

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Members' Council

Approved minutes of the Members' Council meeting held by way of Zoom on Tuesday 3 August 2021 at 7.00 pm.

In attendance

Voting Members	Andy Syme	AS	President
	Tarquin Shipley	TS	Cymru North Wales
	Steve Quinton	SQ	Cymru South Wales
	Mike Parsons	MP	Lakes
	Chris Stone	CSt	London & South East (& Deputy to the President)
	Robert Dufton	RD	London & South East
	David Jones	DJ	Midlands (& Huts Group Observer)
	David Brown	DB	Peak
	Alison Cairns	AC	Peak
	Helen Wilson	HW	South West
	Philip Wilson	PW	South West
	Mick Green	MG	Yorkshire
	Abbi Blakey	AB	Training, Youth & Walls Committee
	Oli Lewis	OL	Constituency Councillor for Mountain Training candidates
	Rose Gare-Simmons	RG	Nationally Elected Councillor for Hill Walkers
	Aaron Hodgson	AH	Nationally Elected Councillor for Mountaineers
Steve Clark	SC	Nationally Elected Councillor for Rock Climbers	
Observers	Martyn Hurn	MH	Nominated Director
	Jonathan White	JW	Nominated Director (Clubs)
	Peter Judd	PJ	Hill Walking Group
	Roger Murray	RM	Specialist Committee Review
Others	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 meeting, including Oli Lewis, newly appointed Constituency Councillor for Mountain Training candidates, and Martyn Hurn, elected to the Board as a Nominated Director at the BMC AGM in May; both were attending Council for the first time.			
1.2	Apologies for absence were received from: Neal Hockley			
2	Note Conflicts of Interest			
2.1	No conflicts were declared.			
3	Urgent issues for AOB			
3.1	There were several items raised:			
3.1.1	DB requested an item on the Finance & Audit Committee and the Board.			
3.1.2	MP requested an item on GDPR and Eventbrite.			
3.1.3	Dave Turnbull (Head of Access, Conservation and Environmental Sustainability, ACES) had emailed an offer for ACES to provide a 30-minute online access briefing to Council members and key Area volunteers in advance of each round of Area Meetings.			
3.1.4	As the South West Area Meeting was held after 17/7 Council meeting, they had a couple of issues to raise.			
3.1.5	JW wished to update on clubs.			
4	Review of outstanding Actions			
4.1	The Chair explained the process by which Actions are now created as Tasks in the Teamwork Project for the meeting, where their status can be updated. The meeting reviewed the outstanding actions and updated their status.			

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4.1.1	The Chair explained that the Tasks for any Actions still uncompleted are rolled over into the Teamwork Project for the next meeting.			
4.1.2	RD provided a short update on behalf of NomCom on Chair recruitment.			
4.1.3	SC provided a quