

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

LAKES AREA MEETING GEORGE STARKEY HUT, PATTERDALE 6TH JUNE, 2018

MINUTES

1. Welcome from the Chair, Mike Parsons. Apologies for absence from Ron Kenyon, Dan

Robinson, Rick Graham, Steve Scott, John Porter. 13 people attended. Unfortunately Pete Sterling Lakes area National Council rep, did not attend. 2. Minutes of previous meeting on 18th April were read (matters arising dealt with as point

4). 3. About the BMC ORG and IG (organisational review group and the IG, the implementation group which is tasked with the job of implementing the recommendations): Mike Parsons attempted to describe (in the absence of National Council member Pete Sterling) the May 11th Manchester BMC open meeting which he accessed on a 2 hour long YouTube recording. Fiona Sanders suggested dropping these issues at this meeting as the salient information is all out in the public domain for members to decide on and vote according to their personal ideology and wishes. We therefore moved on to the local issues. 4. Matters Arising from the last Minutes:

- Removal of trees at Armathwaite: Ron Kenyon not present to report on this. - Car park at Walna Scar/Dow Crag access point: (The local council rec'd 600

objections to the proposals and are having a meeting on site sometime in June) - Boulders by road at Seathwaite, Borrowdale: (no further info rec'd) - Composting toilets at popular crags: Investigation shows that cash sums involved

means they are unlikely to happen due to both set up costs and necessity to manage/service them. -

Launhy Gill: No access at present along the west side Thirlmere due to road closures after a storm felled many trees leading to lengthy clearing work. - Problem with the last Minutes: Doug Scott objected to the statement declaring

that Rehan Siddique had resigned due to 'fierce pressure from the so-called BMC 30', and said that he and others of that group had voted in favour of Rehan, and said that there were in fact other factors influencing the resignation. 7. Cumbria Bolt Fund: This is run by Dan Robinson. In 2 previous meetings we have reviewed but not yet agreed a new constitution. The last meeting agreed that trying to include principles of where and how bolts were used was rather difficult and the constitution should be kept very simple. Action; Nothing further until/if DR wishes to submit an updated constitution. 8. James Bumby, Access Updates and Raven Crag accident: There are peregrines confirmed as nesting at Chapel Head Scar and information has gone out. These bird restrictions have been working effectively this season.

Raven Crag fatal accident: Peter Metcalfe, a well-respected local climber died when descending the usual walk-off from Raven Crag Langdale. His family would like to see some action taken to help prevent a repeat. James Bumby and Max Biden have recce'd the crag for alternative descents and have found a suitable descent gully nearby that is worth investigating as an abseil descent: it boasts a huge rock pillar at the top, to which some kind of protection could be fixed (possibly a chain or wire?) as an abseil point. Doug Scott pointed out that putting any bolts in would constitute the thin end of the wedge and should be avoided. Steve Goodwin wondered if responsibility and insurance issues might be a problem, and didn't think it good for the BMC to sanction 'official' artificial protection. Action. The proposal was for 'doing nothing officially' about adding protection but advising all of the 'alternative abseil descent'. This was put to the vote: 10 for, none against, 2 abstentions.

9. Environmental and Landscape Issues. Marian Parsons (local area rep for Cumbria Bridleways Society) brought up the subject of modern methods for mending paths with stone steps. The discussion which ensued was quite lively, with Fiona Sanders, Doug Scott, Andrew Bisset, Stu Smith all giving input. Mike Parsons said that having backpacked across Scotland west to east 7 times now, there was a very noticeable difference in footpath construction methods between Lakes and Scotland where the latter paths were much better drained, water being the biggest wear problem in hard rock areas rather than footfall. Many felt that the stone paths were unpleasant underfoot, hard on the knees and could be dangerous in slippery fresh snow, and looked so unnatural. Others thought it was probably the only lasting solution. It was felt that we should look to influence or at least have some opportunity to discuss how paths are constructed. Andrew Bissett took this forward and proposed arranging a joint meeting of all interested parties who use bridleways as well as footpaths, together with Fix the Fells etc to get together and discuss what would suit each sport (cycle/ride/walk). It was considered that as the BMC were raising a large amount of money under the 'Mend our Mountains' campaign that a future conference to influence how the money was best used would be appropriate. This had unanimous approval following a lively discussion involving all present; everybody uses paths and has a view. Action. Andrew Bisset to contact Cath Fliteroft (access and conservation officer/policy) and Rob Dyer (access and conservation, England) and Carey Davis (mend our mountains) with a proposal to organise a national 'Mend our Mountains' conference, Lakeland based. This to have speakers on a wide variety of path and rights of way related subjects, including path construction, costs, suitability in different conditions, suitability for users and weather resistance and length of life. This to be further reviewed at our next Lakes region meeting, Sept 6th.

10. Clubs. Fiona Sanders reminded us that helpful seminars for club officers are being held during the BMC AGM weekend, where Club problems and questions can be answered and insurance issues explained. Beneficial interaction between different clubs will be discussed and hopefully facilitated.

11: Hill walking Rep: Stuart Smith, has joined our group as hill walking rep.

12. BMC Youth Meet: Rawhead will be the venue for a climbing Youth Meet on 6-8th July 2018, organised by Ron Kenyon. This is open to youngsters aged 12 to 17, and competent adults are invited to apply to assist. Contact Ron for details.

13. Next Meeting: Weds 5th September at Kong Adventure Wall, Keswick. 14. The BMC AGM will be held 16th June in Kendal. (Castle Green hotel.)

Mike Parsons, chair, stepped out of the meeting to call and text Pete Sterling to ascertain if he would be attending but on no reply, closed the meeting. However after several people had duly departed, Doug Scott then reopened the meeting and declared his wish to discuss the ORG and IG issues as he saw them. He aired his views freely, including the UKC posts by the V-P's partner Lynn Robinson, and the incidents involving Bob Pettigrew, which led to some lively discussions about moralities, legalities and various other happenings. Eventually Mike Parsons closed the meeting at 10pm. Thanks to Nick Colton from the BMC head office for attending and supporting many areas of discussion.

Minutes by Marian and Mike Parsons, standing in for Lakes region sec' Ron Kenyon.

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