

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE 192nd YORKSHIRE AREA MEETING

Held at 19.30 on Monday 6 June 2011 at the Dyneley Arms, Pool in Wharfedale.

Present:-

James Rowe	Chair, Leeds Mountaineering Club, Climbers Club (CC)	Nigel Baker	YMC
Deirdre Collier	Secretary, CC	Glyn Edwards	FRCC
Kathryn Beardmore	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Mick Johnson	FRCC*, CC
Julie Barker	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Laurie Morse	YMC
Dave Musgrove	YMC, Access Volunteer	Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club*, FRCC
Keith Sutcliffe		Ian Blakeley	Individual
Ian Willis	FRCC	Debra Halcrow	York Alpine Club
Paul Clarke	FRCC	Sue Keinhorst	Individual
Martin Kocsis	BMC	Mick Green	Gritstone Club
Helen Fawcett	Individual	Euan Naismith	Individual
Chris Reid	CC		
Alan McHardy	Individual		

Action

- 1 **Welcome & Introductions.** James welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Mike Bebbington, Pete Brosnan, Anne Chevalier, Julie Dundas, Paul Exley, Chris Hague, John Hunt, Bev Jowett & Alex Thompson
- 3 **Minutes of the last meeting.** Re Item 5.1, New Gritstone Guide, it was noted that the Guide was not 'nearly ready', rather it was 'progressing nicely'. With this amendment the Minutes were agreed as a correct record of the Meeting.
- 4 **Matters Arising.**

Victoria Cave. Dave Musgrove reported that he had heard nothing further re this. Kathryn Beardmore said that a decision was awaited re the installation of some kind of internal barrier to protect the deposits at the back of the Cave.
- 5 **Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP) Budget. Impact on BMC Yorkshire Area of budget reductions & staff restructure.** Kathryn Beardmore, Head of Park Management @ the YDNP & Julie Barker who will be taking over from her talked to this item. Effectively 30 + % cut in grant from government (DEFRA). Concerned to maintain front line services as far as possible but loss of 36 staff (a third overall). All 8 Park Area Rangers kept – first port of call for any issues. Fewer managers with those left taking on additional responsibilities. Responses to the recent public consultation said rights of way maintenance was most important. CROW open access & recreation (which is where climbing fits) is less important, but still important. Very few things were highlighted as unimportant. Definitive Map work been done on behalf of County Council (CC) with some funding until 2010/11. Now this work will go back to CC & this will probably be the biggest impact from recreation perspective - eg queries re Rights of Way will go to CC after 2013. YDNPA is committed to recreation, as one of the reasons why the area is a National Park & so although some work programmes will be stopped it was not envisaged that there would be much impact on BMC Area interests.
- 6 **Co-ordinators' Reports**
 - 6.1 **Gritstone: Access & Conservation.**

Eavestones. It was noted that there are still problems. The crag is on private land and there is now a rope across the path & a 'Keep Out' notice. Ongoing.

Woodhouse Scar & Shipley Glen. Conditions at these crags were reported to be deteriorating due to the presence of rubbish and to overgrown trees. It was noted that the respective councils were Calderdale & Bradford Metropolitan District & Mick Johnson agreed to approach them about the possibility of organising a clean up & tree pruning.

MJ

6.2 Limestone Access & Conservation.

Beggar's Stile – Ongoing. Steve Hastie, the YDNP Ranger, was going to talk to the farmer about it with a view to agreeing an access route. The farmer will allow small parties but often not large ones. Part of the crag is on Access land but on the main crag the cliff is the boundary and permission must be sought. Dave Musgrove agreed to ask again about this.

DM

Foredale Quarry. Farmer has withdrawn access to walk across his land to the quarry & also to climb there. Issues stated to be climbers ignoring parking & access arrangements, noise,? dogs, possible pollution of water supply & a local climbing wall using Quarry for climbing courses & charging £90 per person. Dave Musgrove has written to each resident to ask for their views & replies are awaited. Alternative access option investigated & possible but still issue of actual climbing access. Moughton Nab access crosses some of same land and so climbers are asked not to climb there either pending resolution of Foredale access to avoid inflaming the whole issue

The meeting expressed its appreciation to Dave for his efforts & work re this.

It was also noted that the access is also used by university groups as the classic unconformity of slate with limestone is of interest to those doing civil engineering & geology degrees.

Blue Scar. Dave Musgrove reported on his efforts to pre-empt the parking problem before 2011 climbing starts. Possible use of apparently unused land at side of barn for parking.

Meeting with farmers & landowner to discuss. Conditions were suggested re agreeing future climbing – all climbers to be BMC members & display evidence of this on their car and also a donation of £1500 to Arncliffe Parish Council.

The YDNP view was that there should be access for all & they would be concerned about the setting of a precedent should the BMC membership condition be agreed.

The BMC had not agreed the £1500 donation. A letter had been sent saying the suggested terms were not acceptable & a response was awaited.

Feizor Nick. No further progress. Dave Musgrove agreed to follow this up.

Kilnsey – Ongoing problems with parking & toileting. In light of access problems elsewhere concerns were expressed that these issues if not addressed may lead to access problems at Kilnsey.

DM

6.3 Youth. It was noted that a walk from Ilkley had been held and that 10 people had attended including Anne Chevalier & Nick Colton. The walk had been successful and enjoyed by all. However Anne noted that the only people who attended were people she already knew and there was nobody who had attended from having seen the event on the BMC website and she wondered why that was.

She was also organising a Youth climbing day for Sunday 3 July at Windgather.

6.4 Climbing Walls. No report.

7 National Council.

7.1 Report from the last meeting. This had been previously circulated.

7.2 Matters for the Next Meeting.

7.2.1 Sustainable Energy Policy. This was noted.

7.2.2 Wind Farms Policy Statement. This was noted & the BMC's approach supported.

It was also noted that the BMC is planning to hold a seminar in North Wales in September re upland developments & particularly alternative energy projects.

Ed Douglas – Vice President. It was noted that Ed Douglas is now a BMC Vice President.

8 Clubs Issues.

8.1 Clubs Committee. Paul Exley's notes from the Clubs Committee meeting of 31 March had been previously circulated.

Major items were:-

Civil Liability - might £10 M level now be too low in view of a recent claim for £14.6M? Quotations for £15M & £20M cover are to be sought & will then be considered by the BMC.

Changes to the Operating Procedures. These would affect National Clubs and discussion by them was ongoing.

Survey of Clubs. High response rate by clubs. Purpose was to gather details of Associated clubs so that the work of the Clubs Committee could be targeted in the right areas. Many clubs interested in legal, financial & constitutional aspects of running their clubs.

Club administration. Various work strands ongoing to include alignment of clubs' membership databases with the BMC.s, Legal status of clubs & working with the banking system re adequate arrangements for clubs when cheques are phased out of use.

9 Individual Members Issues. None raised.

10 Hillwalking.

10.1 Pateley Bridge Walking Festival. This would be held from 22 to 25 September 2011. As well as the walks there would be a ceilidh on the evening of Saturday 24 September & Doug Scott would be giving his 'Life & Hard Times' talk on the evening of Thursday 22 September. For further information please see <http://www.pbwf.co.uk/>

11 Any Other Business.

Harpur Hill car clamping. It was noted that clamping at Harpur Hill is now becoming a serious & unpleasant problem. Martin Kocsis said he was going to the Peak Area Meeting and would ask there about this.

MK

13 Date of Next Meeting. Monday 19 September 2011 @ 19.30.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 20.50