

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## Minutes of The Peak Area Meeting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017, The Maynard, Grindleford

### Present:

Rob Greenwood (Chair)	Becky Hammond (secretary)	Henry Folkard
Rob Dyer (BMC Access officer)	Adam Long	Michael Kent (Bassetlaw H&MC)
Adam Peel	Gary Gibson	John Gresty
David Platts	Carol Platts	Jamie Sparkes
Mary Reape	Richard Wheeldon	Daniel Hoyle
Chris Radcliffe	Ben Bransby	Stephen Coughlan
Alan James	Graeme Alderson	Rob Adie (BMC Competitions officer)
Ben Seal (British Canoeing)	John Coefield	Pete Tapping
Hamish Forbes	Coel Hellier	Clarke Boulter
Bev England	Angela Owen	Toby Wilson
Clare Reading (FRCC)	Andrew Elliott	Simon Lee (BMC Commercial Partnerships)
Rick Scott	John Bayliss	Graeme Hammond
Mike Cheque	Dave Parry	Rab Carrington
Dave Turnbull (BMC)	Neil Foster	Toby Archers
Andy Reeve	Kasia Oispowicz	Carl Bedson
James Jacobs	Toby Wright	Mick Walsh
John Graveling	Helen Coster	Mike Waters
Graham Parkes	Alison Cairns	Andy Cairns
John Cook	Peter Judd	Austin Knott

**57 people signed in, plus possibly more on a missing sheet**

### 1. Apologies:

Lynn Robinson, Steve Clark, Mark McKenzie, Mark Warwicker, Valerie Partington, Steve Burns, James Scott, Tim Grice, Andy Tickle (Friends of the Peak and Derbyshire Penine Club), Cath Lee, John Fullwood, Geoff Nichols (Castle MC), John Horscroft, Kym West, Colin West, Michael Smith, Luke Barley (National Trust), Danny Udall (Eastern Moors Partnership), Louise Hawson, Ian Carr, Ross Burnage (Buxton MC).

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as correct.

### 3. Actions from the previous meetings

None

### 4. Update from Peak Area Hill Walking Representatives (Peter Judd & Austin Knott)

*Mend Our Mountains – Make One Million (MOMMOM)*

The All Party Parliamentary Hillwalking Group were taken on a walk last week and visited the site of the Peak District project: the Great Ridge path. Sarah Fowler (PDNPA Chief Exec) attended. The plan is a staged plan depending on how much money is raised, and will involve repairing 1.25 – 1.5km of path (costs £150-£200 per metre). The PDNPA are very keen this time and supporting with publicity. Any ideas for how to raise the profile – especially the profile of the BMC's involvement – would be welcome: ideas to Peter Judd, Carey Davies, or the BMC office.

There's a stronger push this time to involve corporate interests, and this will be launched in the autumn. The "public" fundraising phase will launch next year.

### *Hillwalking Implementation Group*

The first meeting was earlier in the summer. There's an "image problem". National Council previously agreed Summit should have a content share of material relevant to hill walkers of 25% averaged over a number of issues, but this isn't yet reflected in Summit magazine yet (e.g. the front cover).

Access Management Group are going to increase their activity through consultations on legislative changes that might affect access.

### *Hillwalking representatives network*

It's recognised that not all areas' reps are as well supported or as active as they might be.

*Two more walks that people might wish to join:*

23<sup>rd</sup> September with Moors for the Future on Bleaklow, to see the regeneration work  
October – a Mountain Leaders Association CPD day – details available from Austin Knott.

### *Outreach work to clubs*

Austin and Peter are acquiring more contacts.

### *Outside Crag Cleanup*

This was a very successful day, and BMC publicity was significant in generating interest.

### *Proportion of meeting attendees who are hillwalkers*

We have some information from sign-in sheets, which Becky Hammond will send to Peter.

## **5. Stanage update (Adam Long & Dave Turnbull)**

*.Stanage Forum Open Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> September* Adam Long and Louise Hawson have been attending the Stanage Forum. There will be an Open Meeting on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Adam encouraged as many as possible to attend. It will include presentations from the PDNPA about their plans and will be a forum for discussion. Stanage has suffered from inconsistent management over a number of years and there is now no continuity, no overview, and no one who knows any of the background to previous decisions and management approaches. For example, the recent changes to carparking where there is little understanding of the knock on effects (i.e. increase in verge parking).

