



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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DE CYMRU / SOUTH WALES ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held online
On Monday 2 November 2020

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The meeting followed the AGM. No apologies were received.

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 9 September 2020, a draft of which had been posted on the BMC website were noted and no queries were raised.

2. Wales Access

- 2.1. **South East** – Eben Muse noted that we'd be able to get back to climbing next week after the "fire break" lockdown.
Cefn Coed/Dimbath – conservation bodies don't appear to want climbing to take place at either location; some discussions have happened, but communication has gone quiet.
Llandarcy – subcontractor believed to be positive but struggling to get in touch.
Appeal for scaffolding for stakes – via Bolt Fund Facebook group
- 2.2. **Gower** – Elfyn Jones gave a brief update as the access rep was unavailable; the usual bird restrictions were in place, but quiet otherwise.
- 2.3. **Pembrokeshire** (Steve Quinton) – nothing major, no issues raised by stakeholders, and restrictions are working fine. The annual liaison meeting is due in 2 weeks.
There have been 2 new chough nests around Stackpole, and another at Telpyn (Carms). There have been no Range West no briefings over the spring/summer due to Covid; Steve is enquiring as to whether later in the year or online briefings could happen for 2021.
- 2.4. **Hillwalking** (Emma Davies) – reported that it feels like a strange time since things have partially re-opened.
- 2.5. **Bolt workshop** – Matt Woodfield had put the feelers out online, working with Dan Middleton on content, and seeking BMC funding. The plan is this will include environmental and legal aspects. Hoping to get the first this side of Christmas, with more next year.

3. BMC Cymru Update

- 3.1. An initial committee in place and meeting. Part of the initial work is reviewing how it will link with BMC nationally, with a view to being more influential in Wales, particularly with the Welsh Government.
- 3.2. Apart from that, the work is currently very Covid and access dominated.

4. Board Update

- 4.1. Paul Drew (Senior Independent Director / Acting chair) introduced himself and gave a brief update on his appointment and recent Board matters.

5. Members Council

- 5.1. Steve and CJ updated the meeting on the Members (National) Council.
- 5.2. The Council reps have been working hard behind the scenes to be a critical friend to the Board and move the BMC forward in the face of much criticism over social media.
- 5.3. Peter Salenieks has been temporarily appointed as council-nominated director subject to checks.
- 5.4. Paul Drew noted there would be an open forum on Thursday to provide more information on what has been going on and how to move forward.

6. Any other business

- 6.1. Bolt policy – policy has not been updated since 2011, current practice does not follow the policy. Some updates are required, particularly around ethics in light of current incidents. A proposal for an additional single agenda item meeting on Tuesday 24 November has been made. Matt Woodfield asked for proposals to be circulated in advance.
- 6.2. Steve Quinton outlined a proposed BMC Mission Statement – this was posted in chat for review and comments but none were received before the meeting closed.
- 6.3. It was noted that it is 60 years since South Wales Mountaineering Club (SWMC) was founded.
- 6.4. Matt Woodfield noted that a new South East Wales guidebook should be on shelves in time to make a great socking-filler!
- 6.5. Peter Salenieks thanked the outgoing chair for sterling efforts and wished the new committee well.