

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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BMC Lakes Area Meeting

Meeting held at the Lakeland Climbing Centre - Kendal

On Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 19.00

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. **Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence**

- 15 present for meeting.
- Apologies from James Bumby, Ken Taylor, Phil Swainson, Alison Cairns, Fiona Sanders, Ric Outhwaite.
- Frank Bennett indicated that Alison Cairns had agreed to take over the position of secretary for the Lakes area - which was agreed by the meeting.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

- Paul Stewart had contacted the chair by email to request a correction to the draft minutes, in respect of the lease on Gillerthwaite Outdoor Centre minuted in item 9 (AOB), which should have said that the offer had been cut back to 3 to 5 years. With this correction, the minutes of the meeting of 19 October 2022 were agreed.

3. **Matters arising from that meeting or not covered elsewhere**

- BMC Volunteer zoom meetings are not generally open to public.
 - BMC Lakes Area Bank Account
 - This was an account with the Cumberland Building Society with a balance of £631. It was indicated that the CBS wanted to close inactive small accounts. A cheque for this amount is making its way into the Cumbria Bolt Fund account as a holding account.
 - It was agreed to look to open a new separate account for this money but need to check with BMC HQ that they are happy for us to do this.
- Action - Martyn Hurn to check with BMC
- Low Gillerthwaite Outdoor Centre - Ennerdale
 - Letter sent to Forestry England but as yet no reply

4. **BMC National** - nothing to report

5. **BMC 2023 AGM** - date and venue still to be agreed.

6. Fixed Gear Guidance -

- The group had met before Christmas and has put together draft details and questionnaire
- As indicated in the meetings of the last meeting it was agreed that the purpose of this was to focus on fixed abseil points and nothing on bolting of routes.
- Looking to putting out digital questionnaire and then have public meeting
- Long and good discussion followed with points as follows
 - Look to get photos of certain locations
 - Concern of less climbers on the crags and routes getting overgrown
 - Concern of conflict between opinions of climbers in different area of the UK as well as Lakes.
 - Key matter is the questionnaire with the questions asked; language used; knowledge of responders etc
- Agreed for the group to meet again and come back with firmed up proposals; documents and questionnaire.

7. Ideas of claim for grants from BMC Crag and Fell Restoration Fund

- BMC Members helping with Fix the Fells organised by Stephen Charles (NW Area Member) - 19/20/21 April and 6/7/8 June 2023
 - Stephen Charles organising this with BMC HQ and promotional details should be coming out shortly to the whole of the BMC membership

8. Lakes Area Access Reports

- Access issues and reports from areas
 - These has been a rock fall at **Shepherds Crag**. The rock that has collapsed is a pinnacle beneath a route called Gibbon Variation. This right of Brown Slabs. Care in this area advised. Recorded on the RAD and FRCC website.
 - There has been tree planting going on in the **Duddon** as part of the Hardknott Forest project. The scheme is sympathetic to climbers and the recent developments in the valley. It was sponsored by The North Face. We are awaiting a site visit with the project manager to continue our discussions on keeping access open. Expect this to be a positive outcome.
 - The annual meeting to plan climbing restrictions to help **nesting birds** is planned for the start of February. Representatives attend from The BMC, Natural England, FRCC, John Muir Trust and the National Park. Traditional nesting sites are always our starting point and informed by information from previous years for both Ravens and Peregrines. Reporting sightings and nest sites is still really important to help. We also have a request to expand the area available for climbing at St. Bees Head on the agenda as well. Restrictions will be published in all the usual places. Thanks for the anticipated support for this work. Peregrine numbers are in decline in the mountains, compared to those that nest in cities. We need to do what we can to help.
 - Work has been undertaken to replace and update the temperature monitoring equipment for **Great End**. Thanks to Natural England and the

National Trust for their support with this. Great to see some winter around

- **Castle Rock** - met with officers of UU at Thirlmere regarding path and sign. Agreed that access to the North Crag be from the South Crag and new notice, with map to be produced by United Utilities (UU) as well as clear fallen trees on the path. Climbers to help with finishing off the path.
- **Thirlmere - road on west side.** UU indicated issues of instability of trees and rocks above the road. This is being looked into and hope to progress.
- BMC access officer Jon Fullwood had indicated that they have 38 marine grade **belay stakes** which have been left over from use in Wales. These are available for use throughout the country. Ron Kenyon has 4 stakes also available.
- BMC Guidance booklet - **Climbing in Disused Quarries**: a guide for landowners & managers

9. **BMC Youth Meet** - Proposed date 23/25 June 2023

- With James McHaffie moving on from the BMC need to sort out situation regarding the Youth Meet.

Action - Ron Kenyon to liaise with Cressida Atwood

10. **Any other businesses**

- Letter received from **Burlington** regarding proposed development at their quarry at Elterwater and planning application.
 - Now concentrates on mining and quarrying history and proposed cavern experience
 - Parking proposed for 35 cars (down from original 200)
 - No zipwire!
 - Agreed BMC not to comment but that individuals can comment direct to the LDNPA.
- Consultation on proposals for a discretionary visitor levy for local authorities.
 - The above consultation has been set up by the Welsh Government but looking for wider views.
 - Discussion at the meeting about the effect of the cost of the Lake District often falls on the residents and feeling that the draw to cover the cost should come from a wider base such as a visitor levy, such as is done in Europe and the US
 - This is a consultation document and members are welcome to visit the website - <https://www.gov.wales/visitor-levy> - and complete the document.

11. **Next Meetings** - Venues to be decided

- 19 April 2023
- 26 July 2023
- 18 October 2023