

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Members' Council

Approved minutes of the 1st Members' Council meeting held by way of Zoom on Sunday 16 May 2021 at 9.30am.

In attendance

Voting Members:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|
| Andy Syme | (AS) | President, and Yorkshire |
| 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 |
| Aaron Hodgson | (AH) | Nationally Elected Councillor (Mountaineers) |
| Steve Clark | (SC) | Nationally Elected Councillor (Rock Climbers) |
| Peter Salenieks | (PS) | Clubs Committee, and Council Nominated Director |

Observers:

| | | |
|------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Paul Drew | (PDr) | Chair, Board of Directors |
| Jonathan White | (JW) | Nominated Director (Clubs) |
| Cressida Allwood | (CA) | Equity Steering Group |
| Peter Judd | (PJ) | Hill Walking Group |
| Roger Murray | (RM) | Organisational Development Group |
| Guy Jarvis | (GJ) | Mountain Training |

Others:

| | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------------|
| Paul Davies | (PDa) | Chief Executive |
| Tony Ryan | (TR) | Minute taker |

* 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 first meeting of Members' Council, the newly reconstituted body replacing National Council, following the successful adoption of new Articles of Association at yesterday's BMC AGM. | | | |
| 1.2 | Apologies were received from John Cousins, Mike Rosser and Tarquin Shipley. | | | |
| 2 | Note Conflicts of Interest | | | |
| | None noted. | | | |
| 3 | Urgent issues for AOB | | | |
| 3.1 | Yosemite Wilderness Climbing Permits (Carl Spencer) | | | |
| 3.1.1 | CSp raised this issue, which related to an announcement earlier this month by Yosemite National Park of a new pilot program requiring wilderness climbing permits for overnight big wall climbs in the park. | | | |
| 3.1.2 | There was a discussion about whether the BMC ought to issue a statement in response to the announcement, acknowledging that we might want to consult with other national federations first. | | | |
| 3.1.3 | It was agreed that the International Committee should be consulted, and that the Chair would contact Ian Parnell (International Committee Chair) and the committee's secretary, Nick Colton, to validate any concerns we might have, and agree on appropriate action. | Liaise with International Committee | AS | ASAP |
| 3.2 | Re-opening of Clubs (Peter Salenieks) | | | |
| 3.2.1 | PS reported that with JW and others, he is preparing a proposal to go to the Board next week, and wished to know whether Council would support the proposal in principle, which is a specific and rapid request for financial support of around £10k to work with clubs and MarComms in boosting membership in quick time. | | | |
| 3.2.2 | The Chair asked whether any Councillors were against offering support in principle; no opposition was expressed, so Council agreed in principle to support the proposal. | Agreed | | |

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|------------|--|--|-----------|-------------|
| 4 | Minutes of previous meetings | | | |
| 4.1 | TR advised that the minutes of previous full meeting (13 March 2021) had not yet been completed, and apologised that they were not yet available. Like many other members of staff, he was finding it challenging to manage his workload whilst being furloughed, effectively reducing his working hours by 40%. TR agree to issue the minutes the following week for agreement on next call. | Minutes from 13 Mar to be published | TR | ASAP |
| 4.2 | The Chair agreed that the issue of meeting minutes would be covered in item 6.2 (Proposed Ways of Working), and said that he wanted to find a manageable way to make the minutes publicly available as soon as possible after each meeting. | | | |
| 5 | Introduction of new Councillors | | | |
| 5.1 | The Chair invited the new Councillors to tell Council a little bit about themselves. | | | |
| 5.2 | Aaron Hodgson (NEC for Mountaineers): born in Liverpool, lives in Scotland having moved there for PhD studies, spends as much time as he can in the mountains, doing a range of activities. | | | |
| 5.3 | Steve Clark (NEC for Rock Climbers): probably familiar to Councillors for his previous volunteering with the BMC, and also as the husband of outgoing President Lynn Robinson. | | | |
| 5.4 | The Chair then asked the other Councillors to say a little bit about themselves for the benefit of the new Councillors. | | | |
| 5.5 | Lynn Robinson joined the meeting briefly to enable Council to thank her for all the work she undertook as President, and for SC to present a gift to Lynn on behalf of Council. | | | |
| 6 | President's Introduction | | | |
| | The Chair said that he looked forward to the Council being able to focus more on members and less on governance and holding the Board to account. He also hoped that Council would be able to go back to holding some physical meetings going forward. | | | |
| 6.1 | Council Dates Plan* | | | |
| 6.1.1 | The Chair gave an explanation for his proposal to put Members' Council on a fixed schedule, and how he had settled on the suggested schedule (2 nd Sat in Feb, 2 nd Sat in May, 3 rd Sat in Jul, 2 nd Sat in Nov), which would also enable Area Meetings to continue to be | | | |

