**1.  Welcome & Apologies:**

Mike Parsons welcomed 23 Members to this meeting.

Apologies: Ged Campion, Ron Kenyon, Andrew McVittie, Ian Bradley, Dan Robinson, James Bumby, Cressida Allwood.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting**
The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

**3. Matters arising not on the Agenda**

None

**4. Actions from the previous meeting**

None

**5.  BMC National Council**

a). Mike Parsons and Fiona Sanders are Lakes area representatives and Nick Colton Deputy CEO of the BMC was also present.

b). Mike reported items from the last National Council meeting.

c). Climate Crisis agenda. The BMC is working with Moors for the Future. Their Climate Project programme will be launched at the ShAFF weekend 20-22 March 2020. Members and others will be able to give to the fund when they buy other BMC products or donate separately. [www.theclimateproject.co.uk](http://www.theclimateproject.co.uk)

d). The BMC is due to launch a lift sharing website for local and national events.

e).  The process of electing members to the BMC Board every three years has been developed to make it transparent, show equality etc. The next NC meeting is 28 March when 2 new members will be elected.

f)   Stuart Smith reported that the National Council currently has no hill walking representative and encouraged nominations when it is advertised later this month.

**6.  LDNPA Partnership**

Overview.

There has been a significant increase in the last few years in the issues which members are raising at our meetings or matters arising between meetings. These include planning,landscape,parking and actions proposed by the LDNPA. It was felt therefore that instead of simply reacting belatedly, that we should place BMC Lakes Area in a position to influence decision making within the LDNP. Our volunteers therefore have been attending conferences and meetings as observers, in order to build a deeper and broader understanding. The [LDNPA Partnership](https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/lake-district-national-park-partnership) comprises 25 organisations and is made up of representatives from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. One of these [Cumbria Tourism,](https://www.cumbriatourism.org/) with 2,500 members has a strong voice here.

a)  Ken Taylor and Fiona Sanders have now attended the LDNPA Partnership as Citizen Observers where they heard about the plans for the next five years.  LDNPA Partnership is keen to build a relationship with the BMC especially on Environment and Access issues because there are no other orgs with outdoor activity expertise in the partnership. Katie Hooper - Partnership manager and ourselves are working on a meeting to agree a way forward.  Additionally we are meeting the head of park management Mark Eccles sometime later this month.

Post meeting note; Climate change. The measures of CO2 output in Cumbria are done by Small World Consulting of Lancaster ( this is Mike Berners-Lee, author of 3 world leading books on CO2 emissions and climate change. We have direct contact with Mike B-L ).We as BMC lakes will put our concerns and ideas forward. see report <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/lake-district-national-park-partnership/carbonbudget/ldnp-carbon-budget-progress-report-2019>

Next step - Richard Leafe, LDNPA CEO is invited to attend the next Lakes area BMC meeting on June 3rd in Kendal.

b). **Ken Taylor reviewed the Glover Report**.  This is a Landscapes Review commissioned by Micheal Gove ( DEFRA minister at that point, but not currently)  in 2018 and outlined the issues in this report and specifically the ‘Parks for All’ LDNPA Initiative which “Aims to produce ambitious strategies to increase diversity of access for marginalised groups”. This includes - a night under the stars for every child, - increase in ethnic diversity, - landscapes that cater for and improve the nation’s health and well being, - for the LDNP to become a leader in sustainable tourism. These issues were discussed within the group, highlighting that many Cumbrian people living in the peripheral urban areas, often do not access their local NP.

**7.  Douglas Chalmers, Chief Executive of Friends of the Lake District (FoLD)**

Douglas spoke to the group about the work of the FoLD and their Save our Lake District (SoLD) Campaign launched this year. FOLD are Members of the ldnpa partnership, and the partnership Chair brought up the inappropriateness of the SOLD campaign by FOLD as a member of the partnership. Douglas responded specifically to this issue, saying  they had broken no rules and the campaign has struck a particularly strong cord with the public, gaining them new additional membership.

He was critical of the LDNPA Local Plan which he said focuses too much on visitors and not local communities. He was at pains to point out that whilst FOLD had a reputation for being negative on all development, but that was not actually the case. Where the major concerns lie are about how the LDNPA has continued to announce a sequence of many controversial issues which have arisen in recent months (zip wire planning applications, gondolas at Whinlatter, 4x4 vehicles use of certain tracks, tarmac of surface of Keswick to Threlkeld path and potential houseboats on Grasmere). SoLD has been very well supported. What SoLD and FoLD want to change is a rewording of the Local Plan to value local communities more and to have more clarity about certain types of development within the park, which they fear might be designed to make money rather than protect and enhance the landscape.  He also said another change should be that Partnership group representatives should be allowed to take the LDNPA ideas to their own membership groups for a wider consultation on future plans. Ric Outhwaite (our lakes area volunteer for planning)  later pointed out that the body making the proposals is also the same body in effect who have the legal rights to approve them.

