

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of The Peak Area Meeting Wednesday 21st November 2018, The Maynard, Grindleford

Present:

Rob Greenwood (Chair)	Becky Hammond (Secretary)	Chris Hindley
Mike Snell	Tony Sawbridge	Paul Harrison
Stephen Coughlan	Richard Wheeldon	Eleanor Roddick
Alison Cairns (NC rep)	Andy Cairns	Spenser Gray
Ian Milward	Tim Grice	Dave Parry
Joel Mitchel	Alan James (UK Climbing)	Fiona Jones
Robert Townsend (The Mountain Club, Stafford)	Frag Last	Tom Dunne
Martin Wass	Hamish Forbes	Pete Tapping
Ian Carr (BMC guidebooks)	Paul Evans	Steve Clegg
Clare Reading (FRCC)	Steve Clark	Martin Kocsis
Lynn Robinson (BMC President)	Dave Turnbull (BMC CEO)	Paul Mitchell
Simon Lee (UK Bouldering)	Chris Taylor	Katy Taylor
Toby Wright	Rik Payne	Kim Leyland
John Coefield	Simon Wilson	Neil Kershaw
Graham Robinson (Bowline CC)	Toby Archer	Jane Hammond
Pete Hammond	Geoff Nichols (Castle MC)	Graeme Hammond
Linda McLeish	David Pendlebury	Tony Mays
Annie Mays	David Eatson	David Veryant?
Gill Radcliffe (Oread CC)	Alistair Boyd	Elaine Winton
Peter Judd (Hillwalking rep)	Henry Folkard (access rep)	Chris Radcliffe
Austin Knott (Hillwalking rep)	David Brown (NC rep)	Tina Wilkinson
John Cook	Spence Ramsey	Tom Appleby
Chris Allewell (Beyond The Edge)	Jamie Sparkes	Felicity Freeman
Ed Chard (CC / Jagged Globe)	Tim Banton	Marc Bellingall
Mark Rankine	James Jacobs (Peak Bolt Fund)	Mike Cheque
Louise Hawson (access rep / Stanage Forum)	Laura Smitton	77 people signed in

1. Apologies:

Neil Foster, Hazel Jones, Valerie Partington, Mark McKenzie, Emma Holland, Mark Warwicker, Glynnis Judd, Caroline Fanshaw

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as correct.

3. Actions from previous meetings

None

4. Access updates

Also see the Peak Area Newsletter available at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/peak-area-newsletter-november-2018>

a. Milsom memorial plaque at Stanage

A new plaque has been glued to the rock at the base of 'Millsom's Minion' at Stanage. We don't know who by but presumably the family, and we have no contact information. The PDNPA didn't know about it until they were informed by our access reps. Stanage Forum policy is not to have any manmade intrusions.

Concern was expressed about potential proliferation of memorials – there are already a couple at Stanage. Following discussion, a show of hands indicated support attempting to establish contact with the Milsom family, with a view to the plaque's removal. Len Millsom was a member of Parnassus Mountaineering Club, and David Brown knows some old members. He will try to make contact.

Action point for next meeting

b. Stanage Forum feedback

Louise Hawson explained that the Stanage Forum is a stakeholder advisory body which has been in place for nearly 20 years. Louise Hawson and Adam Long and Andy Reeve are BMC Representatives on the Steering Group.

The annual Open Meeting was held in September: it was felt to be “disappointing”. Concerns were raised that PDNPA aren’t putting enough into managing Stanage and engaging with stakeholders. In the last few years there have been issues with staffing, engagement, etc and the PDNPA seems to have been losing its focus on conservation and people.

