

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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National Council

Approved minutes of the 71st National Council meeting held by way of Zoom on Saturday 13 March 2021 at 9.30am

In attendance

Voting Members:

Lynn Robinson	(LR)	President
Tarquin Shipley	(TS)	Cymru North Wales
CJ Griffiths	(CG)	Cymru South Wales
Steve Quinton	(SQ)	Cymru South Wales
Mike Parsons	(MP)	Lakes
Fiona Sanders	(FS)	Lakes, and Council Nominated Director
Chris Stone	(CSt)	London & South East
Robert Dufton	(RD)	London & South East
David Jones	(DJ)	Midlands, and Huts Group (Observer)
Claudia Sarner	(CSa)	Midlands
Bill Beveridge	(BB)	North West
Carl Spencer	(CSp)	North West, and Council Nominated Director
David Brown	(DB)	Peak
Alison Cairns	(AC)	Peak
Helen Wilson	(HW)	South West
Philip Wilson	(PW)	South West
Mick Green	(MG)	Yorkshire
Andy Syme	(AS)	Yorkshire, and Deputy President

Observers:

Paul Drew	(PDr)	Chair, Board of Directors
Jonathan White	(JW)	Nominated Director (Clubs)
Caroline Worboys	(CW)	Caroline Worboys
Peter Salenieks	(PS)	Clubs Committee, and Council Nominated Director
Cressida Allwood	(CA)	Equity Steering Group
Peter Judd	(PJ)	Hill Walking Group
Roger Murray	(RM)	Organisational Development Group
John Cousins	(JC)	Mountain Training

Others:

Paul Davies	(PDa)	Interim Chief Executive
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* denotes supporting paper(s) circulated prior to meeting

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
1	Welcome & apologies for absence			
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Caroline Worboys, a recently appointed Independent Director attending Council for the first time, who gave a brief summary of her professional background and outdoor interests.			
1.2	Apologies were received from Mark Anstiss.			
2	Note Conflicts of Interest			
	None noted.			
3	AOB			
	The Chair had not received any AOB requests in advance of the meeting, and due to the full nature of the agenda, proposed not to take any on the day.			
	As PDr was unable to attend the whole meeting, the Chair asked him to present his verbal report for item 13 (Board of Directors Report), followed by item 14 (CEO & Office Report).			
4	Minutes of previous meetings*			
4.1	The Chair reported that a backlog of Council minutes had built up, partly due to pressure on staff time, but four sets of draft minutes had been uploaded to Teamwork for the following meetings: 29 October 2020 (CND elections); 12 January 2021 (structure of Members' Council); 18 February 2021 (role of the President) and: 28 February 2021.			
4.2	As Council felt there had been insufficient time to review, the Chair proposed to give a period of one week for Councillors to review and comment via Teamwork with the aim of signing off the minutes virtually and then publishing them on the BMC website.	Review and comment on draft minutes	All	22 March
4.3	In relation to the other outstanding minutes, LR advised that they are in progress and will be sent to Council for sign-off and subsequent publication on the BMC website.			
5	Council Nominated Directors*			

