

BMC Lakes Area Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held at Penrith Leisure Centre
on Thursday 10th September 2015

Attendance: 20

BMC Officers: Carey Davies

Apologies: Kelvyn James, Ron Kenyon, Ted Rogers, Matt Le Voi

1 Crag access updates and news (James Brumby)

James reported that he had had a very quiet summer. The planning application from United Utilities for Thirlmere fence has been withdrawn, they were now considering options. Work had been carried out at Cathedral Quarry removing loose rock. Someone has been in and cut down some trees. James is keen to find out who has done this. Both the National Trust and the BMC feel that it would have been far better to communicate that there was a need for tree removal. The National Trust would have carried out the work. Instead there is mess and debris that now needs clearing up. Dan Robinson is assisting the Trust in clearing but more volunteers are needed. Birkwood Common and Fairy Steps continue to be an issue with no immediate resolve.

2 Bolt Fund Update (Dan Robinson)

Dan reported that he was pleased with the progress of all bolting. Tilberthwaite is being done on a like-for-like basis. There is lots of loose rock so there will be no rebolting of routes that are considered dangerous. When asked if Tilberthwaite could become a sports venue, Dan's response was that most of the rock at the top of the routes at Tilberthwaite is unsuitable for lower-offs and that he was looking into renewing the stakes at the top of routes. He also viewed that we should maintain the character of a section of the routes there by ensuring like-for-like only. There followed a lengthy discussion about Tilberthwaite. The meeting was unanimous in passing thanks to Rick Graham for his work.

Steve Scott commented- I am concerned about individuals overriding an Area decision. And probably of more importance, I am also concerned that a potential liability is being created by re-bolting like-for-like and not taking the opportunity to make the routes safer - this latter issue needs to be checked with Manchester, or the BMC Lakes Area should distance itself from what is being done. **AP**

3 National Council Report (Ted Rogers and Peter Sterling)

Peter gave a short report from National Council.

Rehan Siddiqui chaired his first meeting as new president. He stated that his emphasis would be on making the BMC more inclusive. The Mountain Heritage Trust gave a presentation about its work and its work with the BMC. There has been some confusion over the signage at Castle Rock. James agreed to look into this. Bracken has now been passed to areas to deal with locally. If the Bracken becomes an issue for crag access the Land Management Group will need to be informed. **Climbers and especially guide book writers are asked to list crags and inform this meeting. It was suggested that guide book writers**

may have a better knowledge of the situation. AP. National Council agreed that if the Lakes Area feels it requires a paid member of staff / Regional Officer a business case must be written and presented to National Council. Carey agreed to try and locate the business plan written by Wales. The 2016 AGM will be in the Peak.

4 Report of BMC HQ visit by Mike Parsons and Polly Sullivan

Mike reported that the meeting was extremely useful and communicated the need for better support for Areas from Manchester. It is widely felt that communication is now in social media sites. Members need to be encouraged to post to the Lakes Facebook page. Although there is some confusion as to which facebook page to use. **Lakes Area BMC Members** Facebook page is where you can post and share stuff. **BMC Lakes Area** facebook page is a community site for BMC posts. If you 'like' this page you will receive the posts. Matt Le Voi has admin rights to this page and will keep it updated. **Reduction to one Facebook site was discussed but not resolved.** AP.

Carey commented that the new staff at Manchester will have a focus on social media.

5 Clubs report (Kelvyn James)

Apologies from Kelvyn.

6 Hill Walking Issues (Andrew Blisset and Matt le Voi)

Carey Davies was pleased to report that the Mountain Magpie campaign will be taken up by the BMC and given a bigger profile. It is planned to have an official launch. Trail magazine are keen to get involved. The Access and Conservation Trust are prioritising paths. BMC remit is upland paths. It was requested from the floor that consideration be given, when undertaking path repair work, to drainage. Many of the paths have bad drainage and this causes problems.

7 Sustainability, Environmental and Landscape

Blencathra Care Day, 22nd September

Real3Peaks Scafell Pike clean up event, 10th October

The proposal by the National Grid to place twin overground pylons through an area of south west LDNP to feed the output from the proposed nuclear power station at Moorside/Sellafield to connect with the national grid at Morecambe. This was discussed and the cost implications for us as consumers of power outlined.

A vote was taken and the meeting was unanimous in its support for the 'Say No' campaign.

8 Lakes Fest May 2016 (Ron Kenyon)

Ron has been busy organising the Lakesfest for 13th-15th May 2016 with most things booked and organised. More volunteers are needed to assist Ron. The festival will coincide with the launch of the new Borrowdale guide. The village hall at Rosthwaite has been booked for the event. Striding Edge has been booked for a ceilidh on the Saturday night.

9 Meetings for 2016, discuss location and nature.

It was agreed to hold meetings in 2016 at Staveley (x2), Grange (CC hut with BBQ) and Penrith Rugby Club.

Any Other Business.

It was suggested from the floor that the Clubs rep could write to clubs in the area and request that they might consider having a post within their club to attend area meetings.

The meeting was reminded from the floor of the Tom Price memorial exhibition being held at Keswick museum in November.

The secretary gave notice of her wish to stand down at the AGM.

There was a selection of Guide books for sale at reduced price.

There was a reminder notice of the memorial service for Craig Harwood at The Roaches on 16th September.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm