



Peak District Area Meeting

The Norfolk Arms, Ringinglow, S11 7TS
Wednesday 27 November, 19:30

MINUTES

The AGM will be held first at 19:30 with the ordinary meeting following immediately afterwards.

1. Welcome & Apologies:

For apologies of absence see minutes from AGM.

Andy Reeve: Welcome and thanks to Becky & Rob for their four years of service.

Louise Hanson – Presented gifts to Becky & Rob as tokens of appreciation.

2. Notes from the last meeting, September 11th 2019:

No issues.

3. Actions from the last meeting:

A. Milsom memorial plaque:

This plaque has been removed and is believed to be in storage with the Stange Ranger.

B. Running Hill Pits notice to clarify access:

Henry Folkard: No update. Request has been made for further information but no further incidents.

Ian Carr: Lives near the pits and thinks the problem only occurs during Grouse shooting. Advises people to keep going.

4. Hill Walking Update:

Austin Knott: Most items covered in the newsletter. The Three Peaks Challenge was very successful with 12 people attending the event at the Roaches and 34 people attending in Castleton. Within the peak district a total of 48 volunteers collected 105Kg of rubbish.

Peter Judd: The Peak Area BMC did their first event co-promotion with the National Trust as part of the Moors for the future partnership and went to Ronksley Moor to plant Sphagnum moss. Very successful day with 18 volunteers planting 4,000 plug plants!

Second BMC Hill Walking Symposium will be the 14th 15th March in Ambleside.

Special guest speaker MaryAnn Ochota. Put the dates in the diary and keep an eye out for when booking is made possible.

Andy Reeve: For the coming year try and increase promotion of Hill Walking events.

5. Alderly Cliff:

Rob Dyer, BMC Access Officer: This topic was discussed in the June Area meeting. There is a proposal document outlining the plans. Proposal to place 10 bolted lower-offs, where rock allows, following old routes.

Linda McLeish Representing Castle Mountaineering Club: Very happy with these proposals as the club had cancelled a trip to the area this year.

Ian: Thinks these bolted lower-offs should be placed where they need to be, if replacing old ones put them somewhere suitable.

Steve Clark: Worried about the potential for top roping but happy to see the proposal.

Dave Garnett representing the Midlands Association of Mountaineers: Any chance of changing the wire and how it's attached to the trees?

Rob Dyer: Yes. The work will hopefully be completed by spring 2020 and work will be done by professionals.

General consensus of opinion was happy with the proposals.

6. Access Updates:

A. Millstone Fence:

Henry Folkard: Millstone fence has stood for 50 years at least. Is there to keep stock contained. Have been several motions to get it moved or removed. Along with Peter Judd and Sheffield City Council conducted a walking inspection. Decided gates could be put in to allow access for climbers but keep stock contained. Belay stakes were discussed and whilst the council would not put any in they also would not go to the effort of removing any that appear. If anyone is unhappy with the situation chat to Henry. Thanks to the Eastern Moors Partnership for consulting.

B. Other Access Updates:

Henry Folkard: DEFRA review. Identify the mapping of crow land. If anyone is aware of any areas of land that have been incorrectly identified i.e. shown as open access when they are/not, then please contact Henry.

Previously mentioned concerns over commercial activity on National Trust Land, this has been clarified. The National Trust are concerned about events not individuals.

Wildfire improvement. Map of wildfires in the Peak District for 2009 shows fires mostly along the Pennine Way started by walkers. This has reduced and most fires currently occur on the edge due to barbecues or arson. The reduction in wild fires is partly thanks to the outdoor community as prevention and early detection drastically reduce the damage caused by fires. Keep up the good work, be aware and report people if they have barbecues etc.

Not too late to comment on the Glover Review, 168 pages. BMC has made a comment.

Louise Hanson: Stanage Forum. 26th October meeting attended by 55 people including representatives from the National Park Authority. They reiterated their commitment to Stanage, to keep it and not hand it over, however we need to show we are committed and have resources, i.e. volunteers.

There's a new tenant farmer on Stanage. Same guy from Burbage and Totley Moor. He will be placing his contact number at strategic points around Stanage. Any problems with stock, call him.

Work at White Moss. Area is important for bird breeding. Work is blocking gullies and letting it get wetter.

