



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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North West Area ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held online via Zoom
On Tuesday 6th July 2021 at 19:00

Minutes

Attendance (11 signed in): Les Ainsworth (Lancs Access Rep), Paul Evans (Area Secretary, KMC), John Glynn, Andy Holland, Stuart Holmes (Area Youth and Walls Rep), Martyn Hurn, Jacqui Knowles, Dominic Oughton (Area Clubs Coordinator), Emily Pitts (Area Chair), Steve Riley, Carl Spencer (NC rep and CND),

Initial informal session – Zoom Rooms

Emily Pitts welcomed people to the meeting. This meeting opened with a 30 minute informal chat session. During this session Les Ainsworth proposed a vote of thanks to Stuart Holmes for his excellent work installing lower offs at Lower Montcliffe (see Access Reps report). This was endorsed by the meeting.

1. Welcome, quorum, apologies for absence

Emily Pitts opened the standard section of the meeting. A quorum was present in accordance with Article 28.6.1 of the British Mountaineering Council's articles of association.

Apologies were received from Steve Charles (Area Hillwalking Rep), Mark Hounslea and Dave Robinson.

This is the first trial of a new format of area meeting where area volunteer reports will run strictly to time and members may "pop in" for only those sessions which interest them.

In practice, all attendees but one (who had a conflicting engagement) stayed for the whole meeting.

2. Minutes & Actions from the previous meeting held on 26/03/21

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting on 26th April 2021 was accidentally omitted from the new format of area meeting, and will be covered at the next meeting.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

None noted.

4. Area reps reports

4.1. Dominic Oughton presented an update of NW clubs news, of which there is lots. Detail in Dominic's presentation, available online at the BMC NW area site.

- The 4th episode of the NW Clubs chat took place in June, again with around a dozen clubs represented, and the sessions have been invaluable in helping keep up to date with the changing situation around meets and huts. Again, many thanks to Jane Thomas of the BMC

for guiding us all through the complexities. These meets have helped find a new home for the Anabasis club and have been instrumental in the “clubs are open” initiative – see below.

- Dominic spoke in detail about the “clubs are open / #FindYourAdventure” campaign to encourage Club membership. Topics covered include the opportunity for clubs, key actions to progress the plan, branding & comms, club skills and readiness, lessons from a successful campaign and the FYA charter.

4.2. Steve Charles was not present in person but had prepared a video presentation giving latest hillwalking news. The slides for this are available on line at BMC NW area site. Topics covered included the wild horizons BMC hillwalking podcasts, what’s happened so far in 2021 (conservation and hillwalking) and plans for the remainder of 2021.

Towards the end of the meeting Dave Robinson emailed Emily Pitts to say that he was intending to organise a Sefton Coastal walk towards the end of August.

4.3. Access – several topics were covered under this heading –

Les Ainsworth gave an update on Lancs access issues –

- The unauthorised bolting has now spread to Deeply Vale, and is proving very exasperating. Some discussion about who the culprits might be and how best to educate them. Also see under AOB.
- Access at Lower Montcliffe has now been secured, note the new agreement.
- Access to most of Silverdale Sea Cliffs has also been secured, again see new agreement.
- Hoghton is now open and Les is hoping to arrange a cleanup. Les to update Emily who will publicise. Steve to update BMC RAD for all access changes.
- Wilton 1 cleanup scheduled for Sat 24th July.
- Warton Main Qy is now open.
- Car park at Troy is not now to be used by climbers. Please obey signage and park sensibly.
- Work progressing well on Wired Northern Rock, and Les also reported on plans for Lancs definitive guides.

Carl Spencer commented that the BMC had recently clarified its position on guidebook publishing. It would not be producing further new guidebooks. It would be supporting / nurturing other people and groups producing guides, both print and digital. It may in future reprint guides which have already been published.

Steve Riley commented that the memorial plaque at Pex Hill to honour Phil Davidson had now been installed. Cleanups at Pex continue to be arranged by an enthusiastic local group, using the “Friends of Pex Hill” group on Facebook.

5. NW Events Calendar 2020

Wilton fest is believed to be scheduled for Saturday 4th Sept. CS to speak to Tim Greenhalgh to confirm. The BMC are unable to fund WiltonFest this year due to financial pressures. EP proposed crowdfunding.

6. Feedback from National Council (NC) meetings

Carl Spencer (NW area NC Rep and CND) reported that Gareth Pierce, previous board chair at the BMC, had sadly passed away whilst on a hillwalk in Wales. Governance workload has decreased after the implementation of the remaining ODG changes at the last AGM. Carl welcomed Martyn Hurn to the meeting – Martyn is a new nationally elected director. Carl said that the drop in revenue caused by both a fall in membership and the major drop in insurance sales is a major concern for the Board.

The BMC are proceeding with the appointment of a commercial director, to widen the BMC's offer to membership.

7. Any other business

Emily Pitts notified the meeting that she and Paul Evans would be standing down from their Area Chair and Area Secretary roles at the AGM. Anyone interested in taking up the roles should contact them or any other area officer.

8. Date of next Area Meeting

Emily Pitts noted that the dates for future meetings are as follows –

- Monday 25th Oct 2021 – Area Ordinary meeting and AGM
- 2022 meetings - Tues 18th Jan, Monday 18th April and Tues 5th July are Area Ordinary meetings