

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the 204th Yorkshire Area Meeting

Held at 19.30 on Monday 9 June 2014

at the Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley

### Present:

James Rowe	Chair. Leeds MC, CC	Mike Bebbington	YMC,CC, FRCC
Deirdre Collier	Secretary. CC, Craven MC, Individual	Laurie Morse	YMC
Mick Johnson	A & C Gritstone Rep. CC, FRCC	Paul Clarke	FRCC
Dave Musgrove	A & C Limestone Rep, Individual	Paul Stevens	Individual
Carey Davies	BMC Hillwalking Development Officer	Nigel Baker	Individual
John Mortimer	Vibram MC	Martin Ryan	Individual
Paul Exley	Clubs Committee Rep. Leeds MC, FRCC	Will Hunt	Individual
Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club, FRCC	Julie Dundas	Individual
John Hunt	YMC	Stuart Hall	Individual
Carey Davies	BMC Hillwalking Development Officer	John Allcock	Individual
Duncan Morrison	Ingleton Climbing Academy (INCA)	Anne Freund	Individual
Ange Harker	Individual		

### Action

#### 1 Welcome & Introductions

James welcomed everyone to the meeting & all present introduced themselves.

#### 2 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Glyn Edwards, Beverley Jowett & Heather Thomas-Smith.

#### 3 Minutes of the last meeting.

**Sandy Bank Quarry** – It was noted that this minute should have read '*schools were interested in using Sandy Bank Quarry*', not that schools had been using it.

With this amendment the minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

#### 4 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

##### Barn conversion proposals in the National Parks.

Following the February Area Meeting the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority had been informed of the Meeting's opposition to the proposals & Kathryn Beardmore, Director of Park Services, had expressed her thanks on behalf of the YDNPA for the Area's support.

It was noted that the proposals had not been supported for National Parks & that such areas would be exempt from the new rules & planning permission would still be required.

#### 5 Co-ordinators' Reports

##### 5.1 Gritstone: Access & Conservation.

**Ruin Bank Woods.** It was noted that this area had many routes but was now overgrown. It is on private land with a public footpath running through it beyond the climbing area. Climbing is not allowed here.

**Guissecliff.** Suggestion re a clean up but some complications - Peregrines are currently nesting on Buttresses 3 & 5 & also issues re whether or not Buttress 6 is on private land.

## 5.2 Limestone: Access & conservation

**5.2.1 ? Crag clean up at Oxenber.** Noted that the surrounding wood & limestone pavement are very sensitive areas in the Yorkshire Dales for plants. Suggested that the enquirer be asked to contact Dave Musgrove to discuss further.

DC

**5.2.2 Blue Scar.** It was noted that the situation re access hasn't changed & that the landowner requires anyone wishing to climb to apply annually for permission.

**Foredale Quarry.** The Yorkshire Dales national Park now believes that the farmer has recently acquired ownership of the quarry from the estate of the former owners.

**Feizor Nick.** There is now a notice fixed to the crag stating that climbing is prohibited at all times due to unstable rock face & evidence of 2 minor rock falls at the left of the crag. The notice has no legal standing as the crag is on Open Access Land & climbers have a right to be there. Ongoing problem.

DM

**Malham parking.** As per UKC posting – Malham Council having problems with what appear to be climbers parking on the Cove Road outside the village & this is causing congestion problems.

The Cove Road beyond Town Head Barn (where there is a sign saying 'no parking for 3 miles') is too narrow to allow parking and the passing places need to be kept clear to allow proper flow of traffic. Climbers previously parked behind the Cove Centre, but this area has now been blocked off due to some antisocial behaviour.

All asked to note that climbers should not park in the laybys & should only park in the village, either in one of the limited number of free roadside spaces with honesty boxes, or in the National Park car park.

**5.3 Youth.** No report.

**5.4 Climbing Walls.** There is no Climbing Wall representative but no issues were reported.

**5.5 Clubs.** Paul Exley reported that the purpose of the Clubs Committee was give clubs a better representation in the BMC & current work was as follows:-

- Developing an information pack for new members & this would be publicised when available.
- Availability on the BMC website of some legal information including information re Data Protection.
- Efforts to persuade individual members to join clubs & a survey to try & establish why they don't.

**5.6 Hillwalking.** Carey Davies, the BMC's Hillwalking Development Officer gave a presentation about his work.

He had been in post for one year in a 4 year post funded by Sport England & created by the BMC to try & address long term criticisms re hillwalking representation & a bias towards climbing. His definition of hillwalking in a BMC context was walking in mountains, ridge walking eg Crib Goch & winter mountaineering with ice axes & crampons eg Crinkle Crag.

He felt that hillwalking was important for the following reasons:-

- In the BMC's 2010 survey 62% of respondents indicated it was their main activity.
- There are more hillwalkers than climbers in the wider world.
- Walking has a bigger impact on access & conservation than climbing
- Stronger voice when everyone comes together eg Dales barns & planning

Carey also talked about the various communication methods the BMC uses & how it's working for hillwalkers eg access campaigns & lobbying, courses, etc.

He felt that there was a long way to go but hoped that the 4 year timescale would allow good progress.

## 6 National Council

**6.1 Report from last NC Meeting.** A summary had been circulated. The £100K 2014 budget deficit & the 2015 increase in subscriptions were discussed & it was noted that the deficit now planned was less than this.

6.2 **Co-option of an Area National Council Representative.** Beverley Jowett had resigned due to personal circumstances & so there was a vacancy for an Area NC rep. Deirdre Collier was co-opted – proposed by John Hunt, seconded by Paul Exley & agreed by the Meeting.

6.3 **BMC Area Structure – is it fit for purpose?** This was an item on the Agenda for the forthcoming National Council Meeting. In the absence of any further information the matter was discussed as follows:-

1. **Expectations/requirements of Area Structure.** Area structure felt to have worked well for years – ‘it it’s not broke, don’t fix it’. It was felt that structure should facilitate timely 2 way communications between Areas & the BMC. It was important for Areas to be able discuss issues at their meetings & for reps to then be able to report back.
2. **What works/Good points of Area Structure.** Communications were generally felt to have improved greatly but it was important to have as many lines of communication as possible.
3. **What doesn’t work/possible areas for improvement.** Concern re timing of national Council Meeting info eg the Area Structure. Area was unable to discuss issues & questions raised in paper as info wasn’t received in time.

6.4 **Matters for the next meeting.** None raised.

7 **Individual Member’s Issues** – None raised.

8 **Any Other Business.**

**Caley clean up.** Noted that clean up re Himalayan Balsam didn’t happen in 2013. JR & MJ to discuss.

**JR/MJ**

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

Monday 15 September 2104 @ 19.30 @ the Wheatley Arms