

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road
Manchester M20 2BB
www.thebmc.co.uk

Tel: 0161 445 6111
Fax: 0161 445 4500
Email: office@thebmc.co.uk

BMC NATIONAL COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the National Council (NC) Webinar meeting
held on Monday 10th February 2020. 19:00 – 20:30

In attendance

Voting members:

President	Lynn Robinson	(LR)	Chair
Cymru South Wales	Steve Quinton	(SQ)	
Lakes & CND	Fiona Sanders	(FS)	
London & South East	Chris Stone	(CSt)	
North East	Mark Anstiss	(MA)	
North East	Jon Punshon	(JP)	
North West	Carl Spencer	(CSp)	
Peak	David Brown	(DB)	
Peak	Alison Cairns	(AC)	
South West	Helen Wilson	(HW)	
South West	Philip Wilson	(PW)	
Yorkshire	Andy Syme	(AS)	
Observers:			
Chair, Board of Directors	Gareth Pierce	(GP)	
Director	Jonathan White	(JW)	

Apologies for absence

David Jones

1. Welcome and Introduction

LR welcomed people to the webinar meeting and gave an overview of the background to why the meeting was being held. Following a complaint to the Board about the Council Nominated Directors (CND) appointment process that took place at the December NC meeting, a complaint investigation was carried out and the results were presented to the Board at its January meeting. Following a discussion the Board voted to recommend that NC re-run the CND appointment process. This NC webinar meeting has been arranged for the NC to discuss and decide how to act on the Board recommendation. GP will present the Board position and a discussion will be held (with questions) and following this the NC will vote on the Board recommendation. LR emphasised that given past concerns with communications it was vital if anyone had any questions or concerns, then to ask for clarification during the meeting.

2. Note Conflicts of Interest

Chris Stone and Carl Spencer expressed a potential conflict of interest, as they were both candidates in the 7th December CND appointment process.

There was a discussion as to whether the NC voting Board members (the President and CND) and the three CND candidates should be able to vote in any polls taking place during the meeting or whether they should abstain. The point was made that all the people are voting members of NC and should therefore be able to vote. All voters should focus on the process and what is best for the BMC. If people think they are conflicted, or unsure how to vote, then they should abstain, but this is up to the individual. People can't be directed how to vote. It was clarified that if people did abstain, then that vote would be included in the meeting quorate numbers.

Poll One: Voting members of the meeting were asked -
Is there a conflict of interest that should require the NC Voting Board members (CND & President) and CND candidates to abstain from voting?

Result:

Yes	0
No	11
Abstain	1

The poll result was that NC felt there was no conflict of interest. Voting members should not be instructed how to vote.

3. Purpose of the Meeting

LR gave more detailed information regarding the purpose of the webinar meeting. The Board had received a complaint regarding the CND appointment process that took place on the 7th December 2019. Following this an investigation had taken place, and the investigation report was presented to the Board on the 29th January 2020. The investigation concluded that the appointment process as run on the 7th December was not beyond challenge and the Board recommended that NC run the appointment process again. The Board recognised the process was within the remit of the NC and it was for NC to decide how to proceed.

4. Discussion regarding letter (dated 3rd February) from the Board

LR invited GP to give an overview, from the Board's perspective in relation to the contents of the letter. Following GP's overview, explaining the recommendation to re-run the appointment process, there was a discussion with questions.

DB, who had been an observer at the 29th January Board meeting, stated that the Board discussion regarding the investigation report had been thorough and clear. He was very appreciative of how the Board had discussed the matter and how they were all very supportive of NC.

LR emphasised that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the NC response to the contents of the letter received from the Board, and not to debate in detail how the appointment process had been run.

5. Vote

Poll Two: NC has considered the recommendation from the Board and will run an appointment process again (NC voting members only to vote).

Result:

Yes	11
No	0
Abstain	1

The poll result stated that NC will run an appointment process again.

6. Next Steps

LR stated that she had already drafted a revised process, taking into account points raised in the complaint. This had been reviewed by GP and AS and amendments made. LR proposed that this process be reviewed by the ODG R33 NC Reconstitution Group, amendments made as appropriate, and then distributed for wider agreement.

