

## **BMC Cymru/Wales Area Meeting Minutes, 29th May 2012, RSPB South Stack Visitor Centre**

Thanks to all those attending and supporting BMC Cymru (32 persons):

Chris Parkin, Tim Jepson, Martin Doyle, Andy Barker, Andy Newton, K.C. Gordon, Simon Panton, Jim Kelly, Julia Kelly, Nige Tuckley, Bev Hull, Andy Boorman, Sarah Ridgway, Iain Ridgway, Kamala Sen, Huw Gilbert, Elfyn Jones, Roger Bennion, Paul Ingram, Max Grant, Tom Hutton, Ray Wood, Victoria Foxwell, Marion Wintringham, Pete Johnson, Steve Long, Gwyn Jones, Dave Bateson and four others.

Apologies: John Cousins

Meeting started at 21:08

1. Matters arising from last meeting – none.
2. Many thanks to Dave Bateson and the RSPB Visitor Centre for their hospitality and great food.
3. Tremadog: A few issues. People have been camping below Vector Buttress, leaving litter and cheekily using the café facilities. Eric is understandably unimpressed. It is to be strongly discouraged. There's a bunkhouse and campsite a few yards away. A few people have been taking short cuts to the Upper Tier - please use agreed approach. (Elfyn Jones)
4. Update on the Nant y Moch/Pumlumon wind turbine development – the proposed date for the submission of the planning application has been delayed until this autumn. (Tom Hutton).
5. At Castell Inn the new owner of the old pub/house has taken issue with people climbing at the crag, particularly on the r.h.s., with reports of verbal abuse. The right-hand car park has been sold to the new owners but they don't own the land directly below the cliff. New access has been agreed with Conwy County Council. If climbers are approached by the owner or harassed inform Elfyn. (EJ)
6. BMC Landscape Working Group - have had their first meeting in Manchester. Tom Hutton is part of the group and confident that it should prove useful. (TH)
7. Next Meetings: Tremadog on Monday 17th September (please note this isn't the usual Tuesday) and AGM on Friday November 23rd (speaker to be confirmed).
8. Climbing Conservation Working Group has been set up. BMC have an excellent relationship with RSPB here but elsewhere it may not be as good - need some consistency across the country and with different agencies. Meeting in June for first time. Roger Bennion is our Access and Conservation Chair - this is one of our six task and finish groups. Others include Landscape, Land Owner & Liabilities, Quarry,

Sustainability (climbing, travelling), Group Use. Work will published be on the community pages of the BMC website. (EJ)

10. Max Grant representing the Ramblers raised matter of CRoW consultation by CCW as part of 10 yr review. Same methodology - consultation starts July 18th electronic; draft map goes live until November. Sometimes the best boundaries weren't chosen in our opinion. Very few limestone areas were mapped. In theory more land should be added as stock numbers have dwindled. Let BMC and Ramblers know in first access as preferred by CCW. Anomalies with vegetation and boundaries. Landowners can also apply to have land taken out. Review only in Wales - not England.

11. Range West - briefings June 23rd and July 28th - good to get people down there. (EJ)

12. Craig y Forwyn – five year agreement with l.h.s. Everything to the right and two-tier buttress is currently privately owned and Mrs Roberts has a life-time interest in the land under an arrangement between her and Mr Webb. (EJ)

13. A hydro-electric scheme has been proposed for Glyn Rhonwy - confident they'll get planning. As climbers likely we'd lose Cefn Ddu and Mancer Quarry. Presentation at the Vic on 29th/30th June in the Royal Victoria - responses need to be in 13th July. Reckoned to have 5% capacity of Dinorwig. (Simon Panton)

14. Angel Bay - unusual sign (considering time of year) above the beach warning of seals breeding. (SP) EJ pointed out that he thought Mostyn owned the top and he'd speak to the Orme warden.

15. Theft of fixed gear on north Wales limestone continues. Stainless steel lower-off rings, plus some hangers and some lower-off maillons have been taken from different venues including Penmaen Head, Ty Newydd, Llanddulas Cave and Dyserth Slab. (Andy Boorman) An item has subsequently been published on UKC.

16. Andy Boorman spoke about an issue at Meliden Quarry near Prestatyn. A large memorial on the quarry floor to a teenager, that died there last October, was in danger of being trodden on by climbers using the quarry. Paul Ingram volunteered to have a word with the father of the boy who died there.

[Paul has since spoken to the father who has stated that there is a proper memorial to his son elsewhere and that the memorial in the quarry has been placed there by friends of the deceased. The suggestion was made that climbers could perhaps move it elsewhere in the quarry, away from the climbing area.] Andy said: "If it's still there late summer we'll maybe do this."

17. Steve Long said the climbing coaching awards from MLT are starting to be rolled out and the first ones are underway in North Wales.

18. Andy Barker raised a concern over the 'graffiti' marking of the way off for the descent from the top of the Idwal Slabs. A large arrow and the word 'Off' has been deeply scratched on the rock. In discussion it was agreed that it's difficult to stop this happening apart from a general awareness raising exercise that this isn't appropriate.

Meeting ends: 22.05