



Peak Area Meeting

Venue: Zoom

Time & Date: 7pm, Thursday 29th April 2021

Minutes

If anything to be discussed on this agenda gives rise to a conflict of interest for anyone, please declare it at the start of the meeting.

Please be aware a link and details of the online meeting will be sent to your membership e-mail. Any issues please contact the BMC ahead of the meeting.

<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4251>

1. Welcome & Introduction – Andy Reeve

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th March 2020

2.1. <https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4251>

3. Hillwalking Update

Peter Judd:

The Peak area newsletter is out, link on peak area BMC site.

<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?view=report&id=4267>

Mend our Mountains - Cut Gate; Volunteers joined BMC Access and Conservation officer Rob Dyer to inspect the almost finished repair work. The work was thought to be of a good standard and a considerable improvement. On a previous visit before Christmas one repaired section was extremely muddy. Moors for the Future has done some work and put some pale gritstone up there, this is gritstone it just looks pale in colour. A path that crosses the Cut Gate path has plastic matting over 2km. This has been put in by the estate despite a planning objection, it is now going to public enquiry. Small bits of plastic continue to break off the matting and it's been suggested that the matting may have been installed incorrectly too.

Great Ridge; Helicopter flew in the appropriate materials. Work has begun at the back end and remarkable progress has already been made. The good weather has meant that the contractors have made rapid progress. Aim is to keep people on the path not the path margins.



Respect the wild; similar to the respect the rock campaign. Basic message is don't trash the outdoors. Looking to promote the camping code. There are at least two videos already out with more to come.

BMC Wild Horizons; It's a hill walking podcast hosted by Niall Grimes. There's a particularly good one on Kinder featuring a local character.

Area Group Walk; Hopefully this will go ahead on the 6th June. Starting in Hayfield it's 20km ish. There will be fab views and at least one plane wreck. Due to current CV-19 restrictions bookings required, to book email Austin at austin@walkthemoorlands.co.uk

4. National Council Update

David Brown:

Only 2 National Council Meetings to report on since the last Peak Area Meeting in March.

Saturday 13 March 2021

A "normal" Council Meeting including lots of Reports from all sorts of groups. Of particular interest are:

- The Area Terms of Reference and Area Role Descriptions.
- Updates about the Review of Specialist Committees and the Role of the President.
- Proposed changes to the Articles from the outcome of the Governance Working Group and Open Forum discussions
- The transition from National Council to Members Council.

Two Council Nominated Directors (CND's); Peter Saleniaks and Carl Spenser, who were originally appointed (in October 2020) to serve as Directors until the AGM have had their terms extended to the normal 3 year appointment.

Tuesday 30 March 2021

A follow on Meeting to complete discussions on the new Members' Council Terms of Reference, which will be voted on at the AGM. The reforms are wide and will hopefully lead to a much more vibrant and self-assured Members Council which is more able to guide the Board in matters which have greatest concern for the Members.

The Terms of Reference will form part of the AGM papers and require a vote to enact. The existing National Council have almost unanimously accepted all the new Terms of Reference which have evolved over two years of deliberations.

I continue to have two points of contention. Areas will continue to have two representatives but only one vote which I think will lead to a serious loss of influence of the Areas who are



still the largest point of direct contact between ordinary Members and the BMC. Also the new positions of Clubs' Representative and Mountain Training Representative will only be voted on by Club Members and Mountain Training Members, respectively. This means that some Club and Mountain Training Members will be voting for 2, if not 3 positions, whereas an Individual Member will only be able to vote for one position (their Area Rep).

Remembering the pivotal role of the Peak Area during the one-Member-one-Vote campaign of nearly 20 years ago, I think this is a retrograde step. No Candidates have put themselves forward for election to these two positions!

Minutes have not been approved for these meetings and therefore do not yet appear on the BMC Website.

Paul Davies: If you are a mountain training association you vote for your representative. But this doesn't mean you automatically get two votes.

David Brown: You can attend both meetings and vote more than once. There's a perception that club members don't go to area meetings or vote and that is wrong – especially in the peaks, I represent club members and think it is wrong that some people could have multiple votes.

Alison Cairns: Agrees with Paul, there are two interpretations, its a complex thing. Key message is increasing member representation. Represent more members but those areas may overlap. Could argue the same is true of the new positions. If you do multiple things then multiple people may represent you and could vote for multiple people to represent you. I see this as an increase in members voices not a retrograde step.

Andy Reeve: Sounds complicated is there a diagram we can direct people to?

Alison Cairns: Yes, contact me if you want more information. I do sit on the working group that has been involved in bringing in these changes so may be seen as biased but more than happy to pass along more information.

Lynn Robinson: I am a member of the R33 group. If there is strong feeling then we could set up a seperate meeting as may be better to discuss it there? Then those who are interested and want the further information can get it.