However since the Open Meeting there have been two much more positive and focused meetings and work on the 5-year-plan. Some activities are starting which we should see in the next 12 months:

- Re-wetting White Path Moss (the moorland between Stanage Edge and Sheffield) which will have benefits for species diversity and reducing fire risk.
- Ongoing work to monitor and encourage Redstarts, Pied Flycatchers, Ring Ouzels and other priority species
- Possible improvements to the parking at High Neb to optimise roadside parking whilst ensuring larger vehicles can get along the road.
- Repairs to Long Causeway and promote it as a way of accessing the edge for cross-country wheelchairs and similar (NOT tarmac!). The aim is to put the track in good condition and put in some resting places.
- Work on the Cruck Barn and campsite
- A bit to HLF to fund archaeological surveys, including continuing the study of stone markings begun by Bill Gordon.
- Guided walks
- Cattiside Cottage is in need of considerable maintenance and improvement (particularly the water supply) and any costs would need to be mitigated by future income. The Meeting was against its sale or re-development into an expensive long-term or holiday let: it was suggested that it might be considered lease for a Club Hut. Louise will pass on this suggestion.

Next year’s Open Meeting will be about how people can get involved.

c. Moscar estate

The 2018 Nine Edges Race had to be re-routed at the last minutes. Louise has contacted the organisers (Edale MRT) who confirmed that it was to do with the process of obtaining permission from Natural England – this is an issue that the Fell Runners Association are working on.

d. Ravensdale nesting restrictions

Henry Folkard, Adam Long and Rob Dyer (BMC Access officer) are still working on this. Natural England introduced a full precautionary ban in 2018, and the warden wants to introduce one again from 1st March. Although there was a peregrine in the area, there was no proof of a nesting site at Ravensdale (there was one at Water Cum Jolly). There has recently been a meeting & site visit involving the BMC, PDNPA and Natural England, but it didn’t reach any conclusions. The BMC feel that any nesting restrictions must be proportionate and based on evidence of nesting: the PDNPA support this but have no legal powers.

e. Running Hill Pits

There have been issues this year with climbers being told to leave some of the quarries that are on Open Access land (all quarries except 7 & 8 are on CRoW land). The gamekeeper doesn’t appear to be aware of what is Open Access, and has told people to phone the landowner who has subsequently said that they have no problem. This has happened at least twice(!).

The BMC Regional Access Database has been updated to confirm the situation:

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/View.aspx?id=1004>

Action point for next meeting

f. Masson Lees

The landowner appears to have plans for using the quarry floor. Ian Milward is monitoring the situation. Climbing is not affected and it appears to be more of an issue for cavers.

g. Sheffield Moors Partnership

This is an attempt to coordinate moorland management across different landowners, but has been a disappointment. Stakeholder involvement has not really happened due to lack of time. There are cross-estate issues that need to be addressed. Hopefully there will be a new plan drawn up by April, with a public meeting and stakeholder consultation.

h. Eastern Moors Partnership

The new management plan is coming out. Unfortunately the manager has been off sick recently. There are problems with raves being held on EMP land. RSPB policy to protect curlews means that measures are being taken to control crows and foxes, which are controversial in some quarters.

i. Redmires plantation / mountain bike track

Proposals are being made for a mountain bike track in the partially-felled Redmires conifer plantation. This follows the successful track at Lady Cannings. The track won't be visible from outside the plantation, and facilities/access for horseriders will also be improved. Some ramblers are objecting because they think it will put pressure on the limited parking at Redmires, however this is thought to be unlikely as mountain bikers will likely use it as an alternative route home from the Peak, rather than a destination in itself.

j. Midhope Moor plastic matting track

This was originally installed in 2015 without planning permission. Retrospective planning permission has been refused multiple times, after receiving over 180 objections. The landowner is appealing so it will go to a public inquiry: the BMC will be represented.

5. Organisational Development Group and the BMC Strategic Plan

Alison Cairns enquired how many people had received the BMC email informing about this Peak Area Meeting: about half had not. Only about 10 clicked through to the website. Communications to BMC members is something that needs working on.

Alison Cairns presented a brief overview of the ODG and strategic plan: more detail is available on the BMC website.

The new chair of the board is Gareth Pierce. He is a retired CEO and long-time BMC member. He plans to visit all the local area meetings.

