



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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DE CYMRU / SOUTH WALES ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held online
On Wednesday 9 September 2020

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair opened the meeting. Apologies were received from Gai Ashmore and Dorian Thomas.

A quorum was present in accordance with Article 28.6.1 of the British Mountaineering Council's articles of association (the "Articles").

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 22 May 2020, a draft of which had been produced to the meeting were noted and no queries were raised.

2. Wales Access

- 2.1. Elfyn updated on the current Covid restrictions and local lockdowns; noting that fly camping is becoming a hot political issue.
- 2.2. Llest y Gwynt Wind Farm – not expecting a planning application any time soon as statutory bodies need more information for impact assessments.
- 2.3. South East – Cwm Dimbath – Landowner (NRW) have reminded this is an SSSI and this must not be interfered with – eg vegetation clearance. Recent contact has been made with us regarding Llandarcy; this will be followed up further.
- 2.4. Gower – Nothing to report.
- 2.5. Pembrokeshire – No Range West briefings for 2020. Seals at Stack Rocks (Cauldron area) – warning signs have been put up. A small number of nesting restrictions were added during the summer.
- 2.6. Telpyn Point (Carmarthenshire) – a chough nest restriction has been added.
- 2.7. Covid – John Harwood asked about research into virus viability particularly with respect to climbing surfaces, and noted that he would be interested in doing experimental research via his university but they did not have the required facilities. It was reported that BMC had considered this early on but it was deemed unviable.

3. BMC Update

- 3.1. Gareth Pierce presented an update on the BMC strategic plan.
- 3.2. The Strategic Plan and operational budget are in the process of being reviewed, and this is an opportunity for a major focus on Wales.

4. Board Update

- 4.1. Difficulties over the summer have led to 4 director resignations. Various personal reflections from Board and National Council reps were given on the causes of these.

5. Members Council

- 5.1. Steve and CJ updated the meeting on the Members (National) Council.
- 5.2. The Council is currently concentrating on issue from Board resignations.
- 5.3. Consultation is still ongoing on changes to Members Council - It is proposed there will remain two reps for South Wales (and other Areas) but each Area will only have one vote, plus other speciality national representatives. Feedback is invited via the ODG progress.

6. Any other business

- 6.1. South Wales Bolt Policy – a discussion was started continuing from previous meetings regarding the bolt policy. Peter Sheppard showed a document (attached) consolidating the existing policy and changes voted on at Area Meetings since into one document. CJ has prepared some potential updates, but after much discussion the chair proposed that a single-item meeting in the future would be convened with proposals distributed in advance for review.
- 6.2. Peter Saleneiks (apologising for late arrival due to an overrunning earlier meeting) raised the forthcoming changes to Covid restrictions for social activities in England and asked if the BMC was lobbying around the impact on climbing activities over the border.
- 6.3. Ollie will be standing down as Chair at the AGM; there is at least one prospective replacement.
- 6.4. There are still vacancies for other Area committee roles such as Mountain Training Rep, Climbing Walls Rep.