

British Mountaineering Council

South West Area

Quarterly Regional Meeting

Date of Meeting: 20th January 2022
Type of Meeting: Zoom video call
Time of Meeting: 1900
Chair: Mark Kemball
Secretary: Alan Dovey

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies: Colin Knowles, Mark Mc Manus, Paul Roberts.

2. Approve meeting minutes

19th October 2021

Link to minutes on BMC Local Areas Site:

<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4297>

Agreed: Approved

I. Matters Arising: Dartmoor National Park National Consultation Process. Please see link to the consultation process (now closed). We await the analysis and results which are expected at the end of February, beginning of March 2022.

<https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/about-us/who-we-are/byelaws-consultation>

3. South West Area Festival

Noted 1: See document addendum. Presentation; Helen Wilson

Noted 2: This outlines the principles in terms of location, costs and accommodation options. To move to the next step in the process, this requires the approval of this local team. This allows the proposer to move to the next stage for BMC funding and organisation.

Agreed: To approve the proposals in principle.

4. Avon Gorge Scrub Clearance Day

Noted : 1. Please see link below, and we would encourage as many as possible to attend what should be a fun day out as well as contributing to the sustainability of the area.

<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4315>

5. Area Access: Tintagel

Noted: 1. Just prior to this meeting a proposal had been received by the team who had visited the Natural England representatives. It is currently being reviewed. It is expected that this is an initial proposal and that there is scope for further negotiation as the exchange of information allows for a clearer understanding of the position of the BMC. There remain a number of hurdles but it is hoped that a mutual agreement could be presented to the next quarterly meeting.

6. Fairy Cave Quarry

Noted 1: The 'walk offs' in this area have always entailed risk however it is proposed that bolted belays would give greater security in some places. There are no objections in principle from the access representatives or this forum. The intention is that further investigations on site would be completed and a written proposal be presented at the next quarterly meeting.

7. Wintour's Leap

Update from Tony Bird:

- The finances are in good order with sufficient revenue for now. Activity to raise further monies would be directed towards clubs and groups that make regular visits to the area later this year to support further work phases.
- Work was progressing slowly with priority being given to routes at the easier end of the spectrum (and therefore more frequently used).
- To date, around 20 routes have been re-equipped or are in the process of being done

Routes completed:

- Bottle Butress
- Bottle Butress Direct
- Central Rib Route I
- Central Rib Route II
- King Kong
- Moth
- The Split
- Swallows Nest
- Dragon Fly
- Wurlitzer

Routes with work in progress:

- Left hand route
- Right hand route
- Nibelheim
- Zelda

8. AOB

8.1. BMC Annual General Meeting

Noted: 1. This will be held in May, dates are still being considered. The 'forum' to be used, 'In person', Zoom or hybrid is under discussion. The preference (on line poll) was for it to be held midweek in the evening, the dates being considered are 17th, 18th or 19th May.

8.2. Atlantic Coast Guide

Noted: 1. The authors are looking for any action shots for the areas broadly from Crackington to St Ives.

8.3. Sport England funding update

Noted: 1. The BMC had been invited by Sport England to bid for up to £2.8 million of funding, a significant increase on previous years. The process is conducted in stages from application to validation, assessment prior to final award. For the coming year the next part of this process is a submission due in mid-February with the outcome to be announced in April 2022. There is a 'total' amount granted, this should fund a number of different areas bringing benefits across the BMC by freeing up funds for other uses.

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 26 April 2022, 7:00 pm, online via Zoom