

## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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### Members' Council

Approved minutes of the Members' Council meeting held by way of Zoom on Monday 5 July 2021 at 7.00pm.

#### In attendance

Voting Members:	Andy Syme	(AS)	President
	Tarquin Shipley	(TQ)	Cymru North Wales
	CJ Griffiths	(CG)	Cymru South Wales
	Fiona Sanders	(FS)	Lakes, and Council Nominated Director
	Chris Stone	(CSt)	London & South East
	David Jones	(DJ)	Midlands, and Huts Group (Observer)
	Claudia Sarner	(CSa)	Midlands
	Carl Spencer	(CSp)	North West, and Council Nominated Director
	David Brown	(DB)	Peak
	Alison Cairns	(AC)	Peak
	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
Cressida Allwood	(CA)	Equity Steering Group	
Observers:	Peter Judd	(PJ)	Hill Walking Group
	Paul Drew	(PDr)	Chair of the Board of Directors
	Jonathan White	(JW)	Nominated Director (Clubs)
	Paul Davies	(PDa)	Chief Executive
Others:	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 pre-meeting to the full meeting to be held on 17 July 2021.			
1.2	Apologies for absence were received from: Robert Duffton; Steve Quinton; Helen Wilson; Philip Wilson			
<b>2</b>	<b>Note Conflicts of Interest</b>			
	No conflicts of interest were declared, although the Chair noted that CSt might have a conflict of interest if the role of Deputy to the President was discussed, having expressed interest in the role.			
<b>3</b>	<b>Urgent issues for AOB</b>			
3.1	Three items are already on the agenda: Beacon Hill (item 11); November agenda (item 12); NEC appointments (item 13).			
3.2	<b>Gareth Pierce</b>			
3.2.1	The Chair informed the meeting of the passing of Gareth Pierce, former Chair of the BMC and dedicated volunteer, who died from sudden cardiac arrest while walking in Snowdonia on Saturday 3 July.			
<b>4</b>	<b>Review of Outstanding Actions, and Review of 17 July Agenda</b>			
4.1	<b>Actions</b>			
4.1.1	Actions from meetings are now added as Tasks to the List feature of the meeting Project on Teamwork. The meeting ran through the Tasks (actions) from the previous three Council meetings, and updated the status of each action.			
4.2	<b>Review of 17 July agenda*</b>			
4.2.1	The Chair asked whether the draft agenda published on Teamwork was realistic in terms of time allocation to agenda items, and if it was felt that some items needed more time, which items should be dropped from the agenda to retain the planned meeting duration.			

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4.2.2	Area Reports are on the agenda because the round of Area Meetings has yet to take place, but in future it is intended that Area Meetings will precede the pre-meeting, and will be on the pre-meeting agenda; if there is anything from the Area Reports which requires further discussion, it can be included in the full meeting agenda.			
4.2.3	It was noted that time allocated to discussion on AGM participation was short, but the Chair advised that it would be just the start of a discussion on this topic.			
4.2.4	It was agreed to add to the agenda an item on the Partners Assembly ToR and outcomes.	<b>Add to 17 July agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Feedback to MC on 19 June Facilitated Session</b>			
5.1	The Chair asked FS to summarise the session on role and responsibilities of Boards and Directors to the meeting.			
5.2	FS referred to the CND Report submitted to the meeting. She thanked those who had attended the sessions, and reported that one of the aims of the sessions is the development of common standards and language within the BMC, to unify our work.			
5.3	Small groups have been delegated to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership development, and induction processes;</li> <li>• Oversight of Specialist Committees;</li> <li>• Board meeting cycle and content, linking with budgetary and strategic planning processes and relationship with Council activity.</li> </ul>			
5.4	The next stage of the process will consider personality profiles and behaviours.			
5.5	The Chair added that he thought the sessions were very useful in helping us move forward.			
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of process for minutes agreement</b>			
6.1	Due to the long gap between follow-up meetings and subsequent pre-meetings, approval of the minutes of follow-up meetings could either be delayed until the subsequent pre-meeting, or Council could agree to approve the minutes electronically.			
6.2	Following discussion, it was agreed that a deadline for approving minutes of follow-up meetings electronically via Teamwork would be agreed at the follow-up meeting. If there were any issues which could not be resolved by that deadline, preventing approval of the minutes, then approval would be delayed until the subsequent pre-meeting.	<b>Agreed</b>		

