

YORKSHIRE AREA MEETING MINUTES

Monday 7th September 2020; Via Zoom!

Present: 20 in attendance, full register not completed due to limitations of Zoom.

1. Welcome & Introductions – Jim Hulbert introduced himself as the Secretary and advised he was chairing the meeting in the absence of Sarah Sharps.

2. Apologies for absence – Sarah Sharps, John Mortimer, Stuart Wetherell.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting – previous meeting was held via Zoom; minutes are available online.

4. Matters Arising from those minutes not covered elsewhere- no matters arising.

5. Co-ordinators' Reports

5.1. Gritstone: access & conservation – Mick Johnson had some issues joining the call but eventually joined in. Gate House Crag – signs have been removed and issues seem to have quietened down. Chevin – permission has been received to do some pruning around the West Chevin Boulders. Ruin Bank – agreement seems to be working. Woodhouse Scar – concerns raised about a risk to access. Residents are concerned about antisocial behaviour and people have been parking in the turning spot. Not climbers but quite an urban crag so attracts lots of visitors. Lynn Robinson to pick up with Rob Dyer.

5.2. Limestone: access & conservation - Nigel Baker not in attendance. Jim Hulbert advised that a Malham 'Respect the Rock' video was being made which should assist with parking and general access issues. Some discussion on Attermire and the recent bolting of the Escarpment. Dave Musgrove saw this as a positive development on the basis the crag is much more popular than previously, suffering as it did with loose rock and vegetation. First ascensionists had in general been

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contacted prior to the bolting and a venue of value has been created. However Dave acknowledged that the meeting should have been consulted in advance and apologised on behalf of the developers, of which he was one, albeit not involved at the start. In future the meeting should be consulted prior to development beginning. Numerous example of similar bolting exist across Yorkshire and there was little reason to suspect this would be any different. General agreement from the meeting; good to cater for a new demographic and follow an 'evolution rather than revolution' pathway. The existing policy of bringing proposed bolting to the meeting for discussion was reinforced amid some concern that excellent trad buttresses such as Malham Right Wing might otherwise be considered fair game. Some discussion about how to keep trad buttresses clean; clean up operations would have to be informal rather than BMC organised due to SSSI designations on many crags. General note about Attermire parking being better on the Victoria Cave side of the moor, which will be reflected in the new guide. Dave Musgrove also advised that some of his old routes on the right wing of Dib Scar have also been bolted at some point last year. Threshfield Quarry – the development plan here hasn't really got going but worth keeping climbing as a key issue here.

5.3. Youth (Outdoor) - Vicky not in attendance.

5.4. Climbing Walls - Stuart not in attendance.

5.5. Clubs - Pete Barrans – huts starting to open. Question about 30 people outside; some discussion ensued concluding it was fine with a risk assessment, but rules have since changed so this may no longer be true.

6. Hill Walking - Harry Harper gave brief overview. Clubs are using social networks to keep everyone in the loop. Most programmes have been fully suspended which is an issue of survival for many. BMC mitigation document a step in the right direction. Car sharing remains a key issue, along with hand sanitiser and gates.

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- 7. BMC Statement on Directors** – Andy Syme and Lynn Robinson led. Emphasised that BMC taking the issue very seriously as evidenced by regular statements. They have been having quarterly board meetings and weekly team calls since lockdown. Work is ongoing with Nomination Committee, ODG and Strategic Review. Paul Das has been recruited as an interim Executive. There is a backlog of board minutes to work through which is being treated as a priority. Some discussion around resignations, mostly of bafflement, with the overriding view being that the business is unsettling and required swift action.
- 8. Strategic Review** – Chris Stone. Showed Powerpoint detailing the process, which was looking for feedback by 11th September. Question on the issue of Trespass arose which is being dealt with by the office.
- 9. Individual Members' Issues** - none arising.
- 10. Any Other Business** – none.

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