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5.1	<p>At the October 2020 Council meeting, PS and CSp were voted in as CNDs on an interim basis until the 2021 AGM, in order for the Board to include its full complement of CNDs. A paper has now been published giving three options for Council to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) PS and CSp stand down at the AGM, and two new CNDs are nominated prior to the AGM; 2) PS and CSp stay on as CNDs after the AGM, until two new CNDs are appointed; 3) PS and CSp stand down at the AGM, and two new CNDs are appointed after the AGM. <p>The pros and cons of each option were listed in the meeting paper.</p>				
5.2	<p>The Chair invited PS and CSp to offer their thoughts on the role and the options.</p>				
5.3	<p>PS felt that the skills matrix was an imperfect instrument, and that the role of CND was not suitable for someone coming in from the cold with no knowledge or experience of Council. He was happy to withdraw from discussion if the meeting wished.</p>				
5.4	<p>CSp highlighted the considerable workload of the Board, and the challenges faced by it. He suggested a fourth option could be that CNDs stand on the same terms as agreed for the role of President, acknowledging the possibility that they might be asked to stand down in one year's time. He felt that a wider pool of candidates after the AGM was not a realistic expectation.</p>				
5.5	<p>The meeting discussed the suggestion of a fourth option, and whether option 2 already covered that suggestion.</p> <p>The meeting agreed to add an additional option (no. 4) for Council to vote on:</p> <p><i>The two current CNDs (voted in as interim until the 2021 AGM) stay on as CNDs in line with the Articles of Association.</i></p>	Noted			
5.6	<p>A poll was conducted, with the following results: Option 1 – 0 votes; Option 2 – 1 vote; Option 3 – 1 vote; Option 4 – 15 votes.</p> <p>Option 4 duly carried. The Chair to notify the Board and the Company Secretary, so that it can be presented to the members as a special resolution at the AGM.</p>	Noted	Notify Board	LR	Immediate
6	Area Terms of Reference				

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
6.1	AS summarised the process for developing the Area ToR, which began by removing from the Articles of Association any Area-related Articles that it was felt did not need to be in the Articles. The Area ToR were then developed alongside various appendices, such as Area volunteer role descriptions and Area Meeting guidance via consultation with Council and the Areas, and were discussed at an open forum, where they were broadly supported. Some further changes were made after the open forum in relation to concerns expressed.			
6.2	AS then ran a poll with Area Officers; 66% responded, all in favour of the proposed ToR, not quite the 75% figure that AS would have liked, but are now ready to go forward for approval at the AGM.	Noted		
6.3	CSt added that the appendices to which AS referred don't have the same update strategy as the Area ToR, not requiring 75% approval by Area Officers, Board and Council, as they are of a much more operational nature, so only require a majority of the Area Officers and the relevant BMC staff to agree on them. CSt is currently in the process of managing the updates to those appendices.			
7	Area Role Descriptions and AYC Role Review*			
7.1	CSt said that his paper sought to highlight some anomalies and start a discussion, particularly around the anomaly of the AYC (Area Youth Co-ordinator) role, which has become a title for two very different roles.			
7.2	CSt invited CSa to provide some background to the development of the AYC role and the regional Youth Climbing Series (YCS) climbing competitions. When these competitions began, they were aligned with BMC Areas, and so it made sense for the relevant AYC's to be involved with them. But as the YCS has grown, for logistical reasons, the geographical regions it uses diverged from the BMC Areas. It is this divergence which has led to the confusion about the role.			
7.3	CSa said that it still made sense for BMC Areas to elect AYC's to support youth activities in their Areas, but separately there is a need for the BMC to recruit volunteers to support the the YCS events. It is not a big issue but it needs clarity of roles and of process for electing or recruiting the relevant volunteers.			
7.4	CSa said that she had looked at the timeline of events in respect of the AYC role in South Wales, and did not believe that there had been an attempt by the BMC office to sideline the Area from electing a volunteer.			

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7.5	CG said that CSa was not in receipt of all the facts relating to the dispute in South Wales, which she felt was a serious issue and was impacting on the Area's ability to support youth activities.			
7.6	Given the need for an in-depth discussion, the Chair felt that it would make more sense to organise a separate evening meeting to discuss this topic, rather than significantly extend the time allocated to this agenda item and knock out the timings for the rest of what is already a very full agenda. It was agreed that CSt would arrange a separate meeting allocating sufficient time for proper discussion of this topic.	Arrange online meeting	CSt	ASAP
7.7	CSt said that the specific point of the paper is discussion of the possible need to split out the AYC role and update relevant role description(s) before AGM if possible. To progress that discussion, he suggested taking discussion of the proposed options in the paper offline, but option 2, proposing that AYC's focus on the YCS as per the role description held by the competitions team, and a separate area level youth engagement role is created, seems to be the most popular from feedback so far.	Agreed		
7.8	On a separate, though related issue, CSp felt that there was a need for a strategy / business plan for grassroots competitions. Irrespective of criticisms of staff/office, he felt that expectations are unrealistic in respect of ability to hold the number of grassroots competitions we want to put on.			
7.9	FS thought that we should perhaps ask CSp and PDa to instigate a review of what CSp spoke about, which is very different from the content of the paper for this agenda item. The Chair suggested that CSp might wish to lead on that review, and he agreed to do that.	Review of strategy/business plan for grassroots competitions	CSp	ASAP
8	Members' Council*			
8.1	HW presented the Members' Council Terms of Reference which will be presented at the upcoming Open Forum and eventually the AGM. There may be some minor amendments to it, but essentially it is for information, not feedback.			
8.1.1	<p>There are three proposals to resolve outstanding issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to fill the two remaining voting positions for Specialist Councillors; 2. How to fill Observer positions; 3. How the Area vote will be used. 			

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8.1.2	An interim Council meeting will be organised before the AGM to enable agreement on these issues.	Noted		
8.2	Specialist Councillor Positions			
8.2.1	Up to six Specialist Councillors can sit on Members' Council; of those six, four have already been agreed: Partners Assembly, Access Management Group, Clubs Strategy Group, Competition Climbing Performance Group.			
8.2.2	The Specialist Committee review led by Roger Murray recognised the need for an increased representation of Specialist Committees on Council, particularly for 'member-focused' committees. The two remaining voting positions could be used to ensure that all member-focused committees are represented on Council.			
8.2.3	The Hill Walking Group already has a vote on Council by virtue of a Nationally Elected Councillor for Hill Walkers, which means that the Training, Youth & Walls Committee is the only one of four member-focused committees to not yet have a vote. Therefore, it is proposed that one of the two remaining votes goes to that committee.			
8.2.4	It is proposed that committees with a corporate focus should not have a vote, either because their work is of a confidential nature not normally shared with Council (Nominations, Remunerations, Safeguarding) or their work is very specialist (Land Management) or executive in nature and governed by a legislative structure (Health & Safety, Audit & Risk).			
8.2.5	That leaves eight committees with an overlapping focus for consideration for the one remaining Specialist Councillor position, of which two (CCPG, Wales) already have a vote on Council. The R33 working group has discussed at length how best to utilise this remaining vote, and HW outlined the reasons for and against each committee, concluding that the Equity Steering Group has the strongest case for a vote because it is key to strategy and should be central to everything we do.			
8.3	Observers Positions			
8.3.1	There is no current defined list of National Council observers, and it is proposed that the regular observers on Members' Council are directors, staff, and those member-focused specialist committees that do not have a vote, and anyone co-opted to Council for a specific task. Occasional observers will also be invited, including corporate-focused specialist committees and partner organisations.			
8.4	Area Reps Voting			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
8.4.1	This has also been discussed extensively by R33, and its proposal is that the two Area Reps should decide in consultation with their Area how to vote on key decisions, based on the principle that there should be a good communications cycle between Council and Areas to enable consultation and agreement, but also acknowledging that there may be occasions and circumstances when Area Reps will have to use their judgement, if for example additional information came out during a meeting which might affect how an Area chose to vote, or if an urgent vote came up at a meeting without prior knowledge. In both cases, the two Area Reps might not be able to reach agreement on how to vote, in which case the Area would abstain.			
8.4.2	In discussion following HW's presentation, RD was supportive of the proposal to make the Equity Steering Group a Specialist Councillor, as the group represents people who aren't currently BMC members. He also felt that it was important for some members that Area Reps can act as representatives, not simply as delegates when it comes to voting.			
8.4.3	JW advised that the Specialist Committee review included a proposal to split the Training, Youth & Walls Committee into two committees by creating an Indoor Climbing Committee. HW replied that the new committee would have a vote under the Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbers.			
8.4.5	It was acknowledged that the proposed structure may not be perfect and could change over time.			
8.4.6	There was some discussion about the list of observers on Council, noting that from an administrative standpoint there may be a need for a relatively fixed list of regular Observers.			
8.4.7	The meeting agreed to hold an interim meeting to vote on the Specialist Councillors and agree a list of regular observers, to be arranged by HW.	Arrange interim Council meeting	HW	ASAP
8.4.8	DB felt that Council needed to address the issue that PS is a Director but will not be a Councillor in the proposed structure. It was agreed to address this issue at the interim meeting.	Include on interim meeting agenda	LR	ASAP
9	Members' Council: Future Way of Working*			
9.1	MG introduced his paper, and hoped to gain agreement that the launch being developed in the implementation plan is broadly in the right direction. He also wanted to confirm that Councillors are happy to participate in the survey to establish their interests and skills. The survey would enable identification of groups of Councillors who are willing to organise the			