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|------------|---|-------------------|-----|------|
| | scheduled in a two-week block shortly before each Council meeting. The proposal was well received by Council, noting that Areas may wish to retain their regular days and that the rotating schedule proposed was only indicative of what could be done. | Noted | | |
| 6.1.2 | In tandem, the Chair proposed to make use of a series of evening calls both before and after each Council meeting: a call two weeks before, to clear off any items that could be cleared and to work out what to focus on in the full meeting; and then 3 weeks after, to address any items not covered in the full meeting due to lack of supporting papers or lack of time, if necessary. | | | |
| 6.1.3 | The Board can work around Council dates to ensure appropriate spacing between meetings, and open forum events can be organised to remove the need for governance-related matters to go to Area Meetings. | | | |
| 6.1.4 | All meeting attendees were asked to vote on the proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with proposal: 24 • Agree with the principle, but not dates suggested: 1 • Do not agree dates should be scheduled: 1 • Abstain: 1 | Agreed | | |
| 6.2 | Proposed Ways of Working* | | | |
| 6.2.1 | The Chair explained that the main meetings will focus on the Vision Events, any votes required, updates on routine matters and discussions that require face-to-face interactions. | | | |
| 6.2.2 | The evening meetings will cover urgent issues, pre-discussions to facilitate votes, and can also be used to reduce the agenda for the full meetings. | | | |
| 6.2.3 | The Chair emphasised the importance of papers being available in advance of meetings, to enable Councillors to read them, otherwise the agenda item to which they relate will not be included in the meeting, unless there is a good reason to allow it. | | | |
| 6.2.4 | It was suggested that Council might want to consider how Areas report to it, since the Area Report item on National Council agendas often got dropped when other business dominated meetings. | | | |
| 6.2.5 | With the appointment of Nationally Elected Councillors, a method for their reporting to Council was also required. | | | |

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|------------|--|--|-----------|---------------|
| 6.2.6 | It was agreed that the Implementation Group (IG) would consider how Area and National Reports could be best fed into Council; in addition, the group would consider how members who do not reside in one of the BMC Areas (e.g. members in Scotland) can be represented. It was also agreed that sharing of relevant information with and across Areas could be improved. | IG to consider how best to incorporate Area and National Reports, and the sharing of information across Areas | HW | 5 July |
| 6.2.7 | The balance of virtual, physical, and potentially hybrid full meetings was discussed, acknowledging the issues of accessibility, cost and carbon footprint. It was agreed that the Chair would bring some proposals to the July Council meeting in respect of the remaining 2021 meeting in November and the 2022 meetings, including a plan to involve Area Officers in one of the meetings. | Paper for July Council meeting on mix of virtual and physical Council meetings | AS | 5 July |
| 6.2.8 | Publication of meeting minutes was discussed, including the pros and cons of publishing draft minutes as soon as possible after each meeting whilst providing adequate time for Councillors to comment on drafts before publishing. | | | |
| 6.2.9 | It was agreed that the timeline for publishing minutes would be as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TR to produce draft minutes within one week of meeting, and put on Teamwork for comment. 2. Councillors to comment on minutes in second week after meeting; if there is agreement to the draft, approved minutes can be published after the second week. 3. If there is anything contentious in the draft which requires further discussion, the follow-up evening meeting three weeks after a full meeting will be used to agree an approved set of minutes. | Agreed | | |
| 6.2.10 | In respect of voting, where a formal vote of Council is required in an online meeting, there will be a 'non-voting member' option in the vote. | Noted | | |
| 6.2.11 | For issues that do not require a Council Vote, the Chair would prefer to use Attendees Agreements, to enable all meeting attendees to vote on issues that affect them (e.g. dates of meetings). Where an Agreement is proposed it may be vetoed by any voting member, who can require the item to be decided by a Council Vote instead. | Noted | | |
| 6.3 | President's Report* | | | |
| 6.3.1 | The Chair referred to the report submitted by Lynn Robinson. | | | |
| 6.4 | Code of Practice* | | | |