We are hoping to get some of the PDNPA management to attend the Peak Area Meeting, but unfortunately Sarah Fowler (Chief Exec) couldn't attend tonight. Louise Hawson and Dave Turnbull met with Sarah and Simon Malcolm about 6 weeks ago. They had been keen to stress that they are putting more time, effort & resources into Stanage than ever before: does this match our experience?

Chris Manby (estate manager) isn't just dedicated to Stanage – he manages all the PDNPA estates.

There is currently no management plan in place for Stanage, and no holistic overview: farming / recreation / conservation all matter and all need to be balanced to prevent fragmentation.

*Moscar estate* is now owned by the Duke of Rutland. The previous owner of Moscar was included in the Stanage Forum. The new owners have been invited but there's been little contact. Likewise with the Sheffield Moors Partnership.

### *Stanage Sticker / Pay & Display parking*

The Stanage Sticker valid until the end of 2017. The PDNPA say they are "extending" this to the rest of the park into a park-wide parking permit for a fee (not a donation) which will not be dedicated to any specific place/project. Pay & display parking will be enforced at some date in 2018.

*Bill Gordon*, the Stanage warden, will be leaving in the next few weeks: he will be moving to Cornwall. He has been awarded the British Empire Medal (awarded for a 'hands-on' service to the local community), which will be presented in October.

Bill will be replaced by a part-time ranger. All the PDNPA rangers are being required to re-apply for their jobs, and part of all the new jobs will include generating income. We see this as a negative development.

## **6. Dark Peak Forest Plan (Peter Judd & Henry Folkard)**

The Forestry Commission have drafted a 50 year management plan as a commercial operation. Peter and Henry have commented on it on behalf of the BMC. There was nothing in it about recreation, and no opportunity for review. The response from the FC was unsatisfactory: Henry and Peter received the meeting's approval to respond robustly to this.

## **7. Other Access updates**

### *Alport*

Henry has fed in to the consultation.

### *West Nab parking*

Mark Warwicker is working hard on this. All the roadside parking has been blocked off: whilst this doesn't officially affect access, it does affect accessibility. Everyone conceivable has been lobbied, but no one body/person appears to hold ultimate responsibility. This has brought the issue to national attention as PDNPA officers have raised it at a national National Park Officers meeting.

The meeting gave Mark approval to write to the appropriate authority at the appropriate time.

### *Dovedale*

Gary Gibson, Rob Dyer and Luke Barley (National Trust) have had a good meeting and agreed some replacements to fixed gear at Dovedale. Natural England have consented to these. The work will be done 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January to avoid nesting birds, and Gary is happy to do it.

Dovedale Church access has changed: please don't jump the gate in front of tourists.

Dave Brown proposed a formal letter of thanks to the National Trust for their assistance. Neil Foster agreed and highlighted that it's great to have their interest and engagement.

### **8. Horseshoe Quarry re-bolting update (Rob Dyer)**

Contractors have finished about one-third of the 150 routes that are being re-bolted. The Crowdfunder has raised £8700 of the £13000 target (there are 28 days left).

Contractors are being used because it's a big job and we want to get it done in a timely fashion. There was a question about who will sign-off the work when it's completed. Rob confirmed that anyone who has climbed a recently re-bolted route and has queries should contact him as soon as possible.

What is the BMC's responsibility with respect to these bolts? This is a grey area. Legal advice on the Land Management Group was that the BMC is held more accountable than the average landowner. There will probably be some altered signage following the work. Dave Turnbull stressed that we've always known that the bolts have a varied history. The work is happening now because the BMC received a substantial bequest last year, much of which went into the land and property trust. Prior to this, the BMC didn't have the resources to carry out the work even though we knew it needed doing.

There was a request that the new signage should include a request to contribute to the bolt fund – especially commercial users – and also that it should mention the use of helmets. This was agreed.

Not all of the routes in the BMC-owned sections of the quarry are being re-bolted: only the main wall. It was agreed that signage etc should highlight the contrast between BMC-owned routes and other routes, and that volunteers should be encouraged to deal with the other routes.