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	various components of meeting agendas, including BMC Vision Events to promote creative and constructive sessions at Council meetings – typically a full morning session.			
9.2	The response to the paper was generally positive, but some concern was expressed about whether the plans were realistic in terms of workload, time and resources. Alignment with strategic plans and the work of specialist committees was also necessary, so that the events became valuable in terms of giving direction to future strategic plans.			
9.3	The recruitment process for the new Nationally Elected Councillor roles was discussed, as it was felt that these roles will be important for delivering the Vision Events.			
9.4	It was acknowledged that the proposals would add further to creating a distinct difference for the role of the Council from that of the Board, and a different focus from governance-related issues and holding the Board to account.			
9.5	In summary, MG felt that Council was broadly in agreement with the proposals, which would be developed further, and was willing to participate in the survey based on the proposed format; Council confirmed its agreement with a show of hands.	Agreed		
9.6	The Chair added that Reserved Matters will have to be included in the programme, to ensure that Council is consulted where required.			
10	CND Report*			
	FS asked whether Council had any questions; none were forthcoming. The Chair reminded the meeting that the next Board meeting is on 25 March, if they have any issues they wish the CNDs to take to the Board. PS added that Councillors were welcome to contact the CNDs at any time in between meetings too.			
11	Update from Review of Specialist Committees			
11.1	PS summarised the work carried out by the Specialist Committee Task & Finish Group, which had been convened by the Board to review the proposed plans, terms of reference, and membership for each of the 14 BMC Specialist Committees.			
11.2	The group had taken account of feedback during presentations by committee chairs to Board and Council, and then met to discuss each committee before compiling recommendations, which were approved by the Board on 24 February.			

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11.3	<p>Three committees were identified as requiring more intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition Climbing Performance Group – decision needed on how to fill the gap created by CCPG only supporting elite international athletes. • Guidebook Committee – form a group to work up options for the way forward. • Huts Group – re-energise and substantially increase the ambition of the committee. 			
11.4	<p>A summary of more detailed guidance will be shared with Council after it has been provided to each committee. It was felt that the overall process provided a good model for effective oversight of the work of the Specialist Committees.</p>			
11.5	<p>DB asked why the Finance & Audit Committee (FAC) had not been included in the review. JW explained that the review had only covered the traditional Specialist Committees which had presented to Board and Council, but acknowledged that engagement with ‘board’ committees such as FAC, Nominations Committee, and Governance Working Group was also required.</p>			
11.6	<p>FS raised a similar point in respect of the Partners Assembly.</p>			
11.7	<p>CSp advised that he was looking at risk plans for the Board, and that a summary of the Campbell Tickell report on Board issues will be provided to FAC, and that a meeting of FAC with Board and/or Council will be arranged.</p>			
11.8	<p>LR thanked RM and DB and the members of the Task & Finish Group for the enormous amount of work they had done during the review.</p>			
12	<p>President’s Report*</p>			
12.1	<p>LR referred the meeting to the report on Teamwork. There were no questions from the meeting, but LR invited anyone with a question to email or phone her outside the meeting.</p>			
13	<p>Board of Directors’ Report</p>			
13.1	<p>PDr reported on recent Board activities, which included the appointment of three Independent Directors (Flavia Alzetta, Diane Hopper, Caroline Worboys). The Board continues to meet on a monthly basis, and has made significant progress, thanks to PDa, on the development of strategic action plans and a reporting process, through which the Board will be better informed about the status of high-level operations within the organisation.</p>			