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|----------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|------|
| 6.4.1 | The Chair reminded Councillors of the importance of adhering to the code. PS said that later in the meeting there would be a recommendation from the CNDs to amend the code to align it with the corresponding code for directors (see item 13.1). | | | |
| 7 | Nationally Elected Councillor (Indoor Climbers): Way Ahead* | | | |
| 7.1 | Items 7 and 8 were taken jointly. | | | |
| 7.1.1 | <p>HW summarised the structure of Members' Council and advised that three of the voting member roles did not receive any candidates for election at the AGM. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally Elected Councillor for indoor climbers; • Constituency Councillor for candidates of Mountain Training; • Constituency Councillor for members of BMC Affiliated Clubs. | | | |
| 7.1.2 | The R33 Working Group feels that these roles are still fundamental to the success of Council and the BMC strategy, and is therefore proposing that they should be filled by co-option until the 2022 AGM. The BMC does not have a formal co-option policy, but co-option has been used at Board level to co-opt nominated directors. A formal policy should be developed, but that process shouldn't hinder the co-option of these particular positions. | | | |
| 7.1.3 | R33 has produced a 10-point plan for co-opting these vacant positions, and is asking Council to approve the plan, with the aim of co-opting members by the July Council meeting. | | | |
| 7.1.4 | It is proposed that a small Task & Finish Group (T&FG) is formed and is solely responsible for selecting and appointing the co-optees on behalf of Council. Council talked about the potential benefit of those on the group having links to the activities or sectors covered by the vacant roles, and also discussed how candidates might be identified, whether co-optees should be voting members, and how Council might apply a veto option on any proposed co-optee. | | | |
| 7.1.5 | It was agreed that the T&FG would comprise HW, CG and CSp. Council also agreed that the recruitment issues identified in the meeting paper needed consideration, but that should not delay the co-option process. | Agreed | HW, CG and CSp | |
| 7.1.6 | The Chair advised that a vote on this co-option proposal would take place later in the meeting, under item 18, and that the vote would also confirm whether co-optees will be voting members. If the vote agreed to the proposal, the group would be formed. | | | |
| 8 | Constituency Councillors (Clubs and Mountain Training): Way Ahead* | | | |

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|-----------|--|---|-----------|-------------|
| 8.1 | See item 7 minutes (items 7 & 8 taken jointly). | | | |
| 9 | Deputy President | | | |
| 9.1 | The Chair advised that Council can appoint a Deputy President, if it so wishes, and define the role of the Deputy President. He asked if anyone was interested, or had any thoughts on what the role should encompass. | | | |
| 9.2 | There was a general feeling that one is needed, not only as cover for the President, but to share some of the duties, such as event attendance. | | | |
| 9.3 | CSt expressed interest in putting his name forward, particularly with regard to involvement with volunteer activities and events. | | | |
| 9.4 | The Chair agreed to develop a list of priorities for the role, and enable discussion on Teamwork, so that it could be brought to the next Council meeting for voting, should anyone wish to stand. | Develop list of priorities for DP role and share on Teamwork | AS | ASAP |
| 10 | Agree Vision Event for next two Council meetings* | | | |
| 10.1 | MG outlined the purpose of Vision Events, forming a key part of Councils two-year agenda and addressing the BMC strategic plan and the Vision (to create a better future for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers) contained in it. | | | |
| 10.2 | He explained the proposed schedule of the Vision Events (July 2021: rock climbing; November 2021: indoor climbing; February 2022: mountaineering; May 2022: hill walking), and also explained the process for organising a Vision Event and the timeframe in relation to the above schedule. MG acknowledged that there was limited time to plan for and organise the July Vision Event. | | | |
| 10.3 | He hoped to be able to agree some detail today for the July event, enlist Councillors to organise it, and get suggestions for participants from outside of Council. | | | |
| 10.4 | SC volunteered to organise the rock climbing Vision Event, and AH volunteered to support SC for the July event, as well as lead on organisation for the mountaineering event in February 2022. SQ and CSa also offered to join the organising group for the July event. | Noted | | |

