



## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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### DE CYMRU / SOUTH WALES ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held online  
On Monday 22 February 2021

## Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Sara Davies, Ian Goudge, Eugene Travers-Jones, Goi Ashmore.

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

#### 2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 2 November 2020, a draft of which had been posted on the BMC website were noted and no queries were raised.

#### 3. Updates

- 3.1. **Access** (Elfyn Jones) – Access reform programme in Wales, proposals have been completed and will be ratified by expert panels before going to Ministers, with publication likely in June after the Senedd elections. Coastal access right likely to be unopposed to make it similar to England. Right to cycle on footpaths/access land being recommended but may be identified for suitability. Likely to make temporary diversions easier, and other technical changes such as expiry of registrations of footpaths. Commercial definitions have gone back for legal review.
- 3.2. Staff changes at BMC – Dave Turnbull has become Head of Access, Conservation and Sustainability, with a new CEO being advertised. Paul Davies is the interim chief officer. Other senior management posts have been advertised.
- 3.3. Wales Policy and Campaigns officer post will be advertised imminently.
- 3.4. Lynn Robinson (BMC President) outlined various other staff changes, and highlighted the volunteer recognition awards and would welcome nominations. The next open forum is on Thursday.

- 3.5. Martin Skinner raised concerns from Gwent Mountaineering Club about illegal off-road (scrambler bike) usage particularly in the Torfaen area, causing so much damage to access land that it cannot be walked on. They have created a template letter for PCCs/MSs to encourage resource allocation. Technical points made about additional powers potentially needed to seize vehicles used to transport the bikes.
- 3.6. **Brecon NP closure** – BMC Cymru sent an open letter and Freedom of Information requests to BBNPA regarding closure of Pen y Fan and surrounding areas during the lockdown. Concerns regarding future implications of closing land being unnecessary in addition to the travel restrictions and parking closures.
- 3.7. **Gower** – No update available
- 3.8. **Pembrokeshire** (Steve Quinton) – Cliff climbing liaison meeting has happened; only Telpyn point with a chough nest. Range West may be moving to online briefings. Meeting on Thursday about a “Respect the Rock” video. Please be aware of orcs at Mother Carey’s; watch for on-site restriction notices.
- 3.9. **South East** – Eben Muse  
Dimbath – Eben has been having productive meetings with NRW with regards to working together to establish which parts of the crag we could legally/safety climb on without negatively affecting the important features that make the site a SSSI. There may need to be seasonal bat restrictions.
- John Harwood queried the minutes re Cefn Coed. It was clarified that as a result of ‘cleaning’ the conservation bodies do not want climbers in the Nature Reserve at all. The area under the bridge is under different ownership.
- Mount Pleasant – A query was raised about the current status here – please refer to the RAD for latest information.
- 3.10. **Climbing walls** (CJ Griffiths) – Rok-Bloc bouldering wall opened in Cardiff West. New wall in Carmarthen – Overhang (moved from Tenby). Please support your local walls once they’re open if it’s grim weather! Competitions working group – looking at re-organising competitions mainly the Series.
- Elfyn – Environmental Health Officers classification of climbing walls by Swansea as soft play not gyms! Working with ABC to get the right classification.
- 3.11. **Hillwalking** (Emma Davies) – not a lot to report given the circumstances.
- 3.12. **Clubs** (Peter Salenieks) – Working hard to keep clubs abreast of the covid restrictions across the nations. Clubs strategy to move to the implementation phase. Looking to roll out club seminars online.
- 3.13. **National Council** (CJ/Steve) – Review of ToRs of Areas – only slight modernisations to Area meetings but making the rules more flexible. National Council will become the Members Council and directly elect some members

nationally for specialist skills. Discussions as to how the president election will work. New independent and council nominated directors have brought the board back up to full strength.

3.14. **Mountain Training** (Matt Woodfield) – a quiet year for obvious reasons. Looking for a new director, adverts have been posted in the Facebook group.

3.15. **Student Clubs** (Luke Allum) – Not getting up to much. Had a national update on Zoom to discuss what support is needed. Some are using the time to sort out outdated paperwork. The Welsh student clubs are linking up and have obtained grant funding for wellbeing. Hoping life will be good from September.

#### 4. **Bolting Policy**

4.1. Meeting held at the end of November, but not much time for further work since. It was agreed that the current policy is no longer fit for purpose, and a lot of changes were settled on. An additional meeting for Gower specific issues is needed and this is intended to be scheduled for March.

#### 5. **BMC Climate update**

5.1. Looking at the organisation's carbon footprint. A specialist all-Wales meeting to debate this will be held in March.

#### 6. **Any other business**

6.1. Lynn Robinson – LGBT+ history month – please read the articles on the website from the equity steering group.

6.2. International Women's day on 8 March; student clubs will be celebrating.

6.3. Any high-resolution images from south Wales would help the manifesto

6.4. CJ has sighted a wild cat in the Brecon Beacons, obtained a photo, and the relevant bodies have marked it as a plausible sighting. Any other sightings can be reported to [www.bis.org.uk](http://www.bis.org.uk)

6.5. Next meeting – 26 April