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13.2	There has been significant investment in the development of the Senior Management Team, with PDA taking on the role of Interim CEO, and Paul McKoen joining in the new role of Chief Financial Officer, bringing clarity to our financial reporting. Recruitment of a permanent CEO continues, with a longlist of candidates about to be reduced to shortlist and interviews planned for later this month. Interviews for the role of Head of Performance take place next week. These developments are starting to make a big difference to the way the BMC is being run. The next role to be considered is recruitment of a Chief Officer for Commercial & Operations (COCO).			
13.3	GB Climbing's bid for UK Sport Progression Funding was successful, in fact it was rated highest of all the bids submitted for the fund.			
13.4	<p>The Campbell Tickell report on issues affecting the Board last year has made six recommendations. A summary will be shared with Council, but PDr wanted to highlight two of the recommendations which cover the relationship between Board and Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An externally facilitated joint session should be held, with the aim of creating a consistent view of how Board, Council, volunteers and staff all work together. It is planned to hold this session after the AGM in the second half of May. 2. Arrangements for Board to communicate to Council, and for Council to hold the Board to account, should be rationalised and streamlined. 			
13.5	PDr advised that the Board is looking to move to a more strategic focus, but there wasn't yet full consensus on the pace of movement.			
13.6	PDr fielded various questions from Councillors, including on expansion of the strategic action plan dashboard, potential amendments to the Members' Council Terms of Reference in respect of report recommendations adopted by the Board, and future work on defining and understanding different personality types within the Board to better enable co-working.			
14	CEO & Office Report*			
14.1	PDA ran through his slide presentation. The impact of furlough means that there is roughly a 20% reduction in staff capacity.			
14.2	A new partnership deal with Cotswold Outdoor is about to be signed, and the previously deferred payments are back on track.			
14.3	We have received confirmation of rollover funding from Sport England, meaning that fourth year funding will be duplicated for another year (Apr 2021-22). UK Sport continuity funding			

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	(£70k) is being used for a number of covid-secure events including an upcoming paraclimbing event in April or May.			
14.4	Shop sales are buoyant, following the trend during the pandemic of increased online shopping.			
14.5	On membership, PDa reported that the club renewal process is looking positive on the whole, with most clubs having renewed, and only four clubs notifying us that they do not intend to renew, but there has been a 50% reduction in student club members, down from approximately 3,500.			
14.6	The broader membership trend is that we are still losing members overall, due to a number of factors, in particularly the inability of Mountain Training to run courses and very low travel insurance sales.			
14.7	The budget forecast has been re-worked, reducing the deficit from £270k to £200k, but there is still a great deal of uncertainty in the forecast.			
14.8	In addition to the staffing mentioned by PDr, and once the recruitment of the Head of Performance, Nick Colton will complete his secondment to GB Climbing, but will not return to his previous full-time role as Head of Development and Deputy CEO; instead, he will take up a part-time role with a focus on safeguarding and international matters. Whilst retaining his knowledge and experience, this change also provides an opportunity for internal promotion.			
14.9	There has been progress on the strategic action plans, which will be reviewed quarterly using a simple RAG system for tracking. A review of Q1 will take place in April, so a populated dashboard would be available for presentation to the May Council meeting.			
15	Finance Report / Update			
15.1	LR asked DB and BB whether they had anything further to add to previous discussion relating to finance and the FAC. DB advised that the committee had not met for about 6 weeks. LR noted that the appointment of Paul McKoen as Chief Financial Officer may seen changes in the way finances are reported to Council.			
16	Partners' Reports			
16.1	Mountain Training*			