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|------|--|--|-----------|---------------|
| 10.5 | There was a discussion about the proposed sequencing and the desired outcomes of these events, particular in relation to how the events might influence future strategic plans. There was an acknowledgement that implementation and development of events would take some time, and there was a need to avoid being too prescriptive at this stage. | | | |
| 10.6 | All meeting attendees were asked to vote on the proposed schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with proposal schedule: 19 • Wish to reorganise the order: 3 • Abstain: 0 | Agreed | | |
| 10.7 | A question was asked about the plan for integrating the annual Specialist Committee reviews, which traditionally had been a significant part of the November Council meeting, and had been expanded to cover two meetings (in December and January) recently, given that the rock climbing event in November will probably require a full morning session. PDa said that a recommendation from the Specialist Committee Review T&FG would be made about how best to carry out the reviews. | | | |
| 10.8 | It was agreed that the four volunteers for organising the July event would present a plan at the catch-up call scheduled for 8 June. | Present plan for rock climbing Vision Event | SC | 8 June |
| 10.9 | It was also agreed that the Vision Event for the November meeting would be indoor climbing. Acknowledging that currently there is no NEC for indoor climbers, and that the NEC is likely to want to lead on organisation, it was agreed to pick up the formation of an organising group at the June 8 catch-up call when we might be closer to having someone in the role. | Include formation of organising group for indoor climbing Vision Event on 8 June agenda | AS | ASAP |
| 11 | Area Reports | | | |
| 11.1 | Council agreed to push back this item to the 3-week call. | Include Area Reports on 8 June meeting | AS | ASAP |
| 12 | Constituency Reports | | | |
| 12.1 | As the relevant Councillors were only appointed yesterday, there was nothing to report. | | | |
| 13 | CND Report* | | | |
| 13.1 | In respect of the Council's Code of Practice, and as mentioned in item 6.4, the CNDs were not proposing specific changes to it, but recommending it be reviewed in order to maintain | | | |

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|-------------|--|--|-------------------|---------------|
| | alignment with the Board Code of Practice. RM volunteered to assist PS and the Chair with this review, and bring the revised Code to the July meeting. | Review Code of Practice and present to 17 July meeting | AS, PS, RM | 5 July |
| 13.2 | FS mentioned a series of facilitated sessions being planned to improve leadership effectiveness. The session planned for 15 June (6.30 to 9.00pm) will be held virtually on Zoom, attendance is open to all Councillors to attend, and she requested that any Councillor wishing to attend should let her know. The session will not be recorded, but it might be possible to produce some notes for circulation afterwards. | Let FS know if want to attend 15 June facilitated session | All | ASAP |
| 13.2.1 | Another session is planned for 19 June (10.00am to 5.00pm), and will be a face-to-face meeting, attended by Board members, senior management staff, and some Councillors who have been key players in the Council during the past year. The Chair asked Councillors who might wish to attend this session to contact him so that an attendance list can be confirmed. | Express interest to the Chair if you want to attend 19 June facilitated session | All | ASAP |
| 13.3 | Other aspects of the report highlighted included the approval by the Board of the Specialist Committee Review report, and the re-forecast of the budget based on membership figures provided to the Board on 25 March, estimating a risk to membership income versus the budget of £(100)k. PDa explained the process of forecasting based on update membership figures, and will present the latest membership figures in his CEO Report later in the meeting. | | | |
| 13.4 | In relation to the report's reference to addressing grassroots climbing competitions, CSp reported that he will be meeting with PDa, Lorraine Brown (the new GB Climbing Head of Performance) and Rab Carrington (CCPG Chair) in the coming week. | | | |
| 13.5 | The issue of reports to Council from various Board members was briefly discussed, and the Chair advised that a version of the Campbell Tickell report will be made available to Council, containing recommendations for how Council and Board interact. There was general agreement in the meeting that Council wants to receive one report from the Board, replacing the current reporting process of separate Chair, President, CND and CEO reports. Further discussion of this issue will take place under item 24 (Board Reporting). | Noted | | |
| 14 | ToR Implementation Group / Councillor Skills Survey | | | |
| 14.1 | ToR Implementation Group* | | | |
| 14.1.1 | MG explained the purpose of the Implementation Group, which was to assist Council in implementing the Council's Terms of Reference (ToR), and provide an overview and guidance on such matters as meeting agendas, ToR review processes, maintenance of a Council 'knowledge base', and the setting up of Task & Finish Groups. | | | |

