

## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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### Members' Council

Approved minutes of the Members' Council meeting held by way of Zoom on Tuesday 8 June 2021 at 7.00pm.

#### In attendance

##### Voting Members:

Andy Syme	(AS)	President, and Yorkshire
Tarquin Shipley	(TQ)	Cymru North Wales
Steve Quinton	(SQ)	Cymru South Wales
Mike Parsons	(MP)	Lakes
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
Mick Green	(MG)	Yorkshire
Rose Gare-Simmons	(RGS)	Nationally Elected Councillor (Hill Walkers)
Steve Clark	(SC)	Nationally Elected Councillor (Rock Climbers)
Peter Salenieks	(PS)	Clubs Committee, and Council Nominated Director
Rab Carrington	(RC)	Competition Climbing Performance Group

##### Observers:

Jonathan White	(JW)	Nominated Director (Clubs)
Cressida Allwood	(CA)	Equity Steering Group
Peter Judd	(PJ)	Hill Walking Group
Roger Murray	(RM)	Organisational Development Group

##### 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
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; apologies for absence</b>			
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the scheduled follow-up meeting to the full meeting held on 16 May 2021, especially Rose Gare-Simmons, attending her first Council meeting since appointment as the Nationally Elected Councillor for Hill Walkers at the AGM in May.			
1.2	No apologies for absence were received.			
<b>2</b>	<b>Note Conflicts of Interest</b>			
	CSt declared a conflict of interest for agenda item 6 (Deputy to the President).			
<b>3</b>	<b>Urgent issues for AOB (to be covered under item 17)</b>			
3.1	<b>Councillor Induction Process (Rab Carrington) – see item 17.2</b>			
3.2	<b>National Navigation Award Scheme (Rose Gare-Simmons) – see item 17.3</b>			
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meetings</b>			
4.1	<b>13 March 2021:</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2021 were approved.	<b>Publish 13 March 2021 minutes on website</b>	TR	<b>ASAP</b>
4.2	<b>16 May 2021:</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2021 were approved.	<b>Publish 16 May 2021 minutes on website</b>	TR	<b>ASAP</b>
4.3	There was a brief discussion about the length of the minutes, which are typically 15-20 pages in length for a full Council meeting. Although lengthy, some Councillors felt this was about right, reflecting the length of a full Council meeting, and acknowledging the high number of agenda items. It was generally agreed that the key to making the minutes more succinct and the task of minute-taking less onerous is to agree accurate agenda item summaries within the meeting.			
<b>5</b>	<b>Co-opted Councillors – Update</b>			
5.1	As a member of the Task & Finish Group (T&FG) formed at the 16 May meeting to select and appoint co-optees on behalf of Council to the vacant Nationally Elected and Constituency Councillor roles, CSp reported that some progress had been made in			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
	identifying potential and reaching out to potential candidates, but another meeting of the T&FG was needed to come up with some more names.			
5.2	RC advised that the CCPG would be happy to work with the NEC for Indoor Climbers and the Indoor Climbing Committee (if/when one is established), and that coaching structures will range from grassroots to elite.			
5.3	It was agreed that the roles needed filling asap, given that Vision Events are being planned. Councillors were requested suggest names of potential candidates for the T&FG to contact. It was suggested that David Matthews, who stood unsuccessfully for the Nominated Director role at the AGM, might be a worthwhile candidate.	<b>Suggest names of potential candidates for NEC and Constituency Councillor roles</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Deputy to the President (DP)*</b>			
6.1	The Chair advised that he wanted the meeting to agree the role description of the DP, invite expressions of interest, and then vote to appoint or delay the vote if more time is required. The core role remains as defined in the February 2019 Council meeting, with the addition of references to specific roles of responsibility for representing and championing the needs of volunteers, and providing a proposal to Council on whether there remains a requirement to amend the Articles of Association to allow for more than one Deputy to the President.			
6.2	It was agreed that the role description should be aligned with the Members' Council Terms of Reference (MC ToR).	<b>Align DP role description with MC ToR</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
6.3	Councillors were asked to vote on whether they agreed to the proposed role description, and any changes agreed in the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the role description = 17 votes</li> <li>• Do not approve the role description = 0 votes</li> <li>• Abstain = 5 votes</li> </ul>			
6.4	The meeting approved the role description for the Deputy to the President.	<b>Agreed</b>		
6.5	When asked by the Chair, CSt confirmed that he still wished to be considered for the role, having expressed interest at the 16 May meeting. Following a discussion on procedure, it was agreed that TR would email the role description to all Voting Members, requesting expressions of interest by Friday 18 June.	<b>Email DP role description to Voting Members, requesting expressions of interest</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>

