



Cyfarfod - BMC Cymru (North/Gogledd) - Meeting held via Zoom.

18/01/2022

MINUTES - COFNODION

Attendance: 37 local area members. 3 BMC Officers.

1. **Croeso Welcome**
2. **Apologies - Ymddiheuriadau** Dan Lane, Peter Salenieks, Adam Haynes, Mike Raine, Roger Murray
3. **Minutes/Cofnodion (Zoom –25 October 2021)**

The Chair invited corrections or matters arising from members – there were none.

The minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposer: Anthony Eccles. Seconder: Steve Williams.

Chair's Matters Arising - Materion yn codi

- i. Under agenda item 6:

Tarquin Shipley has contacted Gwynedd CC and TrawsCymru but has not yet received a reply. However, he has discovered that TrawsCymru offers a flexi-bus service which allows you to book a pick-up or drop-off anywhere en-route.

- ii. Under Chair's Business – Chipping:

No comments or photos had been received following a facebook post about the chipping. Tarquin Shipley reported that the damage to the Idwal descent did not appear to be significant. The matter has not yet been raised at Members' Council.

4. Capel Curig – Crafnant: National Park work on the Bridleway.

The Chair outlined very concerning recent developments which had led to an on-site meeting with Park officers on Jan 11th. The Park was unapologetic for the smooth, gravelled, uniform construction of the 'repaired' bridleway, but did concede that consultation with local user and resident groups had to improve before any work started on future projects.

A summary of points arising from the on-site meeting had been posted by the Chair prior to this evening's area meeting. Much discussion followed:

Elfyn Jones and Mike Raine had written articles/blogs on the issue.

John Beatty and Charlotte Evans expressed horror at the scale of the destruction of an upland path, and thanked BMC Cymru for getting involved and raising awareness of the problem.

John Cousins gave a personal perspective on the excessive disruption and expense of the repair work.

Steve Long, Geoff Bennett and John Cousins commented on the consequences of, and evidence of, erosion caused by heavy rain, and by fast bikes braking hard.

Neal Hockley referenced the Welsh Government's role in driving this path work, and the need to take the 'fight' to a higher level than SNPA. Such extensive works demand careful policy decision-making and a full consultation process..

Ray Wood warned members to be mindful of potential criticism about issues of accessibility.

Elfyn Jones and Dave Turnbull explained the process by which the BMC's Mend-our-Mountains campaign had funded some path repair work in Eryri.

A proposal was agreed that Tim Jepson and Neal Hockley write to SNPA and the BMC's Access and Conservation Trust stating that no bid for funding from the Park should be considered before it was clear that a comprehensive consultation with user and resident groups had taken place.

Action: Tim J. And Neal H.

5. Gŵyl BMC Cymru 2022? A BMC Cymru Festival for 2022?

Four suggestions for festivals were presented, with the following outcomes:

i. A proposal for a Welsh-language themed festival based in Blaenau Ffestiniog was presented by Rhys Roberts and approved by the members present.

Action: Rhys Roberts, Eben Muse and Tim Jepson to put in a funding application before 30th January.

ii. Tarquin Shipley proposed a day-event designed to encourage indoor climbers to better understand the work of the BMC, based at the Beacon. This event was approved.

Action: Tarquin Shipley to submit the funding application.

iii. A proposal for a trad. and food festival based at the Vaynol Arms (Nant Peris) was approved, but with reservations, namely: Shuttle transport to avoid parking problems; Provision for inclusion of under-18s and non-drinkers; Assurance that there is no conflict of interest between the Vaynol Arms and BMC.

Chair's note: Subsequent to the meeting, The Vaynol Arms decided to postpone any funding bid until 2023.

iv. It was decided not to organise a Tremfest in 2022, although a clean-up weekend with a few skilled climbers, dedicated to getting the clean-up done efficiently, was needed. Potentially a job for Elfyn's successor? Several members offered help with a clean-up (posted in the chatroom).

In general terms, members agreed that

i. if funding was limited, priority should be given to the Blaenau-based festival.

ii. the Blaenau and Beacon festivals would complement each other.

iii. the BMC could support a festival without necessarily funding it.

6a. BMC Youth Meet – Llanberis, March 2022.

Based at Ben's bunkhouse; organised by James Mchaffie (Caff) who was unfortunately unable to attend this meeting

i. Volunteer hosts are invited to email Caff. (James@thebmc.co.uk) Hosts need to be comfortable VS leaders with a good knowledge of N. Wales and preferably an appropriate climbing qualification.

ii. Ways of ensuring that elements of Welsh language/culture/heritage are included in the meet were discussed. eg, Welsh films, Welsh-speaking hosts, S4C interviews.