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|-------------|--|--|---------------------|-------------|
| 14.1.2 | Two key roles are suggested to help with the planning and organisation of the IG: People & Culture: Constitution of Council, Communications and Consensus Building Strategy & Organisation: Vision Events, Agenda, Innovation and Renewal The above two roles to be appointed today. | | | |
| 14.1.3 | Additionally, there is a need to appoint a small group of volunteers to run and maintain Councillor skills survey, to inform future appointments and running of Council. It is also proposed that Council agrees to appoint those from R33, who wish to continue and/or handover to new Councillors. | | | |
| 14.1.4 | The Chair asked if there was any interest in the key role relating to strategy and organisation MG expressed a desire to continue for a period; there were no other expressions of interest. | Agreed | | |
| 14.1.5 | The Chair asked if there was any interest in the key role relating to people and culture. HW expressed a desire; there were no other expressions of interest. | Agreed | | |
| 14.1.6 | The Chair expressed a desire for Councillors not on R33 to get involved with the IG, to assist in bringing new ideas to the group. HW suggested that there was opportunity for task-based involvement of other Councillors within the framework outlined, enabling contribution without the need for permanent membership. It was agreed that the Chair would meet with MG and HW to discuss how to involve other Councillors. | Chair to discuss with MG and HW how to get other Councillors involved with IG | AS | ASAP |
| 14.2 | Councillor Skills Survey | | | |
| 14.2.1 | MG noted that the need for a survey had been agreed previously, and two or three people were now required to develop the survey content, to discover what skills and interests Councillors had, and thereby assist MG and HW in identifying who best to ask for support with specific tasks. The survey could also provide content for the proposed Councillor biographies page on the BMC website. | | | |
| 14.2.2 | It was suggested that CSt might wish to take a lead on the survey, and could call on support where required. Following discussion, it was agreed that CSt and SQ would lead on the survey, with input from CA, RM and HW. | Agreed Report back on 8 Jun | CSt & SQ | |
| 15 | Update from Review of Specialist Committees | | | |
| 15.1 | The Specialist Committee Review Report from the Organisational Development Group (report by Roger Murray & Dave Brown) has been approved by the Board with two minor changes, having previously been approved by Council. As reported in the previous update | | | |

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|-----------|---|--|------------|-------------|
| | to Council, the review T&FG has provided feedback to Specialist Committee chairs and associated staff. It continues to progress the recommendations of the report, and will keep Council updated. | | | |
| 15.2 | RM wished to record his appreciation to PDa for the amount and quality of feedback provided to Specialist Committees. | | | |
| 15.3 | <p>PS advised that three committees had been identified as requiring more work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Huts Group had been encouraged to be more ambitious and extend its reach; some good volunteers had come forward to support this development; 2. One of the two changes mentioned above is a recommendation to develop an implementation plan to split the Finance & Audit Committee into a "Finance Committee" and an "Audit & Risk Management Committee"; 3. The other change is a recommendation to develop a proposal for the addition of an "Indoor Climbing Committee". | | | |
| 15.4 | It was agreed that the Board paper containing a summary against each committee could be shared with Council subject to agreement from Specialist Committee chairs. | Contact chairs not at meeting to get agreement to share | PS | ASAP |
| 16 | Finance Report / Update | | | |
| 16.1 | BB reported that there is a shortfall in income compared to forecast, and action is being taken to address this shortfall by reducing expenditure. | | | |
| 16.2 | Some concern was expressed about communications and information sharing between staff, Board and the FAC. DB said that no variance report or membership data was available at the most recent FAC meeting. A Reserves Policy review had been promised in FAC's approach to budgeting, but had not been undertaken. PDa agreed to look at the detail with regards to financial information and address any deficiencies. | Address deficiencies in financial information provision | PDa | ASAP |
| 16.3 | DB also advised that FAC is against the recommendation to separate Audit & Risk from Finance in the committee structure. CSp said that he had been tasked by the Board to review the risk strategy, and at the moment there is no intention of decoupling financial risk from the FAC. JW thought that DB's comment was a complete turnaround in FAC's position. | | | |
| 16.4 | There was a discussion about the replacement of the Treasurer role, and JW explained that the new Chief Financial Officer role replaces that role, as recommended in the Organisational Review, and the CFO reports to the Board but is not a director. | | | |