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6.6	It was agreed that should there be no other expressions of interest, a vote to elect CSt would be conducted by Google Poll. If other expressions of interest were made, a Zoom call would be scheduled to enable candidates to make presentations.	<b>Agreed</b>		
<b>7</b>	<b>Rock Climbing Vision Event (VE) - Update</b>			
7.1	SC advised that work had begun on planning for the VE, that some themes and issues had been identified, including the need for improved communications about the good work carried out by the BMC on behalf of its members and the wider community.			
7.2	SC is happy to progress plans for the VE, with support from a small group including MG, and these can be covered at the Council pre-meeting scheduled for 5 July. It was acknowledged that there will be a process of learning whilst organising the first VEs.			
7.3	The Chair added that an indication of time required for the VE would be useful when setting the meeting agenda.			
<b>8</b>	<b>Indoor Climbing Vision Event - Planning</b>			
8.1	As there is not yet an NEC for Indoor Climbers, the Chair asked Councillors whether they had any ideas or suggestions. It was generally felt that a start on planning could be made without an NEC.			
8.2	PDa reported that he had already had some conversations with CSp and RC about the work of the CCPG, and suggested a discussion and run a 'visioning session' to identify the Council views on what the BMC on indoor climbing should encompass.			
8.3	It was agreed that PDa would lead on this VE, with support from SC, CSa, SQ, and MG, and that PDa would circulate his ideas to Councillors for feedback.	<b>Circulate ideas on Indoor Climbing VE for feedback</b>	<b>PDa</b>	<b>5/7/21</b>
8.4	PDa and others to take forward adding Indoor Climbing NEC when co-opted			
<b>9</b>	<b>Councillor Skills Survey</b>			
9.1	CSt gave a progress update and referred to the draft survey which had been compiled in conjunction with SQ; he welcomed feedback on it, noting that it shouldn't be treated like the Board's skills matrix and wasn't a scoring system.			
9.2	There were a number of improvements suggested which CSt will implement.			

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9.3	CSt advised that the survey will be digitised following feedback from Council, and requested that feedback should be provided within the next week, after which the survey will be circulated for completion.	<b>Provide feedback on Councillor skills survey to CSt</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>18/6/21</b>
9.4	There was a brief discussion about whether the survey was strong on experience and skills, but less so on competencies, and how the questions in the survey would be used to develop best use of Councillors' skills. The Chair thought that we needed to go through the process, and review its usefulness in a year's time.	<b>We will implement the survey ASAP and then review how effective it is in Jul 22.</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>July 2022</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)*</b>			
10.1	The Chair explained the minor changes made to the MoU, mainly to reflect the change from National Council to Members' Council, and advised that it was his intention to co-sign the revised document with PDr as Chair of the Board; Council agreed that he could do this.	<b>Agreed</b>		
10.2	In terms of reviewing the MoU more substantially, it was agreed that this would be included as an agenda item for the 17 July meeting, with the aim of forming a T&FG to develop a plan and timeline for reviewing the MoU.	<b>Include MoU on 17 July meeting agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>18 June</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Volunteer Strategy Task &amp; Finish Group – Terms of Reference*</b>			
11.1	CSt advised that the main purpose of today's discussion would be to agree the ToR and membership for the Volunteer Recommendations Implementation T&FG, which will work with officers to support and progress implementation of recommendations made by several T&FG which have reviewed a number of areas in the organisation which relate predominantly to the work of volunteers and their interaction with members.			
11.2	A Volunteer Steering Group is in the process of being established, to look at the overall volunteering strategy. Some of the work of the recommendations implementation group may cross over with the steering group's work.			
11.3	There was a discussion about the need for a Council representative on the steering group. The Chair suggested that CSt talk with volunteers' officer Jane Thompson about this role, and that Council would look to fulfil the role in July, the topic to be included in the 17 July meeting agenda.	<b>Include Council rep on Volunteering Steering Group on 17 July meeting agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>18 June</b>
11.4	The meeting also discussed linkage to the Specialist Committee review recommendations, with PDa commenting that all such elements need to be pulled together to make it work.			

