

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Hill Walking Working Group

Minutes of the BMC Hill Walking Working Group, held on Thursday January 22 at 7pm at the BMC office.

Present:

- Brian Smith (BMC Director) (BS) Chair
- Carey Davies (BMC HWO) (CD) Secretary
- Charles Gameson
- Andy Howell
- Ian Howells
- David Jones
- Peter Judd
- Cath Lee
- Martin Lewis
- Paul Mitchinson
- Rob Nolan
- Paul Redding
- David Robinson
- Jennifer Raffle
- Heather Thomas-Smith
- Dave Turnbull (BMC CEO) (DT)

		Actions
1.	Welcome	
1.1.	Introductions	
1.2	Apologies for absence	
	Tanya Oliver	
2.	Introduction from Carey Davies and Dave Turnbull	
2.1.	Brief explanation of the group's background, purpose, timescale, constraints, balance and objectives. The group will run for two years and is intended to help implement the HWO's hill walking strategy, identify priorities, provide a source of new ideas and put hill walking on a sustainable footing within the BMC.	
3.	Election of chair	
3.1.	Brian Smith (BS) voted as chair unanimously.	
4.	Objective priorities discussion	

4.1.	<p>Agreement that the group has three overall objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet the needs of BMC hill walking members and create an active community involvement. 2. Attract new hill walking members to the BMC and be a supportive, involving community. 3. Position the BMC as a leading authority on hill walking, promoting the benefits of this activity and stretching out to a wide range of groups and communities through education, involvement, support and leadership. 	
4.2.	<p>Give the size of the group, agreement it would be productive to split into 'interest groups' corresponding to the organisational breakdown identified by the HWO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications 2. Marketing 3. Public Engagement 4. Access and Conservation Work 5. Organisation, Structure and Culture <p>Membership of these groups not mandatory, but an option for people who would like to have a more hands-on role in furthering work in specific areas. Use Facebook or Google Groups, or something similarly straightforward. HWO to be 'cc'd' into each group. Every group to 'report back' to each meeting of the HWWG. CD and BS to coordinate establishment of these groups.</p>	CD, BS
4.3.	<p>Group was asked to give two suggestions they feel should be immediate priorities. The most commonly cited priorities were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summit magazine: the group offered congratulations for recent increase in hill walking content, but believed there was still a disproportionate climbing and mountaineering bias. Having a climbing cover and walking cover was strongly suggested. Agreement that a 'quota' for percentage of hill walking content in each issue was needed. CD and BS to pass on these recommendations to Exec and DT. 2. Areas: all the representatives from Area Meetings agreed there was a lot more to be done in their respective areas to make meetings more inclusive of hill walkers. Area Meetings are now required to have a hill walking agenda point but this needs substance, with current contentious hill walking issues being promoted and debated. Each rep must take the lead in their respective areas, but CD happy to support. 3. Campaign: some sort of campaign tying together all the efforts made so far to improve the BMC's hill walking work, with a bold message and strong social media strategy. 'Natural Home for Hill Walkers' etc. 	CD, BS
5.	Hill walking 'mini-site' idea	
5.1.	<p>In light of possible forthcoming 'Be' project aimed at young climbers, the group agreed it would be damaging for the BMC to launch a project aimed at climbers without a hill walking counterpart. Unanimous agreement that the hill walking 'mini-site' idea, with routes, weather information, transport info etc for the UK's 'big' mountains was a good idea and should be actioned ASAP if the 'Be' project goes ahead. CD to progress internally.</p>	CD

7.	Summary of action points and conclusions	
	Agreement this had been done over the course of the meeting.	
8.	Feedback on the way the meeting was conducted	
	Everyone was positive, agreeing it had been well chaired by BS, that everyone's views were canvassed, and that it was productive.	
9.	AOB	
	None	
10.	Next Meeting	
	To be held in late April, avoiding Easter. CD to send out Doodle poll.	CD

The above accepted as an accurate record of the meeting:

Signed _____ Date _____
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, Chair