Alison Cairns: AGM

BMC AGM papers have all come out on the website today. The AGM is May 15th 9am – 12pm. The idea is you still have a free afternoon/evening. If you can attend, please do. You have to register via eventbrite. If you can't attend then please submit a proxy vote. There is comprehensive article that explains how to vote and what's happening on the BMC website. Look out for email from Civica Electoral Services, if you don't get one soon, check spam and then contact the BMC head office.



This AGM puts in place loads of things from ORG/ODG.

If you can't attend then vote by proxy. Your proxy has to be present at the AGM. I (Alison) am happy to act as a proxy for anyone who wishes.

If using proxy then if at all possible give a directed vote. Please don't leave it to the discretion of the proxy. This helps ensure voting is actually decided by members.

Please listen & read the info from people standing for elections.

Andy Potter: Had to dig quite deep to discover how to give a directed vote its not very obvious.

Alison Cairns: Thanks for that insight. The idea is to get as many directed votes as possible and it doesn't matter who holds the proxy as long as they are there. If it is a directed vote then doesn't matter who the proxy is.

Peak Area rep posts:

Alison Cairns: Two area reps, currently David Brown and Alison Cairns. David comes to the end of his 6 year term in December, so this is advance notice that we will be actively recruiting to find a replacement. One thing we are working on is recruitment onto the council. There will be an official job and role description. Slightly more professional than it has been in the past. This is true for all officer posts. We are trying to be more open about what the roles entail. Anyone who wants more information or wishes to express an interest then please get in touch either with Alison/David or any of the previous NC reps.

Alison still has two years of final three year term left. However she will be relocating to the lakes. It's important that Area reps represent their area however also aware it is difficult getting up to speed as an NC rep, especially if there were two new reps at the same time. Canvassing opinion. Alison is prepared to continue in post for another year to allow for continuity and assist a new rep get up to speed. Also means we are not searching for a two new reps at the same time.

Andy Reeve: Think for continuity I would be happy for you to continue. Also to allow time for the hard work Alison has done to come to fruition.

Generally: Ideally long term have someone in the area but for continuity a temporary 1 year term sounds fine.

Andy Reeve: Volunteer Rep position available so talk to Alison if interested.

Andy Reeve: Ana Wass – Peak Area Secretary will not be standing for re-election come the new Peak Area AGM so anyone interested in the secretary position please get in touch.



Alison Cairns: Andy Potter has posted in the chat about volunteering for the secretary position.

5. Access Update

Andy Reeve: Been very hectic so if you see any access reps please buy them a drink

Louise Hawson:

Update on Stanage -

Issues with 4x4 trespassing, particular issue at Buckstone. Two 4x4 smashed through gate and got stuck. Since then gate has been locked. New small access gate at the bottom of the path to Buckstone. Large gate will remain locked to deter drivers, any issues with gate – size etc let Louise know so we can feed back to Rangers.

First of 2 replacement stiles on paths to High Neb from Long Causeway, funded by friends & family of Lee Bower.

Ring Ouzels are back. If you see restriction signs then respect them. There may be a lot of new climbers who don't know the rules. If you see restriction signs and people climbing then engage them and talk to them about the stable & growing population of Ring Ouzels.

No update on changes to Hollins bank plantation. Notices have gone up at Redmires.

The National Park's proposal for investment in the built assets on the North Lees Estate, including the Hall, campsite, farmhouse, cruck barn and warden's cottage, has been approved. This is the outcome of the options appraisal we responded to in 2019. Really pleased they will be invested and refurbished but in order to get return on the investment they need to turn them into holiday lets. This will be a phased process and they did used to be holiday lets many years ago and are currently on Airbnb. Anyone who wants more info, get in touch. Main concern is how it's going to be managed. Also want to see investment in the cruck barn as that has educational potential. No talk about investment in the wider estate, need bigger and better proposals on how resources are going to be managed and how will address antisocial behaviour.

Proposed changes to parking in the peak district -

Proposed tariff increases and an expansion in the number of places where the national park charge for parking. Reasoning behind it is that car parks are a huge source of income and this goes into managing the estates. Proposed 16/17 % increase, full day £4.75 to £5.50. Yearly parking 60 % increase from £40 to £65 but still cheaper than the Lakes and more in line with other areas.



There is also a proposal to introduce charges where currently there is no parking, which includes Stanage popular end & Upper Burbage Bridge (parking for Burbage North). Stanage Forum as a group are opposing charges at Dennis Knoll as it's so small it may encourage parking on the road. There is support for charging at Popular and Burbage North, as this will generate revenue to invest in the landscape, but concerns that it will lead to increases in road parking, which has significant safety, ecological and access impacts.

Question: Is permit parking lower for people who live within the park?

Louise: May be wrong but don't believe it is cheaper for those within the park. If it is it will still be going up.

Question: Very archaic system to purchase a parking permit from the Peak District National Park Authority, will this be updated?

Louise: Good point. Assuming this is agreed this whole thing will go to public consultation so will have chance to ask then.

Question: Isn't upper Burbage bridge Sheffield council?

Louise: It is but is leased and managed by the National Park authority.

Question: Can we increase the size of parking at Dennis Knoll?