It was recommended that clearer reference to the Board of Directors skills matrix be made in the CND candidates presentations. LR said she would ensure the up-to-date skills matrix is circulated to NC.

JW offered to review the draft process, in his capacity of Chair of the Governance Working Group.

Poll Three: Do the Council agree that the R33 Group should propose a process for future CND appointments.

Result:

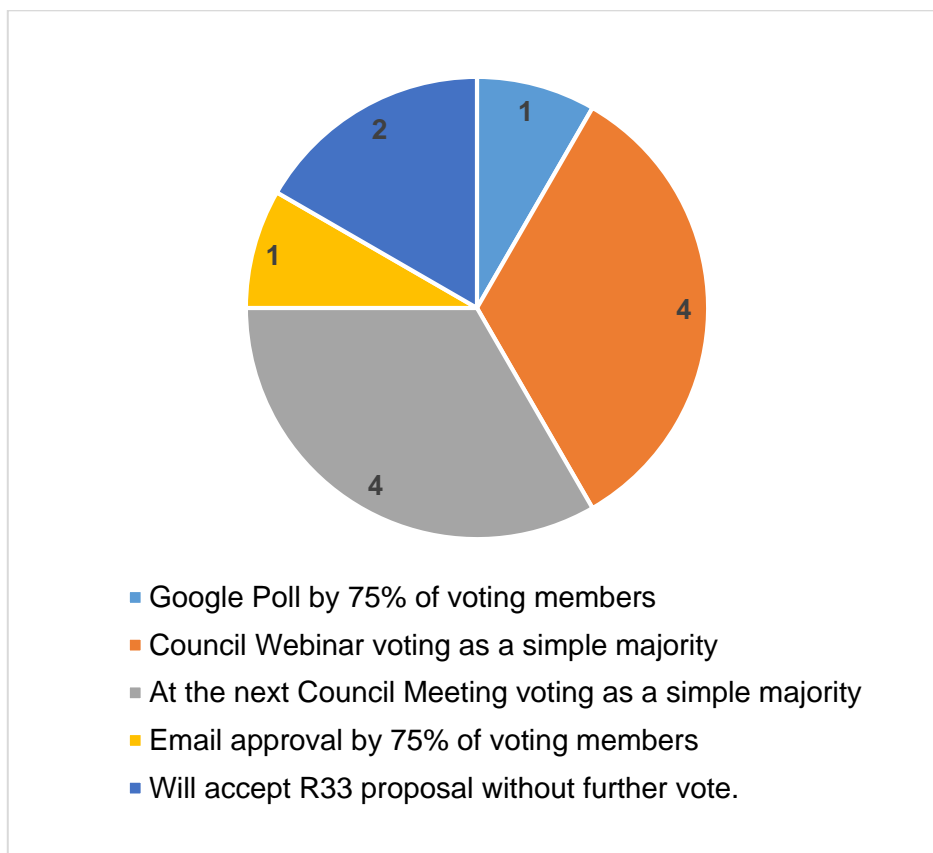
Yes	12
No	0
Abstain	0

The poll result states that the R33 Group should propose a process for future CND appointments.

There was then further discussion in relation to how the CND appointment process that the R33 proposes will be approved.

Poll Four: How should the process R33 propose be approved?

Result: as shown in the pie chart below.



The result showed equal votes between a council webinar voting as a simple majority and at the next council meeting voting as a simple majority.

A further discussion was had in relation to the above two options and a final vote took place. A middle ground option was suggested, to include a webinar and electronic vote to ensure as much engagement and access to voting as possible.

Note: Jon Punshon had to leave the meeting prior to this vote

Poll Five: Which of two options should the R33 group follow?

Result:

Council webinar followed by an electronic vote that would require 75% agreement – 11 Votes

At the next council meeting voting as a simple majority – 0 votes

Action: An NC webinar will take place to discuss the proposed appointment process, followed by an electronic vote.

The meeting finished at 20:30.

LR thanked everyone for their contributions.

The above was accepted as an accurate record of the meeting:

Signed _____ Date _____
Lynn Robinson, President