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16.1.1	JC referred the meeting to the report on Teamwork.			
16.1.2	Winter delivery of qualification schemes had been very disrupted, and residential outdoor centres have been hit hard during the pandemic, but association membership has held up, and courses are typically being deferred rather than cancelled. Registrations are down significantly, but are improving and there is hope that this momentum will continue.			
16.1.3	Brexit has had an adverse impact on members of both British Mountain Guides and British Association of International Mountain Leaders, who are exploring one-to-one arrangements with individual EU countries (BMG) and UK-EU Mutual Recognition Agreements (BAIML).			
16.1.4	On a positive note, interaction and collaboration with the BMC has probably been the best it has ever been as both bodies attempt to respond to the challenges brought about by the pandemic.			
16.2	No reports were received from the Association of British Climbing Walls or Plas y Brenin, and no representatives from these partner organisations were in attendance.			
17	Area Reports			
17.1	Lakes			
17.1.1	FS reported that the meeting had discussed transport and parking issues in the national park, and had agreed to request from the Access Management Group a clear policy direction relating to these issues. FS wished to ask Council for its support of this request.			
17.1.2	LR reported that other Areas including North Wales are also affected by this issue, which has been further complicated by the acknowledgement that national parks in the UK will be exceptionally busy as lockdown restrictions are relaxed, and that temporary car parking solutions are likely to be implemented to address this demand.			
17.1.3	Council agreed to support the Area's request to AMG, and PDa agreed to liaise with Dave Turnbull and relevant BMC access & conservation staff to support the development of this policy.	Ensure staff support for transport policy request to AMG	PDa	ASAP
17.2	North East			
17.2.1	As no Area Rep was in attendance, JW, who had attended the Area Meeting, reported that there are a number of Area volunteer vacancies, which need filling if the Area if the Area is to be re-energised			

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17.2.2	Council discussed the issue of area volunteer recruitment, where within the organisation the responsibility for recruitment lay, and what mechanisms to utilise.			
17.2.3	PDa advised that a volunteering strategy is being developed, and will be presented at the next Board meeting. It would be good to have Council input on it too.			
17.3	Yorkshire*.			
17.3.1	AS reported that the meeting had granted support for the Area to begin a conversation with the Land Management Group about access to Giggleswick Quarry. The owner is in principle happy to permit climbing, but might want to rent or sell a particular piece of land.			
17.3.2	CSp said that the BMC's purchase of Craig y Longridge was along these lines, and that the purchase cost had been crowdfunded before purchase was made. PW referenced a crag in the Avon Gorge, where the owner wanted an excessive amount of money for the land on which the crag stood, and advised caution.			
17.4	Peak			
17.4.1	AC reported that the meeting was the best attended for quite a while, and the attraction of a guest speaker (Calum Muskett) had certainly contributed to the increased attendance. The meeting focussed on local issues, and one issue of national importance – the review of the park authority's asset disposal and investment plan – which is due in April, and which the access reps and Stanage Forum group are monitoring.			
17.4.2	An Area Clubs Rep has now been elected, and the Area's first clubs forum meeting will be held later in the month on Zoom, which has proved a useful platform for this type of meeting.			
17.4.3	The two local Mend Our Mountains projects (Cut Gate and the Great Ridge) are progressing, and it is hoped that the work will be finished this summer.			
17.4.4	To note was the lack of discussion following the Council report and the organisational update, which indicates the oversaturation of Area Meetings by governance-related information. As a counterpoint, the success of the recent open forum meetings was highlighted, and a continuation of this type of meeting will enable Area Meetings to focus more on local issues.			
17.4.5	HW started a general discussion about area festival events for 2021, and asked if PDa could confirm if funding was available; he replied that a budget review will go to the Board in a couple of weeks' time, and he would be able to confirm if funding is available after that meeting.			

