



# Yorkshire Area ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held via Zoom 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## MINUTES

Start time 7.30pm

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence** **Jim Hulbert & Will Points**
  - 1.1 Welcome from the new Chair and Sec
  - 1.2 Apologies received from Stuart Wetherell
2. **Introduction to the BMC and Area Meetings**
  - 2.1 Brief overview given on the work done by the BMC, given the high attendance levels and new names
3. **Communication (& introduction if applicable) of new committee**
  - 3.1 Quick run through the 2021 position holders
4. **Vote on final positions (Youth Outdoor Rep and Hillwalking Rep)**
  - 4.1 Vicky Jennings & Chris Page nominated and seconded by other committee members, no other applicants
  - 4.2 Zoom poll conducted, with both parties received 33 yes and 1 abstain, so positions confirmed.
5. **Minutes of previous meeting**
  - 5.1 No additional comment
6. **Actions from previous meeting**
  - 6.1 No additional comment
7. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere**
  - 7.1 Introduced new Instagram page (bmc\_yorkshire) and brief discussion about usage. Possibility of using ow.ly in future once team are a bit more literate!
  - 7.2 Query regarding the use of the BMC Yorkshire Twitter handle, JH to investigate further.
8. **National Council Update** **Andy Syme**
  - 8.1 Excellent update, as always, from Andy. These notes will not do it service, but...
  - 8.2 The overall message was positive, with an explanation of the changes to the National Council, Board of Directors, Terms of Reference and Articles of Association and who will be eligible to vote (members plus mountain training members can vote for a MT rep).
  - 8.3 2021 sign off of funding for local area meetings is currently outstanding, but there are wider funding concerns with insurance sales down (/dead) and a 10% drop in membership.
  - 8.4 BMC office staff are on furlough on Fridays, so are now only open Mon-Thursday.
9. **Reports from Area Representatives**
  - 9.1 **Gritstone: Access and Conservation** **Mick Johnson**
    - Baildon Bank. A request was received via email to bolt in box quarry. In discussion with local activists, decision was no bolting routes, but bolted belays would be ok. No response received after feedback given. Opinion of the meeting was that bolted belays were ok, but not actively encouraged due to the gardens which back onto the quarry. It was also raised (by Will Hunt?) that local boulderers have cleaned up a number of problems and level landings recently.
    - Heptonstall. The local council have requested an inspection of the belay stakes, and ongoing maintenance, as they are installing a new fence on-top of the quarry and don't want climbers to start using fence posts. This will be conducted when restrictions lifted and, where applicable, replacements installed and highlighted.
    - Almscliffe. Mick has brought the slabs for the path, which will go 2/3rds of the way up the field. Now the potential for restrictions to be lifted has been raised by the government, Mick will look to agree a new provisional date for installation. Following a question, Mick will also speak to

Highways to see if they can fill the potholes on the verges/parking with hardcore as they have previously.

- Dovestones is not directly impacted by the re-routing of the A59, but access might be impacted. Possibility of a new approach along the old road suggested, further work needed.
- Caley. A number of section of wall along the road are falling down and getting worse, however council are not currently keen not repair as they would need to close ½ the road.
- Crookrise. Tim Stubley has asked if a new stile could be installed for access to the Khumbu boulders, agreed this does seem a sensible idea. Mick and Jim will take it up with the head office. Barbed wire that was damaged has also been repaired on the outer walls. The BMC has a responsibility to prevent sheep escaping over the walls.
- COVID enforcement by North Yorkshire police at Almscliffe provided a lengthy debate with a mix of views. These are challenging times and we see a varying approach from local forces and individual constables. Fines, and people asking to leave, has occurred recently at Almscliffe. Anyone with concerns regarding how they were treated, or how the guidance is being enforced, is asked to raise this to [Yorkshire.area@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:Yorkshire.area@thebmc.co.uk) and, if sufficient support gained, Andy S will take a request to the National Council for an official intervention by the BMC.

#### 9.2 **Limestone: Access and Conservation**

**Nigel Baker**

- Support requested from Yorkshire Area to begin conversation with the Land Management group regarding access to a Giggleswick quarry climbing location – granted.
- Attermire Escarpment has some loose blocks, and both the NPA and local farmer have agreed to local activists removing them (despite the fact this may damage the farmers wall). SSSI delegation also agreed to the action.
- Mick J also added some Limestone! Mick has had positive conversations regarding the removal the new routing ban at Langcliffe quarry, with the national park authority (NPA), historic England, and the RSPB all happy to support. Decision is now sent to Craven District Council (as they own the land) for final permission. A £13m development project in the quarry should not affect access.

#### 9.3 **Youth Outdoor**

**Vicky Jennings**

- None

#### 9.4 **Climbing Walls**

**Stuart Wetherell**

- Several walls (City Bloc, Last Sundance, Climbing Hub, Depot) have expressed their interest in working with us going forwards, including promotion, hosting meetings, and newsletter features.
- This also gave Jim an opportunity to mentioned and promote the newsletter

#### 9.5 **Clubs**

**Pete Barrans**

- Pete is setting up an online meeting with/for the clubs to try and create more of a relationship and working group. Only 3 so far. WP took action to see if a contact at HMC can be found.

#### 9.6 **Hillwalking**

**Chris Page**

- Some wider BMC work is planned, but a key focus recently has been the new trespass bill and the precise wording. The BMC has been working hard with other national bodies to ensure the rights of outdoor enthusiasts and campers is not restricted.
- Chris also agreed to share some links to the Trespass work.

## 10. **Any Other Business**

10.1 BMC Climate project

10.2 Ash Dieback (<https://thebmc.co.uk/climbing-walking--ash-dieback-what-do-you-need-to-know>)

10.3 Newsletter

10.4 25/02 Area Access zoom meeting tomorrow, covering a “respect the countryside” approach and both wild and van camping. Attendees welcome

10.5 Yorkshire festival mentioned, JH agreed to review the previous minutes with PB but several attendees expressed their support of such an idea when restrictions are lifted.

10.6 Excellent attendees levels, with a peak of 68 and 50 people remaining for the start of the talk. Our speaker had attracted some people from other nations and friends, but a good speaker/topic and some promotion also boosted attendance from BMC members and outdoor enthusiasts.

**11. Date, time and location of next Area Meeting : 5<sup>th</sup> May on Zoom**

***Estimated start time 8,30pm. Actual start time 09:05***

**12. Talk – Tourism in the Death Zone**

**Jase Wilson**

12.1 Superb talk from Jase, covering his personal journey into mountain sports, and his PhD research into high-altitude mountaineering. Jase can be found on Instagram, and other areas may also be interested to hear what he had to say. Hope from us is that he will return once he has finished his PhD and give us another talk!

12.2 The talk was recorded by JH upon request of attendees who couldn't stay. JH will work with Andy S to see if the recording can be saved and shared with the attendees (private link, not publicly available).

**13. Q&A with Jase**

13.1 Some good questions and engagement!

**14. Close Meeting.**

**Jim Hulbert & Will Points**

14.1 Special thanks give to Jase for an excellent talk.

14.2 Meeting closed at 10pm