Beaver Feasibility study. Just looking into the feasibility of re-introducing beavers to the Burbage area, nothing will happen for many years. Study will look at recreation & conservation. Other examples can be found in Scotland and Devon.

National Park Authority have put in a bid to the horizons pot to restore Hall & Crook Barn. This is a long shot but demonstrates intent and application can be used to apply to other organisations for funding. Heritage group have won £10,000 to work on preserving heritage of the area. A better relationship has been built with the managers. There is still a

very remote possibility of a sale but generally prospects are good. They take the time to listen to the access reps but this doesn't mean they follow the advice.

Henry Folkard: Two proposals to reinstate the rail link between Buxton and Matlock. These bids are funded by quarry companies and would not necessarily involve passenger transport. Commercial transport opportunities due to HS2. Quarry company want to transport goods to highspeed rail link. The National Trust is opposed as this would destroy the Monsal Trail but it only takes one National Secretary to approve it.

7. Organisational Development Group Update:

Nothing to report.

8. National Council report:

Alison Cairns NC Rep: Stuff is happening and progress is being made. There will be a progress report on Peak Area and ODG website at the end of the week. Any questions?

Simon Lee raised concerns over one of the proposed options to manage competition climbing

This paper had been raised at the last Peak Area meeting but hadn't been covered in depth at last National Council meeting. Lynn Robinson suggested e-mailing comments directly to ODG. Alison asked that her and David be included so they can bring it up at the next meeting.

David Brown: Finances. A few months ago suspected deficit was thought to be £300,000. Now £194,000 deficit. This is due to Cotswold Outdoor still paying its dues even though its gone into company voluntary creditors. Any Questions?

Pete Tapping raised the issue why we can't see the agenda for the National Council meeting before the area meeting and actively make contributions? Lynn Robinson pointed out that the ODG had been restructured which was leading to change. Rik Payne pointed out that there has been a change in date of meetings to try and get meeting cycles better to allow feedback.

9. Clubs:

No news.

10. BMC Officers:

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11. Peak Area Newsletter:

Submission date for articles as soon as you have anything but at the latest 2 weeks prior to next meeting. Try to include photos with submission.

12. A.O.B.

Rob: Worked with Dave Cramp, Peak Parks Volunteer Co-ordinator to set up joint Peak Park & BMC volunteer day. On the 18th or 19th January will be spreading Limestone at Horseshoe Quarry to maintain the paths and car parks. Exact date will be published.

Mountain Heritage Trust.

Ian Smith, Trustee of Mountain Heritage Trust: Donations needed. Many donations of historical climbing artefacts have been received. Funding needed to help preserve these. Donations of climbing memorabilia welcome. The Mountain Heritage Trust will accept

anything at the moment. Some articles will become museum pieces. Others will become handling pieces and be used for education and outreach. Every donated article sorted and stored professionally by an archivist. Can donate money on the webpage or clubs may be interested in holding fundraising events.

Honey Pots.

Michael Smith: 14 Months ago asked BMC to stop publicising honey pots. In that time received 20 emails promoting a location – excluding incidents linked to a specific location, 60 % were honey pots of which 45% were avoidable honey pot illustrations. In those 45 % other areas could have been promoted.

It was pointed out that the BMC may only have limited photos that they are supplied with to use and as honey pots are popular, photos may be disproportionately representative to these areas.

Youth Climbing Series 2020.

Lynn Robinson: 4 Competitions around the country. 2 Bouldering and 2 Lead climbing. Volunteers needed to judge or belay. These are great events.

Becky Hammond: Claudia – the organiser, needs an assistant to help with the Peak area. Becky has her contact details so if you're interested contact Becky.

13. Time and Date of next meeting:

Alison Cairns: Date range for March meeting 9th - 20th March.

Becky Hammond: Our area is unusual in having 5 meetings a year so our next meeting is in January.

Ana Wass & Andy Reeve – Decision made to hold the next meeting on Wednesday 15th January at The Norfolk Arms. We will continue to look for another venue with better public transport facilities. Any suggestions please contact Ana Wass – [e-mail to come].

Next meeting: 15th January 2020. The Norfolk Arms, Ringinglow, S11 7TS.