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<b>7</b>	<b>Council Meetings – Zoom vs Face-to-Face vs Hybrid*</b>			
7.1	The Chair spoke to the proposal in his paper, that the four full Council meetings should comprise two in-person meetings and two online meetings; one of the in-person meetings would be a joint meeting with Area and/or Specialist Committee volunteers. The budget for this proposed mix of meetings would be £9k, compared to approximate historical costs of in-person Council meetings of £3k per meeting / £12k per year. This proposal would have to go to Board for approval.			
7.2	There was no consensus within the meeting on whether two in-person / two online meetings was the correct ratio, there being pros and cons to both types of meeting.			
7.3	There was also discussion about how equal treatment of Vision Events could be ensured within a mix on in-person and online meetings. A suggestion to hold two VEs in each of the in-person meetings was felt by some to risk them being squeezed by other regular and urgent Council business, but spreading them over two years was possibly too long a period.			
7.4	It was agreed that a poll would be run at the 17 July Council meeting on whether to hold two, three, or four in-person Council meetings per year.	<b>Run poll on number of in-person Council meetings</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>17 July</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Progressing the organisation of Council, including sharing contact details</b>			
8.1	The Chair advised that he had received no objections to sharing contact details within Council, and asked CSt to update the spreadsheet based on the responses to the survey.	<b>Update Council contacts spreadsheet on Teamwork</b>	<b>CSt</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
8.2	The Chair asked MG if there was anything he wanted to flag up prior to presentation of his paper at the 17 July meeting.			
8.3	MG advised that translation of skills/interests to Council activities is a key, consultative step, which will be discussed on the day, but MG recommended that in advance of the meeting, individuals considered how they might be involved in the delivery of Council's ToR and activities.			
8.4	The Chair requested that those who haven't yet completed the skills survey do so.			
<b>9</b>	<b>A&amp;C – How should/can we add A&amp;C to routine Council business?</b>			

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9.1	The Chair reported that PJ had emailed him to ask whether we should build into Council's programme a specific focus on access & conservation, given its importance to many members.			
9.2	The meeting discussed whether, and how, to do this, including potential for involvement with Vision Events.			
9.3	The discussion broadened into engagement with Specialist Committees in general.			
9.4	It was agreed that any engagement must be constructive and positive, and Council needs to evolve its practices so that other committees want to be involved.			
9.5	It was agreed that the Chair would contact Specialist Committee chairs and request from them reports of their key issues, but would first look at how best to include this engagement in Council meeting agendas.	<b>Request reports from Specialist Committees</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Board Report, and Grassroots Update</b>			
<b>10.1</b>	<b>Board Report*</b>			
10.1.1	The Chair advised that the report provided to the meeting was in the new combined format consolidating previous separate reports from the CEO, Chair of the Board, President, and CNDs.			
10.1.2	PDa summarised the CEO report, and requested feedback on the layout and approach. The meeting discussed the level and breadth of detail required for Council to have a full understanding of the BMC's financial position. In summary, Council needs to know how finances are measuring up against budget, and what actions are being taken to address any budget deficit.			
10.1.3	It was agreed that the Board would provide more detail for the November Council meeting, and that the Chair and CNDs would articulate at the next Board meeting what such detail should encompass.	<b>Provide Board with reporting requirements for future Council meetings</b>	<b>AS, CSp, FS, PS</b>	<b>24 August</b>
<b>10.2</b>	<b>Grassroots Update*</b>			
10.2.1	The Chair asked CSa for her view on the paper, given her involvement in organising BMC climbing competitions.			
10.2.2	CSa felt that the paper provided a good overview and answered some of the questions that were being asked about the 2021 and 2022 competition programmes. She also wanted to			

