She stated that The National Trust is keen to have representation at these meetings in the future.

**North Lees Asset Review** – this will inform the tender process. If people have any comments please forward them to him ([henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)) and he will feed your comments in to the process.

**Bird Restrictions** – Henry explained that each restriction is considered separately depending on where the nests are. Wardens inspect the nests every day.

**Alport** – Henry has a copy of the National Trusts and Forestry Commission annual report.

**Leicestershire Quarries meeting** – There has been a meeting with senior quarry people with regard to maybe opening up some of the quarries for climbing. Watch this space!

**Chee Dale** – many thanks to the volunteers who have helped with this.

**Staden/Cowdale** – people may wish to write to High Peak Borough Council, Buxton Town Hall, Market, Place, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6EL to comment on the application for a water bottling plant – planning application reference number HPK/2011/0182.

**Black Harry Trail** – up and running – back of Stoney.

**Tree Felling** – two recent unfortunate incidents; Burbage North (the holly on Knights move area) and on High Neb. Both SSSI sites so the felling was illegal.

**Bouldering at night** – if becomes very popular then it may become a problem, especially for wildlife.

**Bolt Anchor Testing Report (technical note TCN 01/11)** – on BMC website.

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/News.aspx?id=4188>

#### **4. The Roaches**

Dave Bishop gave an informative update, Main points included:

- Seven bidders left in the process; including an anonymous bid, two local groups, The Land Trust, Landmark Support Services, the National Trust and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. The BMC are working with the latter two organisations on their tenders.
- Tenders are due in 20<sup>th</sup> May. Any decision may be delayed until Spring next year.
- The Peak Park may offer a short-term lease on a trial basis or may not offer it at all.
- The climbing areas are all on open access land, so should be safe. The future of the Don Whillans Memorial Hut (DWMH) is more complicated. The BMC is proposing to buy the DWMH, if possible, to secure its future. If that is not successful then the BMC will press to have The Hut lease extended for a period that does ensure our future use.
- Letters of support, from individuals, for any of the tenders should be sent to; High Peak Estate Office, Edale End, Hope, Hope Valley. S33 6RF.
- The BMC Office is considering how to communicate members' concerns most effectively and will be giving further advice. The meeting between the CEO, supported by Access reps, on the 28th March, with the National Park's CEO had been a positive first step.

The meeting was strongly of the view that the BMC should make its own proposal to safeguard the future tenure of the DWMH.

Because of the on-going work of the access representatives and BMC with regard to the selling of public land, several principles have emerged. The BMC will put together a working document and share nationally. It was noted that people could lobby their MPs and key decision makers with regard to who they support for the acquisition of public land.

#### **5. Eastern Moors Group**

Simon Jacques gave an update. This Group has been established comprising members from the Peak Area including; Chris Moor, Henry Folkard, Clare Reading, Phil Robbins and Simon. They feed into the Eastern Moors Partnership Stakeholder Forum. The Group has been asked to draft a Crag Management Plan. Ideas are required from people, but we have to understand different recreation groups, for example, mountain bikers, horse riders. The Plan should focus on crag care (tree felling, chipping, erosion etc).

There are 5-years left on the Eric Byne Campsite lease.

**ACTION: ALL – Ideas for Crag Management Plan to Simon Jacques.**

#### **6. New Access Representative Volunteers**

If people are interested then please contact Henry ([henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)). There will be a chance to shadow current access reps. Rick Gibbon would like help. The Dovedale/Manifold area is vacant. Rueben Brown has left the area for six-months, so there is a temporary vacancy for the Matlock area.

#### **7. Peak Area Newsletter**

Martin Wass reported that the newsletter was started in 2007 by Matt Heason and then he took over editorship/producer of it in 2008/09. There were about 60-70 downloads of each issue, compared to approximately 700 downloads for the North Wales one. Last summer Martin stopped producing the newsletter. Other communication mediums, such as the BMC communities website, have been developed.

Martin asked:

- do people want their own Peak Area newsletter?
- If so, is there a need to publish it, or is electronic version OK?
- How can it be publicised?
- Needs linking with UKC
- Could be used as a useful precursor to understanding access issues.

People thought it needs to include some extra information, not on the BMC website or available at meetings, and needs to be visually exciting. It could be produced in-between the meetings

Possible contents:

- A recap of important issues from last meeting
- Contentious issues for discussion at the next meeting.
- Contributions could come from our main partners, for example, The National Trust.
- Article from the Chair
- Needs a climber as co-editor (Martin is a walker)

It goes to the BMC before distribution.

**ACTION: ALL - Please contact Martin, via email – address below, if interested in contributing to the next newsletter.**

Martin's e-mail address: [peakarea@gmail.com](mailto:peakarea@gmail.com)

#### **8. BMC Communities Website**

This is now up and running. People were also interested in a Facebook account for the Peak Area.

Post meeting note – a Facebook account currently exists. Go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8296873935>). Please join it and I will keep it updated (Lynn).

#### **9. The role of Area Youth Coordinator & Youth Climbing Series Peak Area rounds**

Agenda item carried forward to the next meeting.

#### **10. Guidebook Update**

Contact Niall directly ([Niall@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:Niall@thebmc.co.uk)) if you want to get involved, especially with the Limestone Guidebook.

Martin gave the following report:

**Moorland Project “Over the Moors”** – covers approximately 120 crags. It is currently being finalised and includes significant improvements and an excellent selection of action shots. Some minor crags and buttresses will be put in as web guides.

**Limestone** – Gary Gibson may be coordinating the volunteers for this guide.

**Outliers** – Work on Lancashire Rock (mainly quarries); Cheshire sandstone; and Leicestershire (slate and granite quarries) is ongoing.

Neil suggested that there should be a guidebooks open evening. Date and venue to be arranged.

**ACTION: Neil and Lynn to arrange meeting.**

#### **11. National Council Report**

Two items were fed back:

- Should the BMC invest in some composting toilet at Horseshoe Quarry?
- The BMC now has some testing equipment for slings and bolts. This equipment may be brought to a future meeting so that we can get our slings tested!

#### **12. Any other business**

**Involvement in the BMC** - If people want to get involved with the work of the BMC there will be lots of opportunities, especially with the change of ownership of some of the Peak District.

If interested in access issues please contact Henry Folkard – [henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)

With regard to the meetings, agenda items or any other issues please contact Lynn Robinson, Peak Area Secretary – [lynn.robinson@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:lynn.robinson@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)

#### **13. Date, time and venue of the next meeting**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 8pm onwards at The Winking Man Pub, Buxton Road, Upper Hulme, ST13 8UH

This later start time allows for people to climb, boulder or walk before the meeting.

The Don Whillans’ Memorial Hut will be open from 5pm onwards, so please do pop in for a tea or coffee and cake!

***Many thanks to Matt Heason who then showed some of the “Best of ShAFF” films.***