



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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PEAK ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held at Bamford Village Institute
On 21st April 2023

Minutes

Attendance: 45

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair (Andy Reeve) opened the meeting. Apologies were received from Peter Judd, Sam Harris, Austin Knott, Louise Hawson, Jon Fulwood, Caroline Brunt, Graeme Hammond.

It was noted that no one was able to continue as secretary and that following discussions Paul Justin had agreed to be co-opted as secretary for this meeting

2. Quorum

It was noted that a quorum was present in accordance with [Article 28.6.1 of the British Mountaineering Council's articles of association (the "Articles")].

3. Minutes from the previous meeting held on 03/02/2023

3.1. The minutes from the previous meeting were not available due to no secretary being in post at the last meeting.

4. Actions from previous meeting held on 03/02/2023

4.1. N/A

5. Hill Walking

See slide presentation.

Proposal: BMC to write to PDNPA pressing for information on status of action on the removal of geotextile matting on Midhope Moor. Copy to inspector of the public enquiry.

Carried unanimously

Flagging of a path through the Woolpacks on Kinder Scout being considered as a candidate for funding from 'Mend Our Mountains'.

6. Clubs Paul Justin

Clubs committee met in March with next meeting scheduled as a F2F in May. Current main focus is supporting clubs for young people enabled by the BMC article changes passed in 2022.

Question: Difference in insurance cover for prospective club members, SMC deal better than BMC deal?
PJ to check and respond at next meeting.

7. Members Council Sean Milner

Brief perspective of how Member's Council operates was shared, with view that it still spends a lot of time internally focused. SM and others are pressing for more focus on growing BMC membership.

Question: what is Members Council doing to raise awareness of outdoor climbing ethics for indoor climbers taking first steps outdoors. A general discussion agreed that the perception is that there are on-going issues in the Peak District with inappropriate behaviour amongst some 'new to outdoors' climbers.

8. Access Henry Folkard

Spirit of Kinder day, Hayfield, 22nd April. BMC will have a stall.

Derwent reservoir expansion. Question: can the BMC response to the consultation be posted on the website?

Cressbrook Dale. Enforcement notice coming into effect in May requiring removal of all constructions within three months and restore all land within six months.

Chatsworth Estate. Consultation issued on future of estate. BMC has responded.

Staden Quarry. No climbing notice is in place but Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (site manager) and local farmer not seeking to enforce the ban.

Griffs Buttress. NFU has advised local farmer to ban climbing. BMC access reps are addressing.

Masson Lees. Signage to direct parking for climbers to be erected.

Ravenstor (Dovedale), Moss Rake. New Peregrine nest sites this year. Please avoid during the nesting season.

Wright's Rock (Churnet Valley). No climbing until 5th May. Jon Fullwood negotiating for further access.

Ash dieback. Jon Fullwood preparing paper for BMC website.

9. Ash Dieback and belays/lower offs at Stoney Middleton Christian Clemmow

Ash dieback will mean multiple trees used as belays at Stoney are or will become unsafe. Review presented of current status of tree belays and options for alternatives to ash trees. Conclusion is that there are suitable alternative tree or rock belays or walk downs (may need clearing) available in all locations with the possible exception of Electric Quarry.

The meeting was asked to consider the bolting option as a last resort for Electric Quarry. N. Foster felt that there were sufficient available belays for competent climbers and that bolting would encourage top roping.

Indicative vote on bolted belays in Electric quarry: for: 2; against: 0; abstain 19 (of which 7 climb at Stoney, 12 don't).

Andy (chair) suggested a Stoney maintenance day to be organised to remove belays from unsuitable trees and add in new belays where appropriate.

10. Ring Ouzels Kim Leyland

Slide presentation made. Ring Ouzels are well monitored in the Peak District. In spite of protections, numbers are not really increasing.

11. Any other business

4.2. None.

12. Date of next Area Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 18th July, Bamford