Action: Tim J to contact Caff with a list of ideas.

6b Lee Bower Fund

A BMC poster advertising the Lee Bower Fund was displayed. This fund offers bursaries for climbing days for youngsters living in rented accommodation, and receiving income support or universal credit.

Full details on the BMC website.

7. Reports:

Pwyllgor Cymru: Neal Hockley

Nothing to report. No Pwyllgor Cymru meeting had taken place since our last area meeting

Access and Conservation: Elfyn Jones.

South Pembrokeshire, Range West:

Briefings were on-line for the first time this year, allowing more climbers to access them. But this led to a number of breaches of the agreement and consequently the MOD has withdrawn on-line briefings for the time being.

Tremadog:

Cafe and camping no longer open to casual visitors/climbers. Pay-at-the-barrier parking planned to be opened this year.

Carneddau Cylchdaith (Circular walking route):

Draft plans for this low-level, way-marked path now exist and will be the subject of a roadshow consultation before Easter. There is no intention to create a 'motorway', but local parking is recognised as an issue.

Dave Turnbull led a tribute in recognition of **Elfyn's exceptional work for the BMC**, this being Elfyn's last area meeting prior to retirement. His unique skillset will be very hard to replace, but an advert for his post will go out shortly. Geoff Bennett, Andy Boorman and Neal Hockley all added

their own words of thanks and appreciation for his help, advice, experience, wisdom and friendship over many years. Members expressed their hope that the BMC would continue to benefit from Elfyn's expertise in some form or other after retirement. Elfyn responded by saying that he had very much enjoyed his work, especially where that work had engaged with the membership. He urged members to make sure that their voice was heard, in particular within Wales.

Policy and Campaigns: Eben Muse

The Cross-party group has become active. 38 people had attended the last, generally positive, meeting, including the Economy Minister, Vaughan Gething. **Bouldering championships** had to be cancelled due to covid restrictions. To be re-arranged later in the year.

Gorwelion Gwyllt (Wide Horizons): Eifionydd podcast now available in Welsh, with Eben talking to Gerwyn Jones. There are plans for another Welsh-language podcast soon.

Future Policy for BMC in Wales is work in progress for Eben and Neal.

A Translation Budget for Wales has now been agreed making it easier to put out materials in Welsh and to deal with partners who are committed to bilingual-only communication.

National Council Rep.: Tarquin Shipley

- i. **The Capel Curig to Crafnant bridleway** will be raised in the next Members' Council.
- ii. Tarquin has been persuaded to join the **Finance Committee**:

Director/Board Updates:

There was no director present to deliver a report.

8. Chair's Business:

i. Volunteer area representative:

The Chair was delighted to announce that Keith Roberts had put himself forward as an Area Representative on the Members' Council.

Keith introduced himself to members as a keen, Welsh-speaking hillwalker, with committee experience, living in Tremadog,

In accordance with BMC election protocols, Keith's appointment was put to the vote via a Zoom Poll, with the following result:

Accept: 27; Reject: 0 Not eligible to vote: 1; Unable to vote: 1.

This appointment would need to be confirmed at the next local AGM.

The Chair welcomed Keith to the N Wales area 'team' and looked forward to working with him.

ii. Climbing Series co-ordinator for N Wales required.

There is still a vacancy for this position and the Chair would be grateful for suggestions for someone he could contact.

Two local young climbers have recently been selected for the GB Youth squad – an indication of the high standard of coaching and development in this area

iv. Virtual AGM preferred date:

Given that it was to be held on-line, members would prefer an evening, mid-week AGM rather than a Saturday afternoon.

9. AOB – UFA

Dave Turnbull reported the results of a large survey of all BMC volunteers who have access as part of their remit. Several submissions had been received from N Wales; Andy Boorman had been particularly helpful. The survey document is about to become public and there will be opportunities to discuss how to convert the findings into action.

Headline findings:

- i. Increasing participation is considered the biggest threat to the environment.
- ii. We need to connect effectively with indoor climbers who are transferring to the outdoors.

10. Date of Meetings in 2022: Dyddiad y Cyfarfodydd 2022:

Monday 18th April 2022 ??????

The Chair to contact Manchester Office to get this date changed from a Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5th July 2022

NB The format, timing and venues for each of these meetings will be notified at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled dates.

TJ 01/02/2022