

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Lakes Area Meeting

MINUTES

Hawkshead Brewery, Staveley, Kendal
Wednesday 29th November 2017

Presentation about the BMC Independent Organisational Review by Ray Wigglesworth and John Robert followed by questions and comment from the floor

Presentation was followed by the AGM then the General Meeting -

1. Welcome

- Present per book.
- Apologises from Steve Scott, John Porter and Margaret Parker.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

- Agreed by meeting.

3. Matters arising from those minutes not included in the Agenda

- Removal of trees at Armathwaite
 - Good comments from climbers about clearance of trees.
 - Further trees to be removed from below central area.
- Castle Rock block and signs at base of Castle Rock
 - Block still there.
- Car park at Walna Scar
 - Planning now agreed but needs to go to Common Land organisation (based in Bristol) to be released as Common Land.
 - Concerns as follows –
 - Objections to gate being locked at 9.00pm – affect climbers returning late from the likes of Dow Crag.
 - 58 places – much reduced on current possible numbers.
 - Objection to paying to park.
 - More tarmac on the fells.
 - James B to draft a letter for agreement to be sent by Dave Turnbull from BMC.
 - BMC to promote to members to write to Common Land Commissioner with objections.
- Bracken on the fells
 - See 4 below.
- Boulders by road at Seathwaite, Borrowdale
 - Nothing to report – damage to vehicles there on Remembrance Sunday.
- Tree clearance at Shepherds Crag and other crags
 - Ron K still to meet land agent.
- Composting toilets at crags
 - See 4 below.

4. BMC National Council Report

- Pete Sterling reported on issues accordingly –

- Bracken issue
 - Letter back from Cath Flitcroft:
 - Should not get behind herbicides which have side effects.
 - There will be tick awareness campaign next summer.
 - Nothing much else.
- Challenge events
 - Long conversation with Rob Dyer.
 - Rob is looking to organise a conference about Challenge Events with the main providers.
- Composting Toilets
 - Looking to have a composting toilet at Horseshoe Quarry as a test place.
 - No resolution for commitment for the Lakes.
 - Cost per site varies £3,000 - £12,000.
- Zip wire
 - See below – action to publicise and promote the position.

5. Zip wire at Thirlmere

- Planning application now submitted by Treetops.
- It is now necessary for any comment (objection or support) to be directed towards the LDNPA under the reference 7/2017/2298.
- Helpful information is available on the website of the Friends of the Lake District.
- At the last meeting a vote was taken and it was strongly in favour of objecting to the proposal.
- It was agreed that a letter be sent from BMC (Manchester) objecting to the proposal and for individual members to send their own comments direct to the LDNPA.
- Comment should be directed at planning issues, most of which are highlighted on Friends of the Lakes website.
- There will be appropriate comment put on the BMC website and advice as to what to do re comment to LDNPA.

6. Access updates and news: James Bumby

- Temperature probes have been located on Helvellyn and will be available from next Friday to give details of temperature conditions there. These will be in addition to probes of Great End. These have been placed in association with various other organisations. It is now important to educate climbers in the use of these probes.
- There has been a further big rock fall at Hodge Close which needs appropriate publicity.
- A letter has been sent to United Utilities about access to Launchy Gill, next to Thirlmere. Nothing heard back and JB to write again.
- Rob Dyer has written to the organisation which placed bolts at Swarthbeck, near Howtown, indicating this inappropriateness of this action.

7. Environmental and Landscape issues.

- Nothing to report.

8. Cumbria Bolt Fund

- Constitution - <http://www.cumbriaboltfund.co.uk/> - now amended.
- Agreed to have full presentation and discussion about CBF at the next meeting.

9. Clubs, Hill Walking Representative and Hill Walking Issues

- Nothing to report.

10. Any Other Business.

- Nothing further.

11. Next Meeting

- Wednesday 31 January 2018 Hawkshead Brewery, Staveley

Future dates

- Wednesday 18 April 2018 King Kong Wall, Keswick
- Wednesday 6 June 2018 To be arranged with barbeque
- Wednesday 5 September 2018 King Kong Wall, Keswick
- Wednesday 21 November 2018 Hawkshead Brewery, Staveley