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|-------------|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| 16.5 | There appear to be misunderstandings between Board members and Council FAC members about a number of issues. It was agreed that the CNDs will report to the Board, requesting that the Board considers how to improve sharing of information between Board, senior staff and the FAC, and report back to Council how it intends to address these issues. | Request to Board to consider improvements in information sharing | CNDs | ASAP |
| 16.6 | PDA added that Council needs to be clear about what it wants from its representatives on the FAC. FS added that this could be considered at the facilitated session on 19 June. | | | |
| 17 | Partner Reports | | | |
| 17.1 | Mountain Training | | | |
| 17.1.1 | GJ wanted to thank the BMC, and PDA in particular, on behalf of the British Mountain Guides, the British Association of International Mountain Leaders, and Mountain Training, for enabling presentation to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Mountaineering on the challenges created by Brexit for international activities. | | | |
| 17.1.2 | Mountain Training had also received some valuable legal advice from BMC lawyers on the status of outdoor bouldering on natural rock; in their opinion, it is a licensable activity under UK adventure activity law, meaning that anyone wishing to instruct or supervise bouldering on a commercial basis to U18s would require an Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) license. | | | |
| 17.1.3 | GJ also summarised the impact of Covid on Mountain Training registrations, which also impacts on BMC membership. In the past month, there has been some positive bounce back on registration numbers. | | | |
| 17.1.4 | GJ also provided a brief summary of recent project / development work. | | | |
| 17.2 | 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. | | | |
| 18 | NEC (Indoor Climbers) (vote on item 7) | | | |
| 18.1 | A vote by Councillors was conducted with regard to the proposal for co-option in relation to the NEC for Indoor Climbers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept the proposal excluding point 4 (voting rights): 0 • Accept the proposal: 13 • Reject the proposal: 0 • Abstain: 1 • Second Area Rep: 3 | Agreed | | |

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|-------------|---|-------------------|-----|------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-voting member: 7 | | | |
| 18.1.1 | The proposal was accepted. | Noted | | |
| 19 | Constituency Councillors (vote on item 8) | | | |
| 19.1 | A poll was conducted with regard to the proposal for co-option in relation to the Constituency Councillor for candidates of Mountain Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept the proposal excluding point 4 (voting rights): 0 Accept the proposal:13 Reject the proposal: 0 Abstain: 1 Second Area Rep: 3 Non-voting member: 7 | Agreed | | |
| 19.1.1 | The proposal was accepted. | Noted | | |
| 19.2 | A poll was conducted with regard to the proposal for co-option in relation to the Constituency Councillor for members of BMC Affiliated Clubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept the proposal excluding point 4 (voting rights): 0 Accept the proposal:13 Reject the proposal: 0 Abstain: 1 Second Area Rep: 3 Non-voting member: 7 | Agreed | | |
| 19.1.2 | The proposal was accepted. | Noted | | |
| 20 | Placeholder for votes required on any other issues raised | | | |
| 20.1 | No other votes were taken. | | | |
| 21 | Memorandum of Understanding update | | | |
| 21.1 | The Chair advised that he had discussed the MoU with PDr, and that both were happy with it at the moment, acknowledging that changes need to be made to it to reflect the change from National Council to Members' Council. | | | |

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|-----------|---|--|-----------|---------------|
| 21.2 | Council discussed whether a T&FG should be formed to review the MoU. It was generally felt that a group would be required, and that the connectivity of the MoU, the Council ToR and the Board ToR would need to be considered when reviewing the MoU. A two-step approach would enable clerical changes to be made quickly, and more substantive changes made after thorough consideration and following anything that might be learned from the facilitated sessions in June. It was also recognised that there will be relevant recommendations in the Campbell Tickell report and potentially from the Board T&FG on reporting. | | | |
| 21.3 | It was agreed that the Chair would liaise with PDr to make minor clerical changes to the MoU, and upload to Teamwork for Councillors to confirm that they approve of the changes, so that AS and PDr can sign the document. | Update the MoU to reflect changes from National Council to Members' Council | AS | ASAP |
| 21.4 | It was also agreed that the July Council meeting would consider how best to take forward the MoU. | Include MoU on July Council agenda | AS | 5 July |
| 22 | Board of Directors Report* | | | |
| 22.1 | The Chair referred Council to the report on Teamwork. | | | |
| 23 | CEO & Office Report* | | | |
| 23.1 | PDa gave a Powerpoint presentation which included graphs and heat maps showing membership data for clubs and individuals over the past decade, and explained how the data is currently being used to regularly review and adjust forecasts. | | | |
| 23.2 | Club membership peaked in 2017. Individual membership has grown over the period 2010 to 2020, but declined with the onset of the Covid pandemic to 2014/2015 levels, and we ended 2020 with around 77,000 members, down from a peak of 85,000. Recent numbers on membership have started to plateau, but we are nowhere near back to normal. | | | |
| 23.3 | In discussion about making savings, PDa said that it involves balancing expenditure reduction with retaining services members expect, using furlough to retain staff for the future, and identifying expenditure that can be delayed. | | | |
| 23.4 | A question was asked about the impact of the U27 membership scheme and any other membership recruitment campaigns. PDa replied that it was difficult to assess the impact right now, and such initiatives need to be given time to run before assessing their effectiveness. | | | |

