



# LAKES AREA MEETING

Meeting to be held by Zoom Call

Wednesday 11 November 2020 following the AGM at 19.30

## MINUTES

**Present** – Mike Parsons, Fiona Sanders, Ron Kenyon, Keith Sanders, James Bumby, Phil Swainson, Ged Campion, Phil Powell, Al Davis, Margaret Parker, Laurie Priebe, Dave Turnbull, Steve Wetton, Mark Elliott, Dave Brown, Ken Taylor, Anne Salisbury, Annette Smith

1. **Welcome by Chair and apologies** - Marian Parsons and Chris Kenyon.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** - Agreed
3. **Matters arising from that meeting or not covered elsewhere** -
  - Clean Up day planned for Hodge Close was cancelled and just had general clean-up. Looking to consider a BMC clean-up day in 2021 and/or link in with FOLD clean-up day.
4. **Impact of Covid-19.**
  - **Dave Turnbull reported on various issues etc**
  - BMC has had to work with a skeleton staff with a proportion of staff furloughed to save cash.
  - However thanks to the UKGov furlough scheme, a claim of £80k has helped to maintain a surplus in the current year and retain staff through to the year end March 2021.
  - Membership numbers down from approx 85,000 by 6,200 – due to reduction in travel insurance and Mountain Leadership training. The numbers are now rising back again through direct membership take up. The new lower fees for younger people is thought to be helping this regain.
  - **Travel insurance**
    - Is Predictably down – by 75%
    - The prediction for 2021 is the same.
  - **Focus has been on Access and Conservation side**
    - Excellent support group helped oversee with Covid situation
    - Regular zoom meetings of access reps
    - One Upside ie positive element is that the working relationships with many organisations Plas y Brenin, MTUK, ABC ( walls), Ramblers Assoc and Sport England were at a new higher level.
  - **Current lockdown in England to 02/12/2020** -
    - Restrictions for clubs with meets and huts
    - Mountain training latest Nov lockdown means only One to One instruction is allowed – but not groups.
  - **DT been in contact with Richard Leafe (LDNP) and Jeremy Barlow (NT)**
    - Looking at Save our Lakes District (SOLD) initiative
    - It is assumed for now that there will be a similar influx of people into the lakes in 2021.



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- Are looking at addressing needs for parking for 2021
- Under Nov 2020 lockdown rules, sleeping in a campervan is classed as overnighting and occupants have been asked to move on and sometimes have had fines imposed.
- Car parks are for day parking and not overnighting – Longer term, NT is looking to get planning permission to allow campervans to use their car parks for overnighting.
- Flycamping is similar to campervans and ticketable
- Wild camping on the fells is not too much of an issue and blind eye turned to this.
- Parking at Seathwaite (Upper Borrowdale) – Becky Powell (NT) looking at the parking situation in this area
- Also looking at parking situation in Wasdale - ?? Wasdale Head and/or lakeside
  - **Action point - Proposed by Dave Brown to invite Becky to the next BMC meeting – this was agreed.**
- LDNP - extra money received has helped to retain staff with just small voluntary redundancies
  - **Action – Richard Leafe – offered to attend future BMC meeting to give updates.**
- NT – has had substantial redundancies nationally.
- In America – there has been a 300% increase in people going outdoors into the mountains !!
- **Ken Taylor** - Indicated that the volunteer armies (Fix the Fells etc) have been working on and off depending on restrictions - so a lot of catching up to be done.
- Big change in demographics of people going out onto the fells.
  - **Annette Smith** raise issue of equity and linking with the BAME
  - BMC is already working very positively in this area with Cressida Allwood as Equity chair and James McHaffie full time on various programs like mental health. Summit magazine reflects this attention to engaging with the BAME communities. BMC has gained Sport England recognition.
  - Various organisations (eg one in Oldham) to link in with
- **Outdoor centres** - There are severe risks of permanent closures of many outdoor centres because overnight accommodation is not allowed due to C19. **James Bumby** (manager of High Borran Centre) says that the help with furlough etc has been very useful and he is relieved to know his centre is not under closure threat for now.