The ODG is phase 2 of implementing the recommendations of the Organisational Review Group. The aim is to make the BMC function better. There are 8 workstreams (4 led by the Board, 4 led by National Council). See <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-organisational-development-group-update-november-2018> for a copy of information that was circulated as well as various documents etc the that ODG would like feedback on.

The Articles of Association are being revised again: a draft is available on the BMC website (see link above).

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and National Council is being drafted (see link above).

Feedback can be sent by email to odg@thebmc.co.uk

6. Hillwalking update

The Hillwalking Symposium is to be held the weekend of 23-25 November. Over 50 people have registered but there are still places available.

The Hillwalking Strategic Plan has been re-presented to the new board who have confirmed their commitment to it.

Peter Judd and Austin Knott will be leading a walk on the Saturday of the BMC AGM weekend in Buxton (30th & 31st March 2019).

Ideas are welcomed for a location for a Peak Area Hillwalk.

There have been various successful "clean up" events this year: the Outside Crag Clean Up, Peak Mountaineering's Pick & Play, and the Real Three Peaks Challenge. The BMC are hoping to do something around the Roaches area

7. Mend our Mountains Make One Million

Crowdfunding has raised more than was raised in MOM1: approx. £565,000 so far. Money is still being sought from other sources such as trusts etc.

There is some controversy about how some of the Fix The Fells work has been done in the Lake District. The

current Mommom project (Scafell Pike) was proposed by the Lake District National Park and will be carried out by Fix The Fells. Concerns about this are being addressed via the Lakes Area Meeting.

8. 70th Anniversary of National Parks & Countryside Act

An anniversary event is planned for 27 April 2019 at Winnats Pass (which was a site of events in the 1930s). It's being organised by the Kinder and High Peak Advisory Group. Henry Folkard and Peter Judd are the BMC links for this.

9. South Peak Limestone Festival

Thanks to Spenser Gray for organising this. About 15 people attended for the Saturday night talk, and about 25 for the walk on the Sunday (bolstered by a few people from National Council). Spenser felt that there was a lack of support from the BMC office, but acknowledged that it was at a time when there was a lot going on. The first year of an event such as this is always difficult to get up and running.

If someone else would like to organise a repeat, Spenser would be willing to help them (he has some feedback and ideas) but would not be able to organise it on his own again.

10. National Council report

David Brown provided a summary of the most relevant issues from National Council – attached to these minutes.

11. Clubs

David Brown is currently our area rep on the Clubs Committee. It is very low key: very few clubs come with any problems that need solving.

The Clubs Committee have asked that clubs be a standing item on our meeting agenda, in an attempt to raise their profile.

12. BMC Officers

Nothing to add that hasn't already been discussed.

13. Peak Area Newsletter

November 2018 edition available at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/peak-area-newsletter-november-2018>
Contributions always welcome. Please email articles and photos to peakarea@gmail.com.

14. Any other business

BMC 75th anniversary
Will be in 2019.

Fox House parking (A625)

The informal parking area/layby has been coned off for some time. No one seems to know why.

Chris Moor

At the beginning of the AGM, we had been told about the death of Chris Moor. A card was circulated to send to his family, and everyone raised a glass to his memory. RIP Chris.

15. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

Wednesday 23rd January 2019, 7.30pm at The Maynard Arms, Grindelford, S32 2HE.

The meeting was followed by the famous Annual Quiz, which taxed everyone's brains.
Thanks to Toby Wright, Kim Leyland and Ellie Pygall for setting the questions.

Prizes were generously donated by

**Scavenger Designs, Outside, Alpkit
Heason Events, The BMC,
Rockfax, Vertebrate, Cordee,
The Climbing Works, The Foundry, Awesome Walls,
Montane, Rab, Beta Climbing Designs**

BMC – National Council Meeting Summary

Saturday 15 September 2018 at Thornbridge Outdoors, Great Longstone

President Robinson's first National Council as Chair, starting as she means to finish: the meeting lasted over 9½ hours! Most relevant issues, all very abbreviated:

- **Constitutional Issues –**
 - **ORG Implementation Group:** renamed **Organisational Development Group (ODG)**.
 - **ODG Project Manager (part-time): Dave Stanley** now appointed.
 - **ODG Workstreams:** 4 largely operation related and Board led, and, 4 policy related and National Council/Member led; Governance, Policy, Partnerships and Member Engagement. See up-date for Area Meeting.
 - **2019 AGM:** now confirmed **12 noon on Sunday 31 March 2019** at [The Devonshire Dome in Buxton](#)
 - **National Council Reconstitution:** to be delayed until the 2020 AGM.
 - **Chair of the Board of Directors:** selection process ongoing at the time of the NC, now confirmed as **Gareth Pierce**, <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/gareth-pierce-new-chair-board-of-directors>.

- **Policy Issues –**
 - **Strategic Plan:** a first draft of a new SP was discussed. See up-date for Area Meeting.
 - **Climbing in the Olympics:** a draft position paper was discussed. Nothing new, just a collection of previously discussed and agreed policies but now all in one place.
 - **Code of Conduct for Members:** ongoing.
 - **Land Acquisition Policy:** the Land Management Group has managed the BMC properties for the last ~15 years and the original acquisition policy has now been up-dated.

- **Reports –**
 - **Board of Directors:** Simon McCalla (our second Independent Director) has acted as Interim Chair and reconstituted the Nominations Committee to enable recruitment of a full-time Chair. Summaries of Board Meetings are now published on the BMC Website within a few days followed by (redacted) Minutes as soon as completed.
 - **President:** the first edition of *Lynn's Travels* which appear to be a 3 year attempt to meet every Member and potential Member.
 - **CEO and BMC Office:** the AGM gave the BMC a strong mandate to progress the proposed organisational changes but care will be needed with the additional level of bureaucracy required to implement the aspirations of the ODG, the Board and National Council
 - **Finance/Treasurer's Report:** Sport England grant funding has been approved (but not yet received). The current year-end forecast is just positive, helped by strong sales of the Peak Limestone South Guidebook! Membership is up 1.65% in the 12 months to June 2018 to 85,345. Next year's budget assumes SE grant funding with a target surplus of £23k.
 - **Mountain Training:** a concise report outlining structure, policy, governance and finance.

- **Areas -**
 - **Cymru North Wales:** acquisition negotiations for the central part of Craig y Forwyn have been delayed at the request of the landowner. Ensure gate to car parking is not left open. A live weather system is soon to be installed on the summit of Snowdon (linked to the BMC Web-site).
 - **Cymru South Wales:** replacement of some belay stakes at Pembroke; a policy for checking and replacement would be useful. Little progress on Welsh Government access consultations.

- **Lakes:** A significant increase in attendance following a Lakes Area Newsletter. Main issues were concern at footpath construction (by Fix the Fells) and car parking; the National Park's plans to promote tourism are not counterbalanced with appropriate transport plans, particularly to relieve car parking problems.
 - **London and SE:** a Sandstone Open Meeting will discuss the bridge at Harrison's Rocks for the final (?) time before being passed to the Land Management Group.
 - **Midlands:** debated the possibility of individual affiliated Club members having the option of whether to affiliate to the BMC.
 - **North West:** debated whether it would be better to have Area Meetings after NC, rather than before.
 - **South West:** a series of (SW produced) sea cliff safety films are now on BMC TV. <http://tv.thebmc.co.uk/>. Difficulties persist with attempts to build relationships with the coastguard service.
 - **Yorkshire:** Area crag care at Brimham (with the National Trust).
- **Club Applications for Membership:** 3 applications approved; Crystal Palace Outdoor Climbing, Defence Army Academy, Senderisimo en Londres (Hiking in London Ltd).
 - **Hill Walking Implementation Group:** National Council are concerned that there has been little progress on the implementation of the Hill Walking Strategy. This is mainly due to (the lack of) Sport England grant funding, which is unlikely to change, and an apparent focus on the Mend our Mountains campaign.

David Brown, Peak Area Representative on National Council

The full Minutes can be downloaded from the BMC Web-site:
<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-national-council-minutes>