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	reassure Council that the general situation was not as problematic as some people might have considered it to be.			
10.2.3	There was a discussion about how Councillors might be able to get involved in their Areas to provide support to make events successful.			
10.2.4	In summary, the Chair felt that there was a plan in place to deliver climbing competitions, and it was being implemented.			
10.2.5	MG asked about the nature of feedback from the consultation and was directed to a hyperlink in the report. PDa added that it was the intention to get feedback from every event going forward.			
10.2.6	In response to a question from JW about communications to walls who had previously hosted rounds of the Youth Climbing Series, but hadn't heard anything about the 2021 series, it was agreed that the BMC should contact them as a matter of courtesy.	<b>Check with Zoe Spriggins re. comms to previous YCS venues</b>	<b>PDa</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
10.2.7	CSp referred to a Facebook group for the North West, on which questions about the organisation of competitions had been posted, and asked if someone from the office could respond.			
10.2.8	The Chair asked PDa to ensure that relevant communications providing answers to these questions were posted on any relevant social media sites.	<b>Communicate competition information on relevant social media sites</b>	<b>PDa</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Beacon Hill – Members only access</b>			
11.1	The local authority which owns Beacon Hill in Leicestershire, has proposed that access should be limited to BMC members only, or perhaps to club members only.			
11.2	The Chair asked whether this was something we should accept as a principle if no other access agreement is possible, as at Cheddar Gorge and Fairy Cave Quarry. The general feeling of the meeting was that proposals should be considered on a case-by-case basis.			
11.3	DJ reported that there had been a meeting with the local authority, which had been attended by access officer Rob Dyer; he would check with Andy Harper, the local access rep for that area, and report back.	<b>DJ to report back on Beacon Hill access meeting</b>	<b>DJ</b>	<b>17 July</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>November meeting agenda</b>			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
12.1	It was agreed that discussion of the November meeting agenda would be left until the full meeting on 17 July.	<b>Include discussion of November meeting agenda on 17 July agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>12.2 Mountain Heritage Trust (MHT)</b>				
12.2.1	The Chair reported that the Mountain Heritage Trust had offered to make a presentation to Council.			
12.2.2	The Chair suggested not including the presentation in the November meeting, but possibly in the February 2022 meeting, which also included the Mountaineering Vision Event.			
12.2.3	There was a broader discussion about the purpose of Council meetings and the use of time within the meetings, and whether this kind of presentation could be accommodated outside of the main meetings, and the Chair concluded that this needed more thought.			
<b>12.3 Specialist Committee Reports</b>		<b>Include Specialist Committee Reports on 17 July agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
12.3.1	The Chair decided that the question about what Council was expecting at the November meeting from the Specialist Committees should be added to the 17 July meeting agenda, as it needs to tie in with the Board's plans for Specialist Committee reporting.			
<b>13 NEC Appointments</b>				
13.1	The chair advised that two expressions of interest had been received, from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oli Lewis – for the Constituency Councillor for Mountain Training Candidates</li> <li>Stuart Holmes – for the Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbers</li> </ul>			
13.2	It was agreed that the Chair would Message all Councillors via Teamwork, and TR would do similarly by email, and unless any Councillor raised an objection by 17:00 on Friday 9 July, they would be appointed to the roles until the next AGM.	<b>Contact all Councillors to advise deadline for objection to co-option</b>	<b>AS, TR</b>	<b>Immediate</b>
<b>14 Date of Next Meeting</b>				
14.1	The next full meeting of Council will be held on Zoom on Saturday 17 July (9:30-16:30).			
14.2	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.			

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14.3	CA has advised that she is stepping down from chairing the Equity Steering Group, and that this would be her last Council meeting; the Chair thanked her for work in support of the BMC.			
14.4	AC, who had arrived late for the meeting, having forgotten about the change of date, suggested that others might also have not realised or forgotten that the meeting date had changed, and might be expecting to attend a meeting tomorrow (6 July), the date on which the meeting was originally scheduled. It was agreed that TR would email everyone, to ensure that they did not waste their time trying to attend a meeting	<b>Email all Council members with reminder about date change</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>Immediate</b>
14.5	There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 21:20.			

**Summary of actions:**

Item	Action	Involving	Target date
4.2.4	Add Partners Assembly ToR & Outcomes to 17 July agenda	AS	ASAP
7.4	Run poll on number of in-person Council meetings	AS	17 July
8.1	Update Council contacts spreadsheet on Teamwork	CSt	ASAP
9.5	Request reports from Specialist Committees	AS	ASAP
10.1.3	Provide Board with reporting requirements for future Council meetings	AS, CSp, FS, PS	24 August
10.2.6	Check with Zoe Spriggins re. comms to previous YCS venues	PDa	ASAP
10.2.8	Communicate competition information on relevant social media sites	PDa	ASAP
11.3	DJ to report back on Beacon Hill access meeting	DJ	17 July
12.1	Include discussion of November meeting agenda on 17 July agenda	AS	ASAP
12.3.1	Include Specialist Committee Reports on 17 July agenda	AS	ASAP
13.2	Contact all Councillors to advise deadline for objection to co-option	AS, TR	Immediate
14.4	Email all Council members with reminder about date change	TR	Immediate

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

Signed  Date 17/7/21

**Andy Syme, Chair**