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11.5	Councillors were asked to vote on whether they agreed with the proposed ToR, and any changes agreed in the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the ToR and proposed membership = 18 votes</li> <li>• Approve the ToR but not the proposed membership = 0 votes</li> <li>• Do not approve the ToR or proposed membership = 0 votes</li> <li>• Abstain = 2 votes</li> </ul>			
11.6	The meeting approved the role description for the Deputy to the President.	<b>Agreed</b>		
12	<b>AYC / Youth Rep - Update</b>			
12.1	CSt explained the discrepancy between the role description and the role, and how this discrepancy had developed. During this process of understanding the situation he had conversations with other Councillors (CJ Griffiths, CSa, CSp) and with Zoe Spriggins, the competitions programme manager. These discussions indicated that it would be sensible to split the role into two clearly defined, separate roles.			
12.2	Reference was made to a proposal from youth officer James McHaffie to launch two new area volunteer roles – youth representatives for outdoor climbing and for hill walking – and this proposal was briefly discussed in terms of how the roles might address running events, engagement and representation.			
12.3	It was agreed to look at the issue of youth volunteers in more detail at the 17 July Council meeting, and that CSt would bring proposals to that meeting.	<b>Bring youth volunteer proposal to 17 July Council meeting</b>	<b>CSt</b>	<b>2 July</b>
13	<b>Teamwork Calendar</b>			
13.1	The Chair handed over to CSt to provide a demonstration of the Calendar feature, and the plan to add Events to the Calendar, to enable better sharing of information about relevant events and meetings. Other Teamwork features not currently used by Council include Tasks, Milestones, which can be incorporated into the Calendar.			
13.2	CSt offered to produce a short training video and a help sheet to support Councillors in the use of Calendar.	<b>Produce Teamwork Calendar training video and help sheet</b>	<b>CSt</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
13.3	The Chair asked about Teamwork Chat. CSt explained that it was like the Slack channel Council had previously used, and could be adopted.			

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<b>14</b>	<b>Member Code of Conduct</b>			
14.1	The Chair reported that he had tried to contact Rik Payne about membership of the Member Code of Conduct T&FG, as per the action from the 16 May Council meeting, and will take this action forward.	<b>Noted</b>		
<b>15</b>	<b>Area Reports</b>			
<b>15.1</b>	<b>South West</b>			
15.1.1	No report submitted, and no Area Reps in attendance as both on holiday.			
<b>15.2</b>	<b>London &amp; South East*</b>			
15.2.1	The meeting included a presentation by Andy Gattiker, National Trails & Rights of Way Lead at the South Downs National Park Authority, who spoke about the landscape of the South Downs, including the impact of the grant to the South Downs National Park for footpath repairs which had been made from the BMC's Mend Our Mountains fundraising campaign.			
15.2.2	Following the success of club network events taking place in other areas, Tim Crocker is setting one up for the London & South East Area.			
<b>15.3</b>	<b>Cymru South Wales*</b>			
15.3.1	Bran Devey from Ramblers Wales spoke on the Agricultural White Paper for Wales which has the potential to impact on access; hoping that BMC and Ramblers can work together to lobby the Welsh Government, so that farmers need to preserve access in order to receive payments (that will replace EU CAP payments).			
15.3.2	The meeting was updated on the Freedom on Information request made by the BMC's Committee for Wales to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority for evidence of consultation prior to closing the central part of the Beacons in January 2021 due to COVID risk. The authority had responded, but the feeling was that there was insufficient consultation and the closure was disproportionate and penalized locals who were not allowed to access the hills.			
<b>15.4</b>	<b>Cymru North Wales</b>			
15.4.1	As with the Cymru South Wales Area Meeting (see item 15.3), Bran Devey from Ramblers Wales spoke on the Agricultural White Paper for Wales.			

