

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of The Peak Area Meeting Wednesday 5th September 2018, The Maynard, Grindleford

Present:

Rob Greenwood (Chair)	Becky Hammond (secretary)	Henry Folkard (Access rep)
Andy Reeve	Mark Richards	Dave Parry
Spencer Ramsey	Spenser Gray (Oread MC)	John Cook
Tina Wilkinson	Rob Dyer (BMC Access & Conservation Officer)	Penny Orr
Chris Sweetman	Dave Turnbull (BMC Chief Exec)	Mike Cheque
Glynnis Judd	Petter Judd (Hillwalking rep)	Alex Roddie
Pete Hammond (Castle MC)	John Bayliss (PeaK CC)	Graeme Hammond
Chris Radcliffe (Oread MC)	Lynn Robinson (President)	Nigel Wragg
Helen Jackson	Michael Smith (Yorkshire Ramblers Club)	Alison Bell
Martin Wass	Jenny Wass	Rich Allesbrook
Pete Tapping	Pete Denver	Sarah McDonald
Steve Clark	Andy Cairns	Alison Cairns (NC rep)
Paul Evans (Karabiner MC)	Hazel Jones	Andrew Kiely
Rebecca Kiely	Teresa Dillon	Chantal Beaumont
Ross Burnage (Buxton MC)	Tim Grice	Clare Reading (FRCC)
Mark McKenzie	Dave Garnett (Midlands Assoc. of Mountaineers)	Tom Ripley
Kasia Ospewick?	Kim Leyland	Mark Houghton
Austin Knott (Hillwalking rep)	Louise Hawson (Access rep)	John Coefield

54 people signed in 54 people present

1. Apologies:

David Brown (NC rep), Neil Foster, Mark Warwicker

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as correct.

3. Actions from previous meetings

- Chair to write letter of thanks to the Organisational Review Group – Rob Greenwood has done this

4. Access updates

Also see the Newsletter (published after the meeting – see <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/peak-area-newsletter-september-2018>)

Ravensdale precautionary nesting restriction.

The precautionary restriction was imposed by Natural England, who own the site. This was the first time that a nesting restriction at Ravensdale has affected walkers as well as climbers. In the event there were no peregrines. The PDNPA have been very supportive of the BMC's stance against precautionary restrictions, but unfortunately they don't have any legal clout. Natural England have not attended any meetings to discuss the matter.

Eastern Moors draft management plan to 2023

Henry Folkard brought hard copy for people to view and will feedback people's comments and ideas. Henry feels that there isn't a strong enough emphasis on recreation and cultural heritage: this is due to the current national emphasis within the RSPB.

Turningstone Edge new access arrangements

Agreement with the new owners, so the guidebook is now incorrect. Do NOT park outside Old Engine House Farm. Instead park as for Cocking Tor. The Regional Access Database has been updated. There have been problems with raves, drug use, etc.

Hen Harriers bred in the Peak for the first time this year, and were narrowly saved from a moorland fire.

Stanage Forum

The next Open Meeting will be on Saturday 13th October 2-4pm in Hathersage Methodist Church Hall. It's an opportunity for stakeholders to make their views known, and attendance is encouraged. Will include presentation of Ring Ouzel information and the history of climbing on Stanage. The main purpose of the forum is to discuss the management plan. Some current issues include increased parking on verges e.g. Popular End, wildcamping and pollution of watercourses, campervans, and the potential use of buildings e.g. Cattiside Cottage as camping barns.

Bolting Championships 13th October, Eastern Moors Partnership. Demonstrate your prowess at bellowing like a stag.

Moscar Estate

The Edale MRT Nine Edges route has had to be changed this year due to issues with the estate, so the race cannot run along the top of Derwent Edge or the High Neb end of Stanage. Louise Hawson is going to contact EMRT to find out what the issues are.

Access Reps meeting in October to share knowledge etc. If you're involved in, or have an interest in, access work and haven't yet been invited please contact Louise Hawson.

Roaches fire

The large moorland fire jumped the edge at the Skyline. It hasn't yet been officially re-opened due to concerns about safety in the trees. Andi Turner is going to look at the rock condition, but it doesn't appear to have affected a major rock climbing area.

Walkers are asked to stay on the footpaths when walking across the open moorland, due to concerns about the peat collapsing where it has burnt underground.

5. Hillwalking reps

Hillwalking Working Group met recently and Dave Turnbull & Lynn Robinson attended. The Strategic Plan is being re-submitted to the new board for feasibility & practicality. The HWWG feel it's still relevant.

Mend Our Mountains is progressing well. Approx £400,000 raised so far. Peak Ales have produced Great Ridge Beer. The public crowdfunding is about to be launched with an initial target of £150,000. There will be bigger and better rewards than last time. As well as raising money it helps to raise awareness.

Cath Lee is doing a guided hillwalk on 13th October to raise money for MOM.

Angela Smith MP walked the Cut Gate path last week and looked at the bad boggy bit. She's a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Hillwalking Group.

Peak Limestone South Festival will include a walk on the Sunday 16th September. Peter Judd & Austin Knott will be leading it and would like an idea of numbers so please contact Peter.

Outside Crag Cleanup supported by the BMC, Saturday 8th September. Outside are providing a barbecue.

6. National Council reps

AGM went well after a difficult run up. Implementation Group have been set up to oversee what happens next. 3 members are being recruited from the membership. There are 36 recommendations from the Organisational Review Group still to be implemented. The whole process will take 4 – 5 years.

Need applicants for the position of Chair of the Board.

Find out soon about Sport England funding.

Lynn Robinson expressed thanks to everyone who voted at the AGM. The Women's Trad festival was amazing. Lynn is keen to improve awareness and support for volunteers (of which there are many). We are a member-led organisation

7. BMC Officers (Rob Dyer)

Coastal Path – BMC continues to have input into this, which gives right of access to land between the path and the high water mark. Lots of the country has already been done (e.g. east & north), the south-west is being done at the moment. Aim to be finished by 2021.

British Trust for Ornithology – met recently, positive.

Voluntary Restrictions Policy for bird nesting – new policy about how the BMC will deal with them, following the Ravensdale issues.

Access volunteers are essential!

8. Peak Area Newsletter

Current edition still being prepared.

Deadline for contributions for the next issue is 5th November. Please email articles and photos to peakarea@gmail.com.

9. South Peak Limestone Festival 14th-16th September

Based at the Royal Oak in Whetton. Climbing & walking, talk by Gary Gibson, Saturday night buffet. Please contact the pub direct to book camping and buffet.

10. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

Wednesday 21st November 2018, 7.30pm at The Maynard Arms, Grindleford, S32 2HE.

This will also be the area AGM, followed by the famous Annual Quiz.

11. Any Other Business

Michael Smith expressed concern about large events in popular areas that contribute to damage to the mountains. Felt that the BMC should lead the way by not using popular areas.

It was highlighted that that was part of the purpose of the South Peak Limestone Festival, and it was also part of the ethos of the Womens' Trad Festival. The BMC has issued guidance on charity challenge events e.g. three peaks challenges.

There was some discussion about what we can all do as individuals e.g. when friends ask for suggestions of places to climb/walk, when clubs run meets,