It was noted that UK Climbing have made a significant contribution to the Crowdfund.

### **9. Aldery Cliff**

Ross Burnage has confirmed that the Buxton MC have had a couple of meet ups and have some ideas to put forward, but are waiting for vegetation to die back to have a proper look at state and stability of topouts. Keeping vegetation of topouts clear will be key to use of crag.

Rob Dyer has been in touch with the adjacent landowner, who is happy for the barbed wire fence to be replaced with a post and rail fence. This will improve the descent.

### **10. Commercial Partnerships (Simon Lee)**

Cotswold/Snow & Rock are the first commercial partners. As an initial offer, they are giving all BMC members a 20% discount in September, and 15% discount thereafter. Significant volunteers will receive an ongoing 20% discount. There will be various promotions.

A clothing brand will be announced in October, with a similar deal. The intention is to have partners for clothing, climbing equipment and mapping (this might change to include footwear).

Peter Judd asked whether Cotswold are going to educate their staff about the BMC? The answer is yes – in addition to promotional material in stores etc.

### **11. Organisational Review (Rab Carrington)**

A huge amount of work has happened since the Organisational Review began in May. There's been a lot of information gathering (5000 survey responses and 10+ focus groups). They are now sifting through this to work out their recommendations. The "legal" group are looking at what constitutes good governance, including referring to the Sports Regulation Authority guide. All information will be pulled together into a report with recommendations, which will be ready for the next round of area meetings (commencing 16<sup>th</sup> November), and all work will be completed by the AGM. Members will decide at the AGM whether to accept the recommendations.

Can the legal requirements be met in ordinary language? Yes.

Why wasn't there a focus group for access reps? The Access & Conservation Trust, Area chairs, access officers were all included in focus groups, and access was specifically discussed with area chairs.

It was commented that the Access & Conservation Trust is invisible to the membership.

Dave Turnbull commented that this is a unique process in the BMC's history, as it's the first time there's been a full independent review. Even he doesn't know what's going on! The constitution is basically outdated: it was set up in 1990-1993, and since then the only change has been the change from the clubs' block vote to one-member-one-vote.

Neil Foster proposed a vote of thanks to the people undertaking this massive task.

#### **12. National Council report** (David Brown)

The last NC meeting was in June, and was mostly occupied with the organisational review.

There's a concern about the gender balance of National Council (only approx. 10% female).

#### **13. National Council Representative**

Three people have put themselves forward: this appears to be a first! The vote was deferred until the AGM in November.

#### **14. BMC Officers update** (Dave Turnbull & Rob Adie)

Sport England funding was withheld from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> August as a result of the motion of no confidence: this amounted to approximately £100,000. Interim funding was released on 15<sup>th</sup> August after a range of documentation was submitted to address their concerns. A further application is being submitted for ongoing funding. It's been a difficult picture. It affects youth, equality, volunteers, training, competitions, etc.

Competitions officer Rob Adie is leaving next month. The World Youth Championships were very successful – the first held with an Olympic-format final. There will be a lead and speed competition next weekend in Edinburgh. Discussions about how to replace Rob are ongoing: the commitment to competitions will continue one way or another.

#### **15. Peak Area Newsletter**

People were asked to note the latest edition of the newsletter. Many thanks to Dave Parry and John Coefield for this latest edition. As always contributions and photographs welcome: the next deadline is 6<sup>th</sup> November. Please send to: [peakarea@gmail.com](mailto:peakarea@gmail.com).

#### **16. Any other business**

*Peak Limestone South guidebook*

Action shots are needed – please send to Niall at the BMC.

*Local Access Forum*

Henry sits on the LAF as an individual, rather than as "the BMC". He will be finishing next August. If you're interested, please talk to Henry or Mike Rhodes at the PDNPA.

*Redmires mountain biking circuit*

15000 trees are being felled at Redmires, and a new MTB circuit is being built.

*Roaches rhododendrons*

4<sup>th</sup> November – help the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust deal with the rhododendrons and laurels behind the Whillans Hut. Contact Rob Dyer for more information.

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

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, 7.30pm at The Maynard Arms, Grindleford, S32 2HE. This will include the AGM.