

# 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

Agreed Minutes of the National Council Webinar meeting (66.1)  
held on 23 January 2020 19:00 – 21:15

### In Attendance

#### R33 working Group

- Lynn Robinson - BMC President (LR)
- Andy Syme - Deputy President (AS)
- Helen Wilson - SW area rep and Chair of R33 working Group and minute taker (HW)
- Roger Murray (RM)
- Mark Anstiss – NE area rep (MA)
- Peter Salenieks – Clubs Committee Chair (PS)
- Alison Cairns – Peak area rep (AC)

#### Other attendees

- Carl Spencer – NW area rep (CSp)
- Chris Stone – L&SE area rep (CSt)
- Steve Quinton – S Wales area rep (SQ)
- CJ Griffiths – SW area rep (CG)
- Fiona Sanders – Lakes area rep and ODG chair (FS)
- Dave Brown – Peak area rep (DB)
- Dave Jones – Huts Committee Chair and Midlands area rep (DJ)
- Philip Wilson – SW area rep

### Apologies

#### R33 working Group

- Mick Green – NE area Rep
- Rik Payne – ODG

#### Other apologies

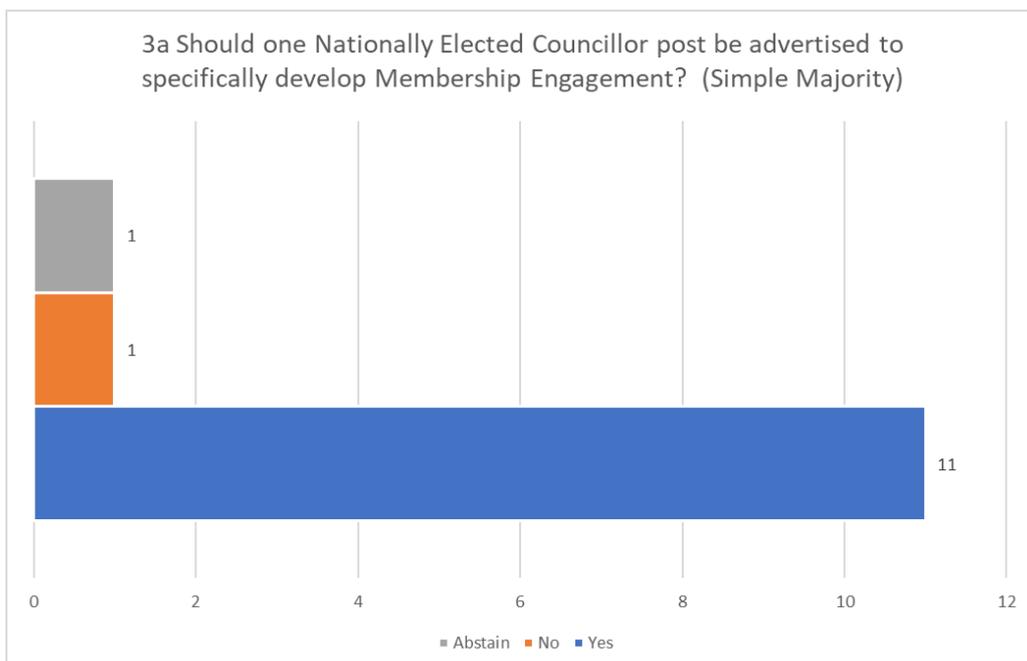
- Jon Punshon – NW area rep
- Robert Duffton – L&SE area rep
- Dan Lane – N Wales area rep
- Mike Parsons – Lakes area rep

### Minutes

1. AS - gave brief intro on how to use GoToWebinar.
2. LR - gave a brief welcome and explained that the webinar is being recorded, is in addition to the normal council meetings and will have brief minutes.