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17.4.6	Acknowledging that future lockdowns or restrictions on travel and gatherings couldn't be discounted, the possibility of virtual festival events was also briefly discussed.			
17.5	Midlands*			
17.5.1	CSa reported that the meeting had focussed on local issues, including littering and heavy use of normally obscure footpaths, as well as issues in other Areas of interest to members in the Midlands, including the Snowdonia parking consultation and the proposed changes to the trespass laws.			
17.5.2	The Area has a vacancy for the role of Area Secretary, the Chair undertaking the difficult task of carrying out both roles during the March meeting.			
17.6	Cymru North Wales*			
17.6.1	TS reported that the main issues discussed during the meeting were the consultation on traffic planning for Eryri/Snowdonia, the BMC Cymru Manifesto, the Welsh Government's access reform programme, and the recruitment of a BMC policy and campaigns officer for Wales.			
17.6.2	On the traffic planning consultation, the meeting generally felt that the proposed joined-up network sounds good, but some concerns were expressed, so the Area will remain fully engaged with the consultation process.			
17.7	Cymru South Wales			
17.7.1	SQ reported that a member of Gwent MC raised the issue of off-road motorbiking. Following discussion, it was agreed that access officer Elfyn Jones would write an article for the BMC website about the relevant laws, so that BMC members can be better informed about what is permitted, and know how to report illegal activity.			
17.7.2	An All-Wales BMC meeting is planned for 22 March, to debate and share ideas about the BMC's Climate Project, and what we should be doing to help address climate change.			
17.7.3	The Range West Briefings are going online for 2021.			
17.7.4	Re-opening of climbing walls was also discussed.			
17.7.5	The Area had responded to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, to ask why it had closed access land without consultation. It is thought that the decision was made because Dyfed-Powys Police didn't have sufficient capability to deal with people travelling into the			