| Item | Topic and Main Aspects Considered | Decision / Action | Who | When |
|-----------|---|---|-------------|----------------|
| 23.5 | Council welcomed the provision of the data the presentation provided and the discussion it generated. | | | |
| 23.6 | Council requested that PDa report to the July meeting on the more detailed discussions being carried out on grassroots competitions. | Report to July Council meeting on grassroots competitions | PDa | 17 July |
| 24 | Board Reporting | | | |
| 24.1 | RM explained that Council requires relevant information from the Board in order to carry out its role of holding the Board to account. A variety of Board-related reports are currently presented to Council, and it was felt that a single, consolidated report could increase efficiency and reduce the workload of directors and senior staff. RM acknowledged the need for Board confidentiality, recognising that not everything can or needs to be shared with Council. | | | |
| 24.2 | It was felt that a T&FG was not required, but that a small group of Councillors could work with the CEO to develop a reporting format, incorporating feedback that directors have received from Campbell Tickell. If possible, this streamlined approach could be trialled at the July Council meeting, and developed from there. | | | |
| 24.3 | The flow of information to Areas and Specialist Committees was also discussed. The Chair acknowledged that timing of information provision had been a frequent issue in the past, and suggested that the November Council meeting might provide an opportunity to engage with Area Officers by extending invitation to the meeting to them, in order to discuss how best to manage the flow of information in future. | | | |
| 24.4 | A poll was conducted of all attendees with respect to the Board Reporting T&FG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree T&FG required: 2 • Agree T&FG required and volunteer to participate: 0 • CNDs to work with Paul Davies and present in new format at next meeting: 19 • Abstain: 3 | Agreed | | |
| 24.5 | It was agreed that a T&FG was not required and that the CNDs would take on the responsibility for developing, in consultation with the CEO, the Chair of the Board and relevant others, a single Board report, and present this new format at the next full Council meeting. | Develop single Board Report for Council and present at 17 July meeting | CNDs | 5 July |

| Item | Topic and Main Aspects Considered | Decision / Action | Who | When |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 25 | AYC / Youth Rep Update | | | |
| 25.1 | It was agreed to push back this item to the 8 June call. | Include on 8 June agenda | AS | ASAP |
| 26 | Teamwork Calendar | | | |
| 26.1 | It was agreed to push back this item to the 8 June call. | Include on 8 June agenda | AS | ASAP |
| 27 | Volunteer Strategy T&F Group | | | |
| 27.1 | The Chair felt that a T&FG was needed to bring together various strands, including the volunteer strategy developed by Volunteers Officer Jane Thompson, the R33 working group recommendations on volunteer support, and the Area Review recommendations, so that a task list could be compiled and actions completed. | | | |
| 27.2 | Council agreed with this approach, and the Chair asked for volunteers to assist CSt, who wished to lead the T&FG, in working with the CEO and the Volunteers Officer. It was agreed that PS and PW would assist, and be able to call on other Councillors for help. | Noted | | |
| 27.3 | The Chair requested that CSt produce some basic draft ToR for the T&FG, in the form of a single page document, to be presented for approval at the July Council meeting. | Produce draft ToR for T&FG | CSt | 5 July |
| 28 | NomCom Rep for 2021 | | | |
| 28.1 | The Chair advised that Council was seeking someone to replace MG as Council representative on the Nominations Committee, and that RD had volunteered to take on the role. | | | |
| 28.2 | The Chair invited other Councillors to put their name forward. No one wished to be considered, and the meeting agreed that RD would become the Members' Council representative on the Nominations Committee. | RD Appointed | | |
| 29 | Member Code of Conduct T&F Group | | | |
| 29.1 | The Chair referred to a group set up by the Board to examine the behaviour of specific members. Its work had stalled, and he felt that it needed to be restarted, looking not at the behaviour of specific members, but more broadly at three specific points: | | | |
| | 1. General code of conduct for members; | | | |