Louise: We have asked but difficult due to planning & aesthetics of parking spaces in the National Park.

Question: Is there a transport plan?

Louise: There is but it's separate. It is ongoing – public transport, electric charging etc, but is all being looked at separately.

Question: The damage will only increase as people go for free parking over paid so if you remove free parking then more people park on verge.

Louise: At Curbar the council put in yellow lines, in future this may become more common if things stay busy. These yellow lines were put in under pandemic temporary traffic orders so will be reviewed. Pushing county council to look at this on a landscape scale.

Question: Only seem expensive if regular.

Louise: It's not expensive if you compare to a town. Think of it as an investment.

NoMoorBBQs -

Louise: New banners developed by Cath at the BMC. They have gone up at various places around the national park. One at Stanage, another at Burbage. The BMC are trying to step up



the work they are doing to assist landowners in preventing fires. If you see a fire call 999, use grid reference/what3words to give location.

Blackwell Halt and Bradley Quarry-

Louise: East of cheedale main face, limestone crag, the owner has changed. The new owner has engaged with the BMC but due to his insurance policy cannot allow anyone or give permission to anyone to climb.

Andy Reeve: Due to the nature of his insurance the owner cannot allow you to climb. If you are found to be climbing you will be asked to leave, if the owner asks you to leave please leave. The guidebook access is not reliable as trespassing over the railway is a criminal offence. Some climbers have been prosecuted.

Louise: Bradley Edge, access is complicated. If going please check RAD and UKC. The owners of quarry are ok with you being there but the issue if the owners of the wood are not happy and will ask you to leave. If going, be discreet, don't go into the woodland and don't block the gate. Big issues with gates being blocked which just annoys people.

Steve Clark: The people who own the wood have always been an issue. You can't be removed from other people's land.

Louise: Issues in accessing it. RAD and UKC always being updated. Woodland below Rivelin was for sale. Map from the sale shows Rivelin rocks not included in sale of land. Have alerted estate agents to pass along contact details but believe individual climbers won't be an issue, only groups or those damaging woodlands.

Award Section -

Lynn Robinson: Speaking as president. Not sure if people will be aware of the sad and untimely death of Lord Greaves. BMC Patron. He was on the all party parliamentary group for mountaineering. For this year as President will be awarding a one off award to the volunteer who has given an outstanding contribution to access. And pleased to announce its Louise.

Louise is on the BMC's national Access Management Group and chairs the Sustainability Working Group. Volunteers as a peak park ranger.

The BMC would not be the BMC without its outstanding volunteers, it's people like Louise who make us what we are. Thank you very much.

Applause

Louise: Thank you, totally unexpected and slightly overwhelming. Had a fantastic teacher in Henry, have learned a huge amount from him and everyone else involved in access at the BMC. Have really enjoyed volunteering for the BMC, really recommend it to anyone who



wants to get involved in access and other issues. The office team really value the volunteers and the work we do, which makes it worthwhile.

Andy: Louise does do so much that benefits the BMC, well done

Kim Leyland:

Access& Birds -

Ring Ouzels one restriction on Stanage. Look out for signs. If climbing on anything other than grit please check the RAD.

Raven pair at mason lees. No restriction as we only just found out about it. Lots of people climbed there but seemsthey did ok.

One restriction at Smalldale due to Ravens.

Otherwise restrictions are mainly at limestone quarries due to peregrines.

Steve Clark: Dovestones access restrictions, confusion over where the restriction was.

Kim: Not sure if the sign is in the wrong place but the quarry is restricted not the edge. Think the signs say the right thing even if it's not in the best place.

6. Clubs Update

Paul Justin – update pending as Paul was unable to make the meeting

7. Any Other Business;

Lynn Robinson: Wild Horizons podcast - Latest one is about Peter Judd taking a walk on Kinder. Can highly recommend listening to it.

Peter Judd: Big credit to Niall Grimes. It is about landscapes not people. Worth listening to.

Peter Judd: Reminder for people who weren't at the start. There is a much postponed area hill walk. Sunday 6th June. Contact Austin Knott. Unfortunately due to covid you will need to book. Good 11 mile walk.



Lynn Robinson: Women in adventure film festival. Strongly recommend it. Very inspirational. Thank you to everyone who submitted films. Winners will be announced at Sheffield film festival.

Alison Cairns: Pinnacle Club Centenary - Shout out to Pinnacle club as celebrating centenary this year. Been hard at work producing an audio and website about the history of women climbing. Go to pinnacle website to see these. Also produced a short film which has been submitted to the women in adventure film competition Lynn mentioned. Alison is in their as an interviewee. One centenary event is a women's trad climbing festival to be held in Snowdonia. Any women trad climbers out there spread the word. Bookings will open soon.

Chris Allewell: Director of Beyond the Edge. Which runs the BMC courses. Beyond the edge have put on some skills fading workshops. Wednesday 12th May. Evening event. Free. Just need to book.

8. Date and venue of next meetings: No window from National Council yet so no dates. Will try and let people know when it is.