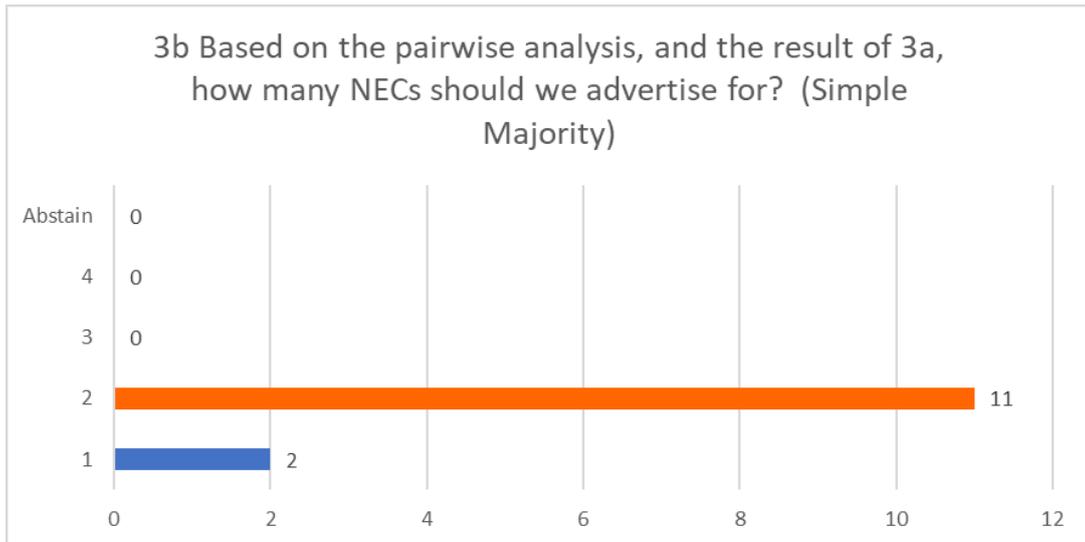
Paper 1: NECs and pairwise analysis

3. HW - presented the strategic themes analysis:
  - a. Reviewed AS paper “BOD summary on Council Members – election processes” presented at NC December 2019
  - b. Highlighted R33 suggestion to appoint one NEC for membership engagement and that NC can appoint up to four NECs in total (i.e. one for membership engagement and three others).
  - c. Presented outcome of the strategic themes pairwise analysis, highlighting the one clear standout, hillwalking, with three themes (communications, volunteers and indoor climbing) in almost joint second.
4. Questions received on pairwise:
  - a. FS – is membership engagement different from communications – HW said yes. Led to discussion on role of NECs – to add skills or represent members? Support on the webinar for NECs representing members.
  - b. PS – pointed under NC TORs we need to put a full record of the webinar in the public domain, rather than just brief minutes.
  - c. PS – wanted to see the pairwise analysis including the specialist committee chairs – the two graphs are very similar – no further discussion.
  - d. CSp – how does this result compare to the membership survey? FS replied that members felt that hillwalking and indoor climbing came out strongly.
5. **Poll – 3a Should one NEC post be advertised specifically to represent membership engagement?**
  - a. AS - clarified that only NC voting members can vote.
  - b. FS - asked whether R33 members on the call would swing the vote. LR noted that as R33 were not in a majority on the call, it shouldn't matter.
  - c. **Poll to have one NEC will represent membership engagement approved by simple majority**



**6. Poll – 3b Based on the pairwise analysis and the result of 3a, how many NECs should we advertise for?**

- a. HW – brief discussion on how attendees could vote.
- b. AS – re-iterated view expressed in Dec paper that as there are two clear choices for NEC of 1) membership engagement and 2) hillwalking, we should reserve the other two roles as recommended by R33 for the following year. Supported by others on the call, especially as we don't have everyone on the call / having responded.
- c. PS – what is an interim meeting and how does it differ from a normal meeting?
- d. **Poll approved by simple majority and two NECs will be voted for at the 2020 AGM, standing for Membership engagement and hillwalking:**