The new body to help parents and others is the [Outdoor Partnership,](https://partneriaeth-awyr-agored.co.uk/join-the-partnership) is a community partnership charitable company changing lives through outdoor activities; inspiring local people to become involved in outdoor activities through participation, education, volunteering, and employment improving health, social and economic well-being. This operates from P-Y-B.

ACTION/ DECISION: The BMC Lakes area group present voted to support the SoLD Campaign and also voted to take this issue to the next BMC National Council meeting to ask for National support.

**8. Access**

**L**ittle news/issues at present. A question was asked about parking at Greenside mines for winter climbing as this was written in a Cicerone Guide as the place to park.  It was reported that the road to the old mines is ‘unadopted’ hence privately owned and only for residents and visitors to the YHA and other bunkhouse accommodation there, plus Lake District Ski club users with a permit. NB This road is a BRIDLEWAY (i.e. no motor vehicles except for access as defined above) with clear PRIVATE notices at the bottom. The Cicerone guide is incorrect. Parking in the main park in Glenridding is advised.

**9.  Clubs Report** - none

**10. Youth Development  Report** - none

**11.  Hill Walking National Symposium**

a). 13-15 March 2020, at YHA Ambleside. It was reported that this event is now fully booked. (post meeting note- this event took place, and was very successful with 55 people attending, including Lynn Robinson, BMC President)

b) Stuart Smith reported that the Ramblers are asking people to report any paths and tracks that are not currently designated as rights of way on maps, as there is now a time limit for their recognition by 2026. It is possible to do this via an App, see Ramblers website. Stuart  also asked members to report any damage they find to paths, bridges etc. after the recent spate of storms.

**12.  The BMC Hills to Oceans (H2O) Campaign**

This is back again for 2020, with specified dates for rubbish collection or asking walkers to make their own days out to do this. See BMC website.

**13.  BMC Organisational Development Group (ODG)**

a). Nick Colton reported that the old Competitions Committee will be disbanded and a new separately financed Competition Climbing Performance Group will be formed  including other stakeholders, e.g.. MCofS and ABCC. This group will be delegated powers through BMC Directorship. They will be making a UK Sports bid and their role will be to put on events and to develop grass roots to Olympic climbers.

b). Fiona reported that in order to start the work of steering the BMC's activities, engagement and policy work in Wales as well as concluding the review of options for future governance arrangements for the BMC in Wales a Sub committee of the board is being set up.

c). The new BMC Strategy has been agreed with the National Council and BMC Board and a budget linked to this has also been agreed.
The National Council gives the BMC Board guidance on strategy through the nine area representatives who represent their members. It will change its name to Members Council. Four new posts will be created on this Council to represent Members Engagement, Club Members as opposed to Clubs and Mountain Training members and hill walking. Papers on BMC issues of interest to members can be found on the BMC website. [odg.thebmc.co.uk](http://odg.thebmc.co.uk). There will be a Members Webinar for anyone interested in the BMC developments on 2 April 2020, places need to be booked.

d) A strategy for clubs has also been produced by the ODG and we are asking all clubs to respond to its suggestions

**14. Lakes Fest 2020**

Anne Salisbury spoke about the Duddon Valley Lakes Fest 2020 11-13 Sept based at the Turner Hall campsite.

The event is open to all to do your own thing or join in courses / events on offer.

There are five main volunteers organising and the BMC has recently awarded a grant to help with the running of the event.

Members were given a printed outline of the events on offer during the weekend including bouldering, climbing and walking courses of various types, a BBQ and live music at the Newfield Inn, talks by Dave Birkett and Mary Jenner Birkett and Rob and Craig Matheson and much more.

The website and posters will be live soon and the BMC has offered to help with marketing the event.

Any other volunteers wishing to attend and help on the weekend, please get in touch. Info@lakesfest.co.uk

**15.**  **Bolt Fund**

New venues are in advanced stages of being developed and the bolt group is planning a video on how to place resin bolts for those interested in being trained up to help.

**16.  BMC Volunteer Awards**

These were discussed with possible nominations.

**17.  Volunteers needed**

Mike Parsons as Chair of the BMC Lakes area comes to the end of his 6 year term of office at the AGM in November 2020 and a volunteer is sought to replace him. Please contact Mike if you know of anyone who might take on this role.                                 Ron Kenyon is both Secretary and e-Newsletter Editor for the BMC Lakes area group and is keen to shed one of these roles, so volunteers please step forward!

**18. Any Other Business**
Nick Colton reported on the BMC’s advice on Coronavirus. This advice now on website for travel at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/how-does-coronavirus-affect-bmc-travel-insurance>

Also for BMC events at  <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/will-coronavirus-affect-bmc-events>

Stuart Smith said that Mountain Rescue Teams had also put out Coronavirus advice.

**19.  Date, time and venue of the next meeting**

Next meeting,  3 June 2020 at 7.30pm in the Lakeland Climbing Centre, Kendal.