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<b>15.5</b>	<b>Midlands</b>			
15.5.1	CSa reported that the meeting was not particularly well attended, but some good discussions were had. A growing number of access issues relate to venues which weren't previously popular but have become so as a result of Covid-19 travel restrictions.			
<b>15.6</b>	<b>Peak*</b>			
15.6.1	The meeting was updated on the Park Authority's review of its asset disposal and investment plan, as well as its parking review.			
15.6.2	Progress has been made on the two local Mend Our Mountain projects; work on Cut Gate is almost complete, and work on the Great Ridge is underway.			
15.6.3	The meeting was followed by another really interesting and illuminating presentation and Q&A from Jesse Dufton – a follow on to his widely acclaimed Old Man of Hoy film and giving a lot more insight into how he does the amazing things he does.			
15.6.4	The meeting also discussed AC's impending move to the Lake District, and decided that it was happy for AC to continue as a Peak Area Rep for the rest of this year.			
<b>15.7</b>	<b>North East</b>			
15.7.1	JW reported that the Area currently has a lot of volunteer vacancies and needs re-energising. Mark Goodings, who organises the Newcastle Climbing Centre, is keen to be involved and the July meeting will be a hybrid event (online and in-person at the climbing centre), with free admission to the wall for members attending the meeting.			
15.7.2	The Chair said that he would be happy to support the meeting by attending in-person.			
<b>15.8</b>	<b>Yorkshire</b>			
15.8.1	MG reported on the recent volunteer work, led by local access rep Mick Johnson, to lay a flagstone path on the approach to Almscliff. The path, which runs through a farmer's field, had been getting increasingly muddy over the past few years. Some inconsiderate visitors had been walking along the top of the drystone wall to avoid the mud, which would have damaged the wall and could have soured our relationship with the landowner, so installing a flagstone path to get visitors across the muddy field was the clear solution.			
<b>15.9</b>	<b>North West*</b>			
15.9.1	The latest BMC Covid advice discussed, and all Area Volunteers presented reports (access, hill walking, clubs, youth and walls); CSp and BB presented on behalf of the Council.			




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15.9.2	Members are keen to widen the reach of area comms, including to younger demographic, and to make Area Meetings into more of a two-way discussion, rather than just information giving.			
<b>15.10</b>	<b>Lakes</b>			
15.10.1	No paper or verbal report, as MP had to leave the meeting before this agenda item.			
<b>15.11</b>	The chair thought that we should look at how Areas might be able to share good speakers, especially using the Zoom platform, and asked Councillors to contact him if interested in discussing how to achieve this.	<b>Contact Chair if interested in discussing how to share speakers with other Areas</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>15.12</b>	There was a brief discussion about synchronisation of July Area Meetings with newly adopted schedule of pre/full/post Council meetings, and the Chair acknowledged that some Area Meetings might occur after the full Council meeting on 17 July. The proposed date of 6 July for the Council pre-meeting was switched to 5 July, to avoid a date clash with two Area Meetings (North West and Cymru North Wales).	<b>Noted</b>		
<b>16</b>	<b>Constituency Reports</b>			
16.1	RGS introduced herself as the newly elected NEC for Hill Walkers.			
<b>17</b>	<b>Improving AGM attendance – request for Council from Board</b>			
17.1	The Chair summarised AGM attendance trends in recent years, and asked how we might improve attendance.			
17.1.1	There was a discussion about the need for a T&FG to address this issue, and it was agreed to have a bigger discussion at the 17 July Council meeting.	<b>Include AGM attendance on 17 July meeting agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>18 June</b>
<b>17.2</b>	<b>Councillor Induction Process</b>			
17.2.1	The Chair suggested that Council might like to copy the Board's approach of having an 'important documents' project on Teamwork to host relevant support documentation, or we could put the documentation in the Council Chat project and categorise.			
17.2.2	AC suggested that there should be a link with the proposed Knowledge Base, and recommended that Helen Wilson should co-ordinate, since the R33 group had discussed this issue extensively.			