| Item | Topic and Main Aspects Considered | Decision / Action | Who | When |
|-----------|--|---|------------------|---------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Process for assessing infringements of the code; 3. Application of sanctions. | | | |
| 29.2 | There was some discussion about work already done in this area. An observation was made that ownership of the code would sit better with Council, as the representative body of members, than it would with the Board. The importance of ensuring that staff are protected in circumstances where they are not permitted to defend themselves (e.g. attacks on social media) was emphasised. | | | |
| 29.3 | Following discussion of the composition of a T&FG, it was agreed that the group would be chaired by Rik Payne, a former Councillor and CND, and that SC would join the group; The Chair agreed to contact CG, to ask if she wished to join, and also suggest to Rik Payne that he consider two BMC members for inclusion, Spenser Gray and Les Ainsworth. The Chair also agreed to ask PDa to identify any appropriate members of staff for inclusion. Given that CSt had already been involved in work in this area, if he wished to join the group, the Chair would consider that request. | Contact various people about T&FG membership | AS | ASAP |
| 29.4 | The Chair agreed to draft an overall specification of requirements and wanted the group to bring its ToR to the July Council meeting, and hoped that significant progress on the code could be made by the November meeting. | Draft specification of requirements | AS | ASAP |
| | | Produce draft ToR for T&FG | RP via SC | 5 July |
| 30 | Date of Next Meeting | | | |
| 30.1 | A follow-up to today's meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday 8 June (19:00-21:00) | Noted | | |
| 30.2 | The next full Council meeting will be held on Saturday 17 July; this will also be held on Zoom, start time to be confirmed. | Noted | | |
| | A pre-meeting for 17 July will be held on Zoom on Tuesday 6 July (19:00-21:00) | Noted | | |
| | There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 16:25 and thanked everyone for their time and their contributions, especially MA, who was attending his last Council meeting as North East Area Representative. | | | |

Summary of actions:

| Item | Action | Involving | Target date |
|--------|---|-------------|-------------|
| 3.1.3 | Liaise with International Committee re. Yosemite Wilderness Climbing Permit | AS | ASAP |
| 4.1 | 13 March 2021 meeting minutes to be published | TR | ASAP |
| 6.2.6 | Implementation Group to consider how best to incorporate Area and National Reports, and the sharing of information across Areas | HW | 5 July |
| 6.2.7 | Paper for July Council meeting on mix of virtual and physical Council meetings | AS | 5 July |
| 9.4 | Develop list of priorities for DP role and share on Teamwork | AS | ASAP |
| 10.8 | Present plan for rock climbing Vision Event | SC | 8 June |
| 10.9 | Include formation of organising group for indoor climbing Vision Event on 8 June agenda | AS | ASAP |
| 11.1 | Include Area Reports on 8 June meeting | AS | ASAP |
| 13.1 | Review Code of Practice and present to 17 July meeting | AS, PS, RM | 5 July |
| 13.2 | Let FS know if want to attend 15 June facilitated session | All | ASAP |
| 13.2.1 | Express interest to the Chair if you want to attend 19 June facilitated session | All | ASAP |
| 14.1.6 | Chair to discuss with MG and HW how to get other Councillors involved with IG | AS | ASAP |
| 15.4 | Contact Specialist Committee chairs not at meeting to get agreement for sharing of review summary | PS | ASAP |
| 16.2 | Address deficiencies in financial information provision | PDa | ASAP |
| 16.5 | Request to Board to consider improvements in information sharing | CSp, FS, PS | ASAP |
| 21.3 | Update the MoU to reflect changes from National Council to Members' Council | AS | ASAP |
| 21.4 | Include MoU on July Council agenda | AS | 5 July |
| 23.6 | Report to July Council meeting on grassroots competitions | PDa | 17 July |
| 24.5 | Develop single Board Report for Council and present at 17 July meeting | CSp, FS, PS | 5 July |
| 25.1 | Include AYC / Youth Rep Update on 8 June agenda | AS | ASAP |
| 26.1 | Include Teamwork Calendar on 8 June agenda | AS | ASAP |
| 27.3 | Produce draft ToR for Volunteer Strategy T&FG | CSt | 5 July |
| 29.3 | Contact various people about Member Code of Conduct T&FG membership | AS | ASAP |
| 29.4 | Draft specification of requirements for Member Code of Conduct | AS | ASAP |
| 29.4 | Produce draft ToR for Member Code of Conduct T&FG | SC | 5 July |

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

Signed _____ Date 11/06/21 _____


Andy Syme, Chair