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### 1. Access Issues

- **James Bumby reported -**

- Lots happening on the access front, despite the pandemic.
- This year's climbing restrictions for nesting raptors and ravens are going to be planned in a meeting tomorrow. It has been hard to gather information about the successful fledging of chicks this spring due to the lockdown. However, it is hoped that the good dry weather will have helped. We will have to base the restrictions for 2021 on the information from 2019. As always, we will try to monitor the crags, but having sightings reported is always helpful. We will review the restrictions wherever possible.
- The increase in numbers after First Lockdown has given challenges to the Lakes: Parking issues, Littering, toileting, accidental and wilful damage to property, increased number of first-time visitors needing education or guidance regarding the Park/Countryside.
- Loss of the parking at Shepherds Café. Very sad development especially considering the long term relationship that our community had with the late Martin Weir. We are trying to contact/ visit Yolandi, his widow to find out what has happened, if we can help and to understand the exact issue. Ric Outhwaite and I are hoping to visit but will look to do so after lockdown. Parking is limited in the whole valley. The car park that is partly closed underneath Grange Crags due to the rockfall threat isn't helping climbers going into Troutdale either. Other options exist: Quayfoot, Kettlewell, Bus, bike or boat from Keswick. Resolving parking issues in Borrowdale, or indeed the Park needs some bigger picture joined-up thinking.

Action Point - Paper on parking in Borrowdale and especially Shepherds to be put together by Ron Kenyon (with others) and passed to Dave Turnbull (for Richard Leafe) and Becky Powell (NT) see NT doc supplied by Ric Outhwaite.

- The ODG car park is currently closed during lockdown. This is due to the pub toilets being closed and NT staffing challenges due to furlough. Stickle Barn car park and toilets are open for locals exercising.
- We have a sensitive issue developing with a local landowner wishing to charge an outdoor activity provider for running activities on the fells. This will require some careful communications, but it is a worrying development



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for those involved in outdoor education. I will provide more information when I have more facts.

- **Bram Crag Quarry**

- **Ron Kenyon and Al Davis reported -**

- A number of issues have been growing over the years
      1. Parking beside the road is a local issue and raised at the local Parish Council
      2. Need to promote importance of parking sensibly
    - Over the last 18 months there has been a marked increase in the number of rockfalls in certain areas – and this has led to serious concerns.
    - Many of the routes are of an amiable grade and the crag has become popular with a mixed experience range of climbers with many lacking the knowledge and do not feel the need to be conscious of the serious nature of the place.
    - New sign produced by the BMC setting out warnings –
      1. Sign includes statement - “The quarry is not recommended for Children, Beginners and Novices” - Al Davis mentioned the various matters in the quarry – and that there is a feeling the wording should be stronger to “No Children !”
      - Al Davis mentioned that there had been a possibility of a new car park at the first bend – but nothing has been done yet.
      - No issues with the owner who is very pleased to see the quarry being used.
      - **Action – RK to put details on BMC FB page and UKC re issues etc**

- **Cathedral Quarry.**

- **Ron Kenyon reported -**

- Following issues of “the hordes” in the summer the car park, near the ford, near Cathedral Quarry, at the end of the road past Stang End, has had boulders placed there to stop parking there.
    - Anyone going to Cathedral Quarry should now park at Tilberthwaite Quarry car park.

## 2. BMC

- **Update on changes at Board, Nat council and area levels.**
  - Strategic Plan had been prepared and now being moved into an Operational Plan - Paul Davies doing this – but had seen the need for a Mission Statement for the future.
- **Discussion and Approval of proposed mission statement of BMC -**
  - Proposed statement discussed – ideas as follows –



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1. What is “engagement” – not the right word - need to have clear statement
  2. “Stronger voice ...” should come first
  3. Suggest use word “harnessing” the links
  4. Steve W asked, who is the mission statement direct towards? FS signalled was essentially directed at staff. Response was that if intended for wider members then some objectives need to be stated.
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3. Any other business.
  4. Meeting dates proposed for 2021 – still to finalise and subject to alignment with BMC board and National Council dates.

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The BMC was founded in 1944 with membership open to all, "regardless of race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or socioeconomic status".

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/a-brief-history-of-the-bmc>