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	area. Two requests for information have been sent, but no response received even though the timescale for responding has lapsed.			
17.8	South West			
17.8.1	PW reported that the last two meetings had been well attended (70+ at each), due mainly to a local issue relating to unauthorised alterations made to the approach and 'belays' in the area known to climbers generically as Anstey's Cove.			
17.8.2	A good outcome was achieved with the establishment of a working group to begin the process of working with the owners and the regulators (the site is a SSSI). In co-ordination with access officer Rob Dyer, a set of guidelines for developing crags has also been produced. PDa to contact Rob re. publishing and promoting the guidelines.	Publish crag development guidelines	PDa	ASAP
17.8.3	HW added that, in addition to discussion of local issues, holding the Area Meetings online had really helped to improve attendance, due to the large size of the Area.			
17.9	London & SE*			
17.9.1	CSt advised that a concern was raised by a member regarding social media posts that have been published promoting BMC membership targeting groups with specific activity interest, which could be interpreted as being different types of membership.			
17.9.2	PDa explained that MarComms had been placing small batch adverts for fact-finding purposes and to gauge interest, and this may be related to the posts which gave concern.			
17.9.3	The closure of indoor walls has seen an increase in traffic on Southern Sandstone, and a balance needs to be struck between advising on the correct practice for climbing on the sandstone outcrops and not overly promoting the venues.			
17.10	North West*			
17.10.1	CSp reported that the Climate Project presentation by access & conservation officer Cath Flitcroft was very well received.			
17.10.2	The future of BMC guidebooks was also discussed, given that the Area sits within the territory for which the BMC publishes definitive guidebooks, and the latest series of definitive guidebooks has now been completed.			
18	Role of President – Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
18.1	LR referred the meeting to the paper on Teamwork, which included the ToR for the group, and advised that AS was standing down from membership of the group.			
18.2	RD reported that the group wanted to find a fifth member to replace AS, and is recommending Alex Hamilton-Baily joins the group on a personal and voluntary basis. Alex is a partner at Odgers Berndtson, the recruitment company engaged for the recruitment of the Independent Directors, and has relevant professional experience of similar organisations to the BMC; he is a mountaineer, and a BMC member.			
18.3	RD consulted with PDr, who was happy that Alex's involvement would not constitute an inappropriate relationship, and then approached Alex, who indicated he would be happy to join the group.			
18.4	A poll was conducted on the proposal to recruit Alex Hamilton-Baily to the Task & Finish Group: For = 18; Against = 0; Abstain = 0; Non-voting members = 6. Council approved the appointment.	Agreed		
18.5	LR agreed to email Roger Fanner, chair of the group, to advise.	Email Roger Fanner re. appointment of Alex Hamilton-Baily	LR	ASAP
18.6	CSp commented that he was slightly uncomfortable voting for someone who hasn't presented to Council or provided a CV.			
19	Articles of Association*			
19.1	LR invited AS to talk about the proposed changes to the Articles.			
19.2	AS referred the meeting to the papers on Teamwork, which had been developed through the work of the Task & Finish Group.			
19.3	Although the Governance Working Group (GWG) report talks more broadly about co-option to the Board, the Articles only talk about co-option of Nominated Directors. JW, as Chair of the GWG, is keen to include the GWG report recommendation in the Articles, and AS advised that they would try to do this if there is adequate time for consultation.			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
19.4	JW said that no concerns had been flagged, and the recommendation is about widening the ability to co-opt, but co-optees must meet relevant criteria. It was also about having the ability to give directors the ability to step out short term without losing them permanently.			
19.5	DB requested an explanation of Article 18.10.3., which states: <i>Subject to Articles 18.8.1., 18.9. and the Area ToR, Constituency Councillors may serve for so long as the relevant Area or distinct group determines.</i>			
19.6	AS replied that it means that it means that Constituency Councillors can serve a maximum of 6 years, and their period of service is determined by their constituency.			
20	2021 Council Meeting Dates and Area Meeting Periods*			
20.1	LR referred the meeting to the paper on Teamwork, and advised that there a doodle poll is currently being conducted for Board meetings after the 25 March meeting.			
21.2	There was a discussion about the proposed Council meeting dates, noting in particular a long gap potentially between November 2021 and March 2022 meetings.			
20.3	The need to set Council meeting dates, so that Areas can set their meeting dates, was acknowledged, but it was felt that further consideration by the R33 working group and the work plan group led by MG was needed before agreeing Council dates beyond the next definite meeting on 16 May.			
20.4	The Specialist Committee review process also needs to be considered in relation to Council meeting dates.			
20.5	It was also acknowledged that the switch to Members' Council, should it be approved at the AGM, will bring about a transitional period in ways of working for Council, and that might affect the calendar of meetings.			
21	Date of Next Meeting			
21.1	The next full Council meeting will be on Sunday 16 May 2021 (the day after the AGM) and will be an online meeting.			
21.2	There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting, thanked everyone for their time, and encouraged Councillors to attend the AGM.			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
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Item	Action	Involving	Target date
4.2	Review and comment on draft minutes	All	22 March
5.6	Notify Board and Company Secretary about CND resolution to go before AGM	LR	Immediate
7.6	Arrange meeting to discuss AYC role review	CSt	ASAP
7.9	Review of strategy/business plan for grassroots competitions	CSp	ASAP
8.4.7	Arrange interim Council meeting to vote on the Specialist Councillors and agree list of observers	HW	ASAP
8.4.8	Include on interim Council meeting issue that PS is a Director but will not be a Councillor in the proposed structure.	LR	ASAP
17.1.3	Ensure staff support for transport policy request to AMG	PDa	ASAP
17.8.2	Publish crag development guidelines	PDa	ASAP

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

Signed  Andy Syme Date 11/06/21

Lynn Robinson, Chair