

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Members' Council

Draft minutes of the Members' Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 November 2023

In Attendance

Voting Members

Elected Councillors

President, and Chair of the meeting (the Chair)
Cymru South Wales
Midlands
Yorkshire
North East
North East
North West
North West
Peak
Lakes
South West
South West
Nationally Elected Councillor for Rock Climbers

Andy Syme
Dorian Thomas
Ian Wyatt
Martin Christmas
Jon Punshon
Jonathan White
Andy Say
Bill Beveridge
Sean Milner
David Brown
Trevor Smith
Philip Wilson
Steve Clark

Specialist Councillors

Huts Group
Funded Partners

Lynsey Mcauley
Guy Jarvis

Standing Observers

Hill Waking Group
Board Chair

Peter Judd
Roger Murray

Apologies

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Pete Salenieks, Paul Ratcliffe, Olly Hicks-Pattison, Richard Edan.

Abbi Blakely resigned from Council citing Time commitments and dissatisfaction with behaviours of Councillors.

2. Conflicts of Interest

None declared

3. Urgent Issues for AOB

Nil

4. Minutes of the previous meeting and outstanding actions

[24 Oct Minutes](#) were approved. **ACTION: AS to arrange publication**

Matters arising

Membership Growth Plan **ACTION: AS to chase Membership Growth plan from Gavin Finch**

5. Area Reports.

Midlands – requested that Board be informed of need for funding for Area meetings.

NW – Reported on delay in getting results from Area AGM voting: SWales- had experienced same. Needs consideration prior to BMC AGM. JW asked who approved the roll out of the new system. ASyme and LV had asked Area Chairs. TS noted its use was optional and suggested it will need further review and consideration for rolling out as a national option. ASyme stated this will be included in the Area TORs review due in the next 12 months.

South West – Lacking in volunteers (Secretary) and also supported need for face-to-face meetings.

Peak – Successful meeting but unhappiness generally expressed about poor communication from BMC to members. “MC reps need to communicate”(?) SC suggested information needed to be made on BMC website in advance or instead of on on-line forums. There will be an update to members w/c 20th.

Lakes – DB queried why there could be no direct mailings from Areas to Area members. Felt that GDPR interpretation was incorrect. TS will pursue this. Again unhappiness at communication to Areas and members from BMC.

NE – JP queried what follow up was being undertaken following the open letter concerning GBC. It was reported that things have moved on and measures are being taken to address concerns. Further communication will be issued w/c 20th. He also reported that JW was in contact with incoming President of the CLA who could be a useful ally on access issues. Asked when we would see minutes of AGM as many issues had been raised. ASyme confirmed they are normally issued at the following AGM for approval.

6. Other Reports

Rock Climbing – Requested MC support Sirhowy purchase and LPT/BMC clarifications.

7. NomCom update

RM reported that there had been 42 applications for CEO post. There would also be some Independent Director changes in next 6 months. JW suggested that two directors would be finishing in January '24.

ACTION: ASyme to add agenda item to next meeting – NomCom update.

8. Board Council Staff T&F Group

Survey has been shared. Feedback would be given to next MC meeting. Interviews would follow.

ACTION: All councillors – please complete survey

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9QUAYtIjpE26wHf3RlrTD3764jPyEpRFrvtv_cENm5RUOVVFNFIStTM3T1c1STFIR1pWN1MxTVdaOS4u

9. MC Dates.

Proposed new dates agreed.

ACTION: ASyme to arrange update Teamwork calendar and [message](#).

10. Sirhowy Purchase

ASay observed that the current situation with LPT/LMG/BMCLH Ltd is overly complex. RM agreed that Board recognised the need for simplification but currently lacking in staff/finance resources to undertake the work. NH is to look at ways of simplification. It will need clarification by a charity lawyer. TS suggested that there were two conjoined issues; the complexity of the organisation and the purchase of the crag. They needed to be separated. IW commented it was good news and could produce retrospective influence. GJ said failure to buy now would be bad news; there are lessons to be learned about how crowdfunding is phased. Provisional agreement needed first? DT was fully supportive of purchase. DB said we need clarification of ‘codification’ (?) RM observed that there needed to be ‘succession planning’ as charity/organisations can turn sour.

Voting. 15 for purchase: 1 abstention : 1 against.

11. Survey & Council TORs

TOR's need updating. This is in obedience until T&F Group reports. **ACTION: AS to add action to add to agenda in mid-2024**

12. Board Report

RM outlined the Board Report which had gone to Areas. We need clarity on the financial outturn at year end. Also clarity needed on the Competitions side. Progress was being made with the possibility of bringing in external expertise to facilitate a turnaround. There was need for a strategy to 'close the gap' with UKS. Analysis of the funding model had demonstrated its complexity. ASyme reminded the meeting that there would be communication next week with membership with additional information being published in December. There is a need for accurate analysis of UKS funding prior to sharing a 'plan'. ASay made the point that whilst some departments had not overspent against budget those budgets appear to have been overinflated. Whilst GBC climbing would have to be the focus of cost cutting budgets would also have to be generally reduced to accommodate flat membership numbers. SC commented that many other membership organisations were struggling in a cost of living crisis. ASyme also supported a conservative budget. GJ asked if it was possible to isolate the budget damage; what would be the impact on GBC? RM observed that identifying budget holders and emphasising responsibility and expenditure control would be crucial. IW commented on the secondment of a membership team member to GBC at a time when we needed to focus on membership. JW observed that there was a real lack of clarity on staffing levels with the web staff list out of date and some staff only appearing on the GBC website where volunteers were shown as staff. RM summarised that the Board had been kept poorly informed about UKS funding and budgeting.

JW expressed thanks for the report from GF; an unusually full picture of staff activity. He also expressed his best wishes to Becky McGovern who was resigning as Events and Engagement Officer.

13. Votes

No votes

13. AOB

PJ then asked if the Hillwalking vision event was being held? **ACTION: ASyme to contact Rose re that event.**

SC suggested that thanks should also go to leaving Councillors. ASyme confirmed this already happened. ASyme informed Councillors who did not volunteer t-shirts should contact him to add to the list for Suzanne/Mariella.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Main Meeting – Dec. 2nd
Post Meet – Dec. 19th
(All via Zoom)

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



26/1/24

Signed _____

Date _____

Andy Syme, Chair