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17.2.3	The Chair felt that we could make a start by uploading relevant documents to Council Chat, and inviting Councillors to suggest what should be included. Helen Wilson and MG could help to develop this facility. CSt offered his input on folder structures.			
17.2.4	It was agreed that TR would provide administration rights to the Chair and CSt for the Council Chat project on Teamwork, to enable them to develop the feature.	<b>Provide Council Chat admin rights to AS and CSt</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
17.2.5	Secondly, the Implementation Group (IG), led by Helen Wilson and MG, would develop a formal induction process for Councillors.	<b>Develop formal induction process for Councillors</b>	<b>HW, MG</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
17.2.6	PDa suggested that Council might also want to look at the naming of projects on Teamwork, to enable specific projects to be found more easily, and the Chair agreed to do that.	<b>Consider renaming Council Teamwork projects for easier location</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>17.3</b>	<b>National Navigation Award Scheme (NNAS)</b>			
17.3.1	RGS reported that she had recently undertaken the training to deliver these awards; it is a personal performance, non-competitive, incentive scheme for all ages to learn navigation skills and gain confidence to get out and enjoy the countryside.			
17.3.2	She asked whether the BMC had any affiliation to the scheme, and if not, why not?			
17.3.3	Following discussion, it was agreed that PDa would raise the matter with the Partners Assembly, and bring it back to the 17 July Council meeting.	<b>Discuss NNAS with Partners Assembly and report to 17 July Council meeting</b>	<b>PDa</b>	<b>17 July</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>			
<b>18.1</b>	A pre-meeting for the next full Council meeting will be held on Zoom on Monday 5 July (19:00-21:00).	<b>Noted</b>		
<b>18.2</b>	The next full Council meeting will be held on Zoom on Saturday 17 July (9:30-16:30).	<b>Noted</b>		
<b>18.3</b>	A post-meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday 3 August (19:00-21:00), to approve the minutes of the July meetings, and cover any other necessary business.	<b>Noted</b>		
<b>18.4</b>	There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 21:45.			

**Summary of actions:**

Item	Action	Involving	Target date
4.1	Publish 13 March 2021 meeting minutes on website	TR	ASAP
4.2	Publish 16 May 2021 meeting minutes on website	TR	ASAP
5.3	Suggest names of potential candidates for NEC and Constituency Councillor roles	All	ASAP
6.2	Align DP role description with MC ToR	AS	ASAP
6.5	Email DP role description to Voting Members, requesting expressions of interest	TR	ASAP
8.3	Circulate ideas on Indoor Climbing VE for feedback	PDa	5/7/21
9.3	Provide feedback on Councillor skills survey to CSt	All	18/6/21
9.4	Add Councillor Skills survey review to July 2022 agenda	AS	July 2022
10.2	Include MoU on 17 July meeting agenda	AS	18 June
11.3	Include Council rep on Volunteering Steering Group on 17 July meeting agenda	AS	18 June
12.3	Bring youth volunteer proposal to 17 July Council meeting	CSt	2 July
13.2	Produce Teamwork Calendar training video and help sheet	CSt	ASAP
15.11	Contact Chair if interested in discussing how to share speakers with other Areas	All	ASAP
17.1.1	Include AGM attendance on 17 July meeting agenda	AS	18 June
17.2.4	Provide Council Chat admin rights to AS and CSt	TR	ASAP
17.2.5	Develop formal induction process for Councillors	HW, MG	ASAP
17.2.6	Consider renaming Council Teamwork projects for easier location	AS	ASAP
17.3.3	Discuss NNAS with Partners Assembly and report to 17 July Council meeting	PDa	17 July

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



Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 17/7/21

**Andy Syme, Chair**