**7. Poll – 4 How should prospective NECs express their skills and suitability for the role?**

- a. MA – pointed out NEC selection process should match that being discussed by Governance working Group.
- b. AS / FS – some confusion over the current position of the Governance working group on this point.
- c. PS – would the audience at the AGM be able to question the candidate? Would hustings be allowed? This prompted further discussion.
- d. CG – suggested that candidates should be tech savvy.
- e. CSt – we need to be mindful of the time any candidate can be given to speak, bearing in mind other time pressures at an AGM.
- f. DB – how do we vote for these people i.e. are proxies allowed?
- g. **Poll not run as all agreed this item needs more discussion. AS suggested that precedent and practice will carry on i.e. candidates write a summary application and then present at the AGM.**

Paper 2: Councillor role descriptions

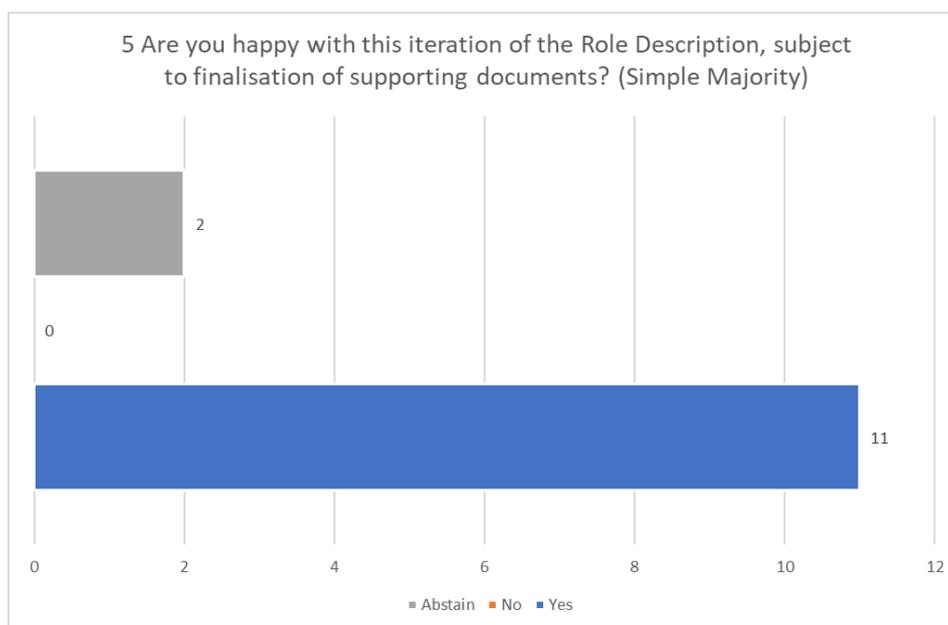
- 8. AC – Purpose of this document:
  - a. To describe roles and responsibilities of councillors on NC. This document does not describe in full either purpose or role of MC as this will be done in AoA and TORs. Intro is context for rest of the document, not a full guide to how MC works.
  - b. This doc is NOT a recruitment document, it is for those in roles already.

9. AC – document is a work in progress as other key documents are not yet finished, so purpose of vote is to clarify that those on the call are happy with the direction that the document is taking.

**10. Poll: are you happy with this iteration of the role description, subject to finalisation of supporting documents?**

11. No questions.

**12. Councillor role description document approved by simple majority:**



### Paper 3: Deputy President paper

13. AS – Brief intro to the paper and introduced the next poll.

**14. Poll - 6a Do you support the appointment of up to three Deputies to the President, where a need is identified?**

**15. Poll carried out without discussion**

16. FS – Requested a discussion as this is such an important paper. Her key points:

- ODG strongly recommended that VPs were taken out of BMC AoAs which happened 18 months ago. Approval of this recommendation would undo the ODG's work.
- Workload – should be tackled by going to the Board to emphasise that the President's role is part time and cannot be overloaded, rather than by introducing Deputy Presidents to share the workload.
- DP paper suggests that DPs come from NC, and only from outside NC in extreme circumstances go outside NC. However, there are already at least 6 senior roles that NC members have to play. Are there enough NC members to go around?
- As the Deputy, which is the most senior "senior" role, they **should** be voted on at an AGM otherwise it's not very democratic.

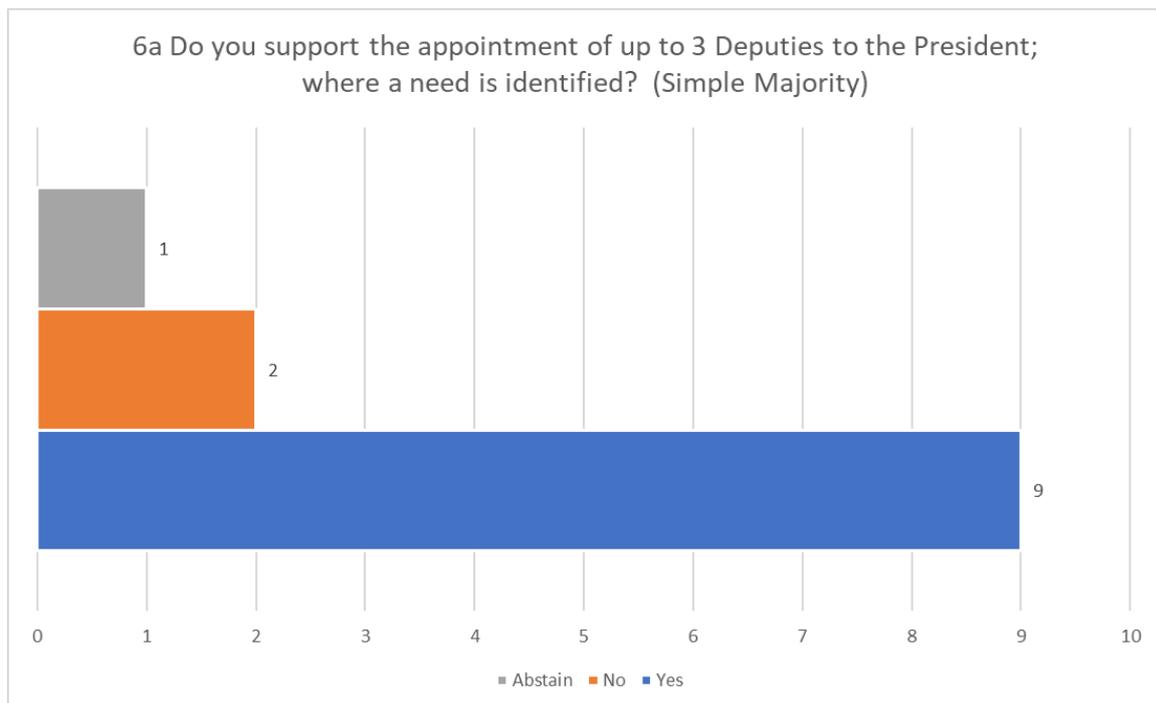
17. LR – Looking at ORG, VP decision was because VPs were board members and this wasn't appropriate. After this, VPs weren't mentioned further. As a membership-led organisation, to not have a DP goes against what other similar orgs have.

18. AS – VPs weren't wanted because of perceived fact that it was a gravy train – though not necessarily the case. DPs should be appointed if there is a need.

19. AS – We can appoint up to three on the basis of need. If no need, don't appoint any.

- 20. FS – we should look at our own organisation, not others. Should we be appointing outside NC, to give transparency and democracy to members?
- 21. RM – Looking at the current situation, the president would benefit from the support of 1 -3 DPS, but this may not be the case for future presidents. Overall, the president’s role should be on a part-time, voluntary basis. Each president has their own take on the role and carries out the role differently.
- 22. AS – Reviewed process in paper as to how DP’s work is identified.
- 23. LR – Emphasised that each president has their own focus and this changes with each president. Emphasised her role is NOT full-time.
- 24. AS – should the vote for poll 6a stand? The majority on the call felt that the vote should stand, even though it was done before the discussion.

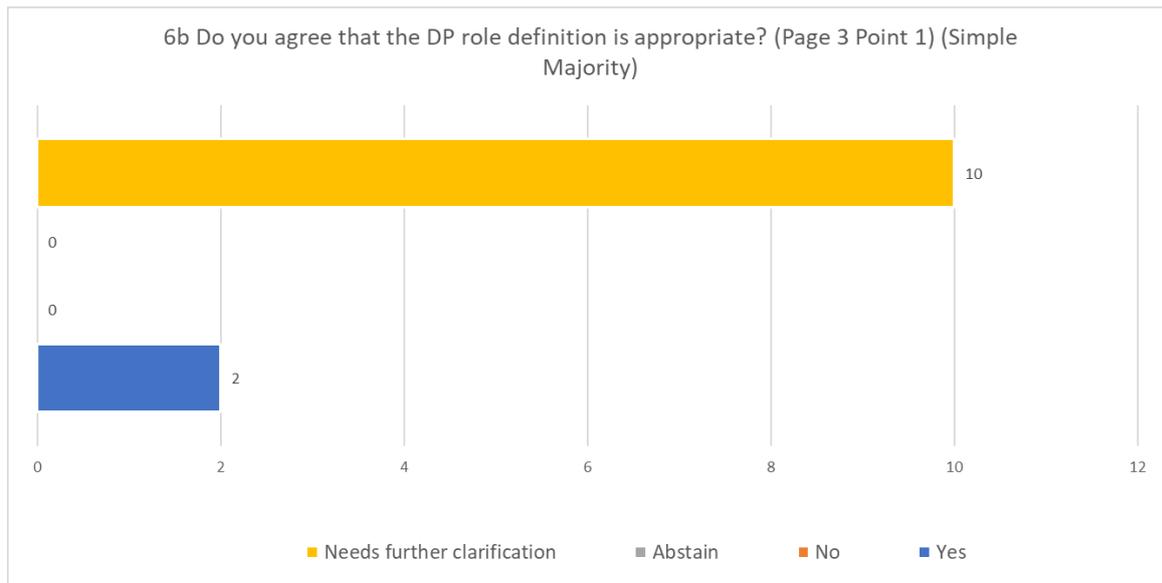
**25. The appointment of up to 3 DPs was approved by simple majority:**



**26. Poll 6b - Do you agree that the DP role definition is appropriate? (Page 3 Point 1) (Simple Majority)**

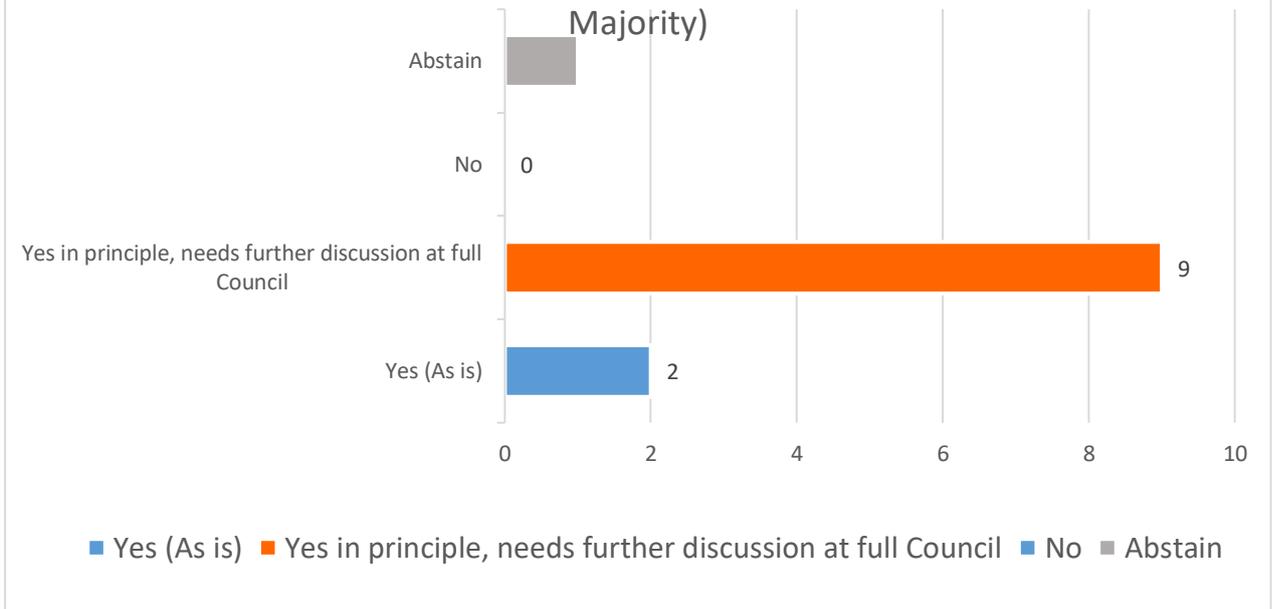
- 27. AS – clarified that this poll relates to recommendation 1 on page 3 of the Deputy president proposal paper. Discussion and clarification was required on each sub-bullet of this item, in particular second bullet point r.e. directors. Suggestion is that you can’t recruit from existing directors.
- 28. FS – Concern that the knock-on effects of each bullet hasn’t been thought through enough and needs further discussion.
- 29. AS – amended the poll to offer a clarification option.

**30. Those on the call voted by simple majority to get further clarification of the DP role before proceeding further:**



31. HW – her vote could not be submitted. Would have voted “needs further clarification”.
32. AS – briefly discussed selection process, however, discussion from the room was that if 6b needed further clarification, then the remaining votes would also need clarification and the vote is not worth having.
33. CSt – counter-intuitive to give first refusal to NC members when we are trying to increase representation.
34. HW – should we move the discussion to next week?
35. RM – Yes! Good to have a discussion tonight to get people’s view but we won’t have a new iteration in a week’s time, it is too complicated. Suggested ignoring the next two votes and move to the handover.
36. HW / AS – agreed.
37. AS / RM – We are not going to get a DP role sorted for AGM 2020 as getting it done in time will be challenging. Should we discuss at next NC to see if we can implement vote 6a i.e. the appointment of up to 3 DPs for 2020?
38. AS – moved on to brief discussion of three-month handover period between incumbent president and president elect.
39. LR – President could end up with a max term of 6 yrs 6 months. Also, the handover should be done on a case-by-case basis, as it may depend on personalities etc. Editor’s note: 6.5 years only as appointed in Apr 18 and if had second term and this change approved would not leave post until the Sept but after that all Presidents would serve Sept to Sept so in 3 year terms.
40. FS – Supports LR in this view. Paper has been circulated to Jonathan White (head of Governance working Group) and Gareth (Board).
41. RM – Front loading / back loading, doesn’t matter, we need a handover.
42. AS – amended the poll to include a “further discussion option”.
43. Poll 6d: Do you support the proposal for introducing a handover period for the President’s role? Simple majority
- 44. Result – 1 abstention, all others voted “yes in principle, but needs further discussion”.**

6e Do you support the proposal for introducing a handover period for the President's role? (Page 4 Point 4) (Simple



**Actions:**

1. Point 4b: Write minutes for webinar and make them available **HW / AS**
2. Point 4d: Check results of membership survey on member representation **HW**
3. Point 5b: Clarify voting protocol in cases of working group majority on webinar **AS**
4. Point 6c: Clarify status of webinar meetings vs the “regular” NC meeting **HW/ AS**
5. Point 7b and Point 7g: Work with the Governance Working Group to agree how we should proceed with the NEC selection process bearing in mind that it needs to be in place for the June AGM. If possible, agree a consistent process for **all** elected posts but if not we need to agree how to proceed for the NEC (e.g. use current practice of paper application with short presentation **HW / AS**
6. Point 30: R33 working group to clarify DP role and selection process **RM / LR**
7. Point 37: Discuss feasibility of getting up to three DPs in place at June AGM **LR**
8. Point 38: Discuss President handover options **AS / LR**

Signed

Lynn Robinson, President

Date: 09 May 2020