



Yorkshire Area ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 3rd November 2021

MINUTES

Start time 7.30pm

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence** **Jim Hulbert & Will Points**
 - 1.1 Apologies from Mick Green (NC Rep) and Vicky Jennings (Youth Outdoor rep)
 - 1.2 Welcome to Dave Turnbull
2. **Introduction to the BMC and Area Meetings**
 - 2.1 Covered in AGM meeting, so briefly summarised for any latecomers.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting**
 - 3.1 No further questions
4. **Actions from previous meeting**
 - 4.1 No additional questions
5. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere**
 - 5.1 Dave Turnbull gave an update on the BMCs recent access work, including the dramatic rise in visitors to the national parks in 2020/2021, with difficulties experienced with wild camping, traffic and by rescue services, but positively we have seen a upturn in visits by minority groups. The belief is that this won't drop back to pre-COVID levels, so we will continue to see a busy countryside.
6. **Members' Council Update** **Covered by Andy Syme**
 - 6.1.1 In general, the Council is trying to bring focus back onto member issues after a period of governance focus.
 - 6.1.2 The new members of the council have started well, and will be in Kendal for Q&A as well as being keen to hear from members. Contact emails are:
Rose Gare-Simmons: HillWalkersNEC@thebmc.co.uk
Stuart Holmes: IndoorClimbersNEC@thebmc.co.uk
Steve Clark: RockClimbersNEC@thebmc.co.uk
Aaron Hodgson: MountaineersNEC@thebmc.co.uk
 - 6.1.3 3rd iteration for Mend our Mountains is hopefully going to be confirmed soon.
 - 6.1.4 Membership numbers are slowly increasing again post-COVID, as well as insurance.
 - 6.1.5 Sport England funding is looking promising with some changes coming into effect for 2022.
 - 6.1.6 New commercial officer appointment looks to be a positive step to ensure we can generate some funding for the BMC to be put back into access and conservation etc.
 - 6.1.7 Furlough has finished so staff are back on normal hours, but home working is still required due to space constraints in the office, so a rotation system is in place.
 - 6.1.8 2022 BMC AGM likely to be 14th May, hopefully in person. Desire is to combine it with volunteer awards, president gala and dinner, plus some training courses running alongside. The hope is this opportunity to network will allow a stronger set of volunteers and sharing knowledge and experience. This is hopefully the first step before making the 2023 AGM more of a "festival" weekend for the BMC.
7. **Reports from Area Representatives**
 - 7.1 **Gritstone: Access and Conservation** **Jim Hulbert**
 - 7.1.1.1 No specific update provided; discussion focussed on a clean-up event at Baildon Bank. Agreed for a couple of members to view the state of Baildon Bank in advance. Dates will be proposed via online poll for December options and a communication regarding what it involves.
Andy S agreed to contact local council regarding option to pick up litter gathered rather than

volunteers needing to take to the tip. Dave T will also ask Rob D about what has happened at other events.

7.2 Limestone: Access and Conservation

Jim Hulbert

- 7.2.1 Believed to be a quiet year on access issues, Castleberg aside. No issues known of or raised by attendees.

7.3 Clubs

Pete Barrans

- 7.3.1 "Find your adventure" has been launched by BMC, two local clubs have signed up (Gritstone club and Ramblers). Two recent talks about club management have been interesting

7.4 Youth Outdoor

Jim Hulbert

- 7.4.1 Due to COVID, limited action in 2021 but hope is for this to start-up again in 2022. Some central/nationally run events are being planned for 2022, hopefully one will be in Yorkshire!

7.5 Climbing Walls

Jim Hulbert

- 7.5.1 A new Depot is expected in Leeds, and Brighthouse ROKT is not expected to re-open. No further information available.

7.6 Hill Walking

Chris Page/Jim Hulbert

- 7.6.1 Difficulties raised about Beamsley Beacon access has been reviewed as agreed at the last meeting by Chris, and a report provided. Jim contacted Yorkshire Dales NP Authority as it sits just inside the boundary, and feedback was that the action was taken due to local youths/parties rather than walkers. It was confirmed that the landowner did/does have the authority for the landscaping work, and whilst the rock blocking the verges is not ideal, ultimately it is within the law. Advice is to treat the area with respect, consider where best to park if visiting, and leave no trace. A couple of parking spaces are believed to have been tentatively returned to "available for use", with maximum spaces around 6 vehicles. Local members will keep an eye on matters, and we will stay in touch with the YDNP through Jim H and see what happens through the winter.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Wild Horizons podcast

- 8.1.1 There is an episode coming up on Malham and Gordale shortly, suggestions are welcome for future podcasts.

8.2 Hybrid meetings – venue suggestions?

- 8.2.1 Proposal for next meeting is back to Ilkley, City Bloc suggested as a Leeds possibility at an indoor wall. Hope would be that if we can successfully move to Hybrid, we could "tour" the area for meetings a bit more. Before the next meeting we will want to check the internet connection at the Ilkley pub, Judith Ellis kindly volunteered to visit the pub!

8.3 Any plans for a Yorkshire festival?

- 8.3.1 Will P to contact Sarah Sharps (ex 2020 President) about previous efforts. Belief was to join an event in Grassington but unsure if this is happening again.

8.4 Ash dieback

- 8.4.1 General advice for people to be aware and carefully assess any tree belays

9. Date, time and location of next Area Meeting:

17th Jan, Wheatley Arms (Ilkley), Hybrid meeting

10. Talk

Steve McClure

11. Q&A with speaker

12. Close Meeting. 09:10

Jim Hulbert