



Peak Area Meeting

Venue: Zoom

Time & Date: 7.30pm, Wednesday 4th November 2020

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introduction – Andy Reeve

1.1. Apologies: Henry Folkard, Lynn Robinson, Glynis Judd, Bev England.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd September 2020

Alison Cairns: Correction to section 8: Do not top rope through the bolt climbing.

3. Hillwalking Update

Peter Judd:

Presentation on an annual report of activities

- Mend our Mountains update
 - Work on Cut Gate & Great Ridge has been waiting a long time to begin. Moors for the future say work on Cut Gate should begin this month and lockdown shouldn't have an effect. Beginning on NT land towards bog of doom. Hopefully this will be finished over the winter. Great Ridge land management access solved, hopefully work will begin over the winter and be completed before April.
- Midhope Moor and plastic matting, slippery, breaking and changing ecosystem. This was an unauthorised attempt to make a permanent track. Retrospective planning permission refused and an enforcement notice made. Land owners have appealed enforcement notice so should go to public inquiry. Landowners have said if its allowed to stay for 28 months then they will avoid a public inquiry. Planners have said they will try to do a deal as a public inquiry could be costly. As an area we have made clear to planners that in our view this matting should be removed without delay.
- If anyone reads The Great Outdoors magazine, Cath Flintoff has been nominated for an award and the no more bbq campaign.
- Area walk has been postponed again. Did try to get a walk up and running but not been possible. Walk postponed until next year. Also not been able to agree any volunteering opportunities to plant sphagnum moss with NT for the present.



4. Stanage Update

Louise Hawson:

- Normally last Saturday would have been the annual meeting for the Stanage forum which is where anyone with an interest in the estate and the management can come and learn more about it. Obviously this couldn't take place but instead have got a website containing all the presentations which would have been given and a chance to email questions, chance to ask questions is now until the 14th November. Link on newsletter and in zoom chat. The options appraisal as many will recall is an attempt to look at investment opportunities for the estate. The estates favourite proposals were going to be put to members but there is now significant reorganisation at the National Park, significant senior redundancies so serious discussions all on hold. Been assured that this will be revisited in the new year but this is a worrying time for the National Park with Big uncertainty. Don't know what the authority will look like and whether they have the resources to put into Stanage and make it a success. We need to make sure the National Park understand the Stanage forum ideas and opportunities.
- If you looked at the newsletter you know there's been some work done on the path at popular end, small fence put up and brush laid down, images in newsletter.
- Stanage discussion on UKC about fines at hollin bank. Just a reminder that they are enforcing fines, the fine issuers are the same people who do fines for Derbyshire county council at Hathersage. Encourage people to pay as it does go to the Stanage estate (Accounts are not viewable for where the money goes but the assumed money, the average amount of money that comes in from that car park) and parking on the verge damages the environment.

5. Access Update

Louise Hawson:

- Tissington Spires
 - There was a route that was bolted onto Tissington spires that someone described as "bolts that could be seen from outer space". This is particularly difficult as there is a new NT manager in that area. In this case, NT where well within their rights to complain. The bolts are now being removed. Discussing if there's an option to replace these with less visible bolts but that will be a long term discussion.
 - *Andy Reeve:* NT & Dovedale agreement for bolting. Need to explore whether previous agreement still holds with current ranger. Previous agreement was to bring requests to local area BMC and then talk to NT, keeping conversation open but this is a goodwill agreement.



- Rivelin
 - As far as we understand the landowner at Rivelin has not changed, and so the agreement that there is absolutely no gardening or tree clearance and absolutely no instructed groups at Rivelin is still current.
 - There have been reports of groups. This is not allowed. Even small groups. The RAD clearly states no instructional groups. While we're not sure where the line is drawn on groups of friends climbing as a peer group, please keep to the spirit of the agreement and avoid large groups, especially top roping, at Rivelin. A reminder will be posted on an outdoor instructors' facebook group.
- West Nab/Shooter's Nab signage
 - *Peter Judd*: There's a problem with the boundary of the exclusion area while shooting is taking place. The boundary has been mysteriously extended. This is being investigated.
 - *Steve Clark*: Any problems with being warned off these crags, or tracked by drones etc., contact BMC Access Team
- Yarncliffe Quarry Access Update
 - There have been significant issues with irresponsible parking on the Padley Gorge road, leading to blocking the highway on busy day. The route is classed as a major access route by Derbyshire County Council. Using permissions granted under emergency regulation for the coronavirus response, they have double yellowed most of the road from Longshaw down towards Upper Padley.
 - Double yellows go across the lay-by for Yarncliffe and the normal prohibition is that the parking restrictions goes to the edge of the highway. We have now received clarification that the lay-by is access and not the highway so as long as you are around 1m off the highway and wholly in the lay-by you should be OK. This will reduce the number of vehicles that can use the layby at one time. We will discuss with NT whether organisations bringing groups to the crag can arrange for a key to park on the access track past the gate.
 - On the broader issue, Derbyshire County Council have said they will be consulting at the appropriate time (assume this is next year) and will look, at this time, if any should yellow lines should remain or be removed. BMC will make sure they comment on this. One of the consequences of removing the parking is the road is a lot faster making it less safe for walkers and families crossing between Padley and Longshaw.
- Millstone
 - Block has been levered off the top of the scoop thanks to Rob Greenwood for that and Simon Mee for reporting it. The top of Millstone is always going to be loose so it's always important to take care but report anything clearly dangerous.
- PDNPA reorganisation
 - National Park reorganised – see Stannage section above. Will update as more is known



- Right to Roam Campaign & 20 years of CROW
 - 20 years since the CROW act which gave access to amazing uplands. As part of the celebrations discussion around launching a campaign to extend that, particularly looking at access to water and for mountain bikes, also looking at extending access to other areas where there's patchy access. Henry discusses this in the newsletter. Broader campaign to widen access law, don't know if this will fall on deaf ears with government but Louise particularly looking at access to water.

*****5 minute comfort break*****

6. National Council Update

David Brown :

- Since the last area meeting we've had 5 national council meetings. 3 of those to do with events from the beginning of august when there were 3 resignations. NC decided to find out the reasons for the resignation and if there was an underlying problem.
- Task & Finish Report. Agreed some damning criticism of the board and the 3 NC directors & presidents. Don't want to dwell on that but the one thing NC decided is that despite the sensitivity of criticism we wanted to publish the minutes of the meeting. There's a link in report to minutes. Wanted to make sure members have access to the information.
- At the last meeting elected 2 council nominated directors to replace resignations.

Pete Saleniks: Well done David for summary. Commend NC in terms of upholding the code. Under no illusion that it will be difficult until AGM but will do our best.

David Brown: Speak a little about the finances. I am a member of the financial audit committee. When COVID occurred the BMC were worried about the finances of the organisation, not a problem, partly because of furlough and other government schemes. About 1/3 of the staff on furlough and no events or expenses going out as no activity. In addition had a £50,000 windfall from insurers so as a consequence we're going to end the year well. Problem will come in 2021 as a reduction in members & travel insurance income. If you know anyone who would like to join then encourage them.

7. Organisational Update

Jonathan White:

- Board Update including members open forum
 - Rough ride for the board, acting chair appointed. Recruitment of chair & independent directors is ongoing. Recruiting group ongoing. Nominations close on the 9th November. All information on BMC website. Trying to recruit a more diverse group. No female applicants for last position.
- Strategic Plan & Mission Statement



- Reviewing strategic plan in line with COVID effects. Belt tightening needed in short term to reduce expenditure. 2021 and beyond is tough unless we boost revenue. Increase in pure membership. Student groups suffering so student membership will be hit hard. Need to assist in keeping clubs alive. Many student members go on to be club members or individual members. Need to persuade people who are already interested in mountaineering to join the BMC rather than trying to get loads of people outdoors.
- Tomorrow there is an open forum Particularly targeted at members interested in governance of the BMC.
- *Mission statement: Create an organisation that links the work of all our staff, volunteers and partners; so that we can campaign effectively, drive our engagement, and become a stronger voice in representing the interests of climbers, hill-walkers and mountaineers.*
- Revised strategic plan will be issued to members once completed. First stab at a mission statement, out there for comment. Are those our priorities for 2021 and any comments?

Summary of questions & discussion:

- Many comments & suggestions on the actual mission statement were made however there was anger & frustration that the board had not arranged a route to collect the feedback about the mission statement. Alison Cairns the peak area National Council Rep volunteered to collect feedback and provide this back to BMC head office but it was noted that if she hadn't volunteered then there was no way for the BMC to collect the feedback they requested. Alison's e-mail address was posted in the comments section so members could e-mail their suggestions and a copy of the chat will be sent to her after the meeting to collect comments already made.

Alison Cairns:

- ODG Update
 - ODG is not disbanding but is changing focus. Despite this years challenges a lot of work has been achieved. There are clearly some outstanding recommendations to do with Culture, Leadership & Management, connected to some of the problems the board is having. This has now been prioritised for the remainder of this year. A review of the function of the ODG group is being delayed slightly, put back to 1st quarter of 2021, due to workload of staff & board and COVID.

8. Any Other Business;

- *Steve:* Youth regional meetings. We have been missing a coordinator from our area, meaning the midlands do all of it. We need a volunteer, maybe a parent of a child who competes



- *Andy Reeve:* The BMC have released guidance on interpreting the new COVID advice, there's a link on Facebook and in the chat. National council meetings have not been decided yet so can't set our meeting dates but anyone can write stuff for the newsletter. Feel free to contribute to the newsletter.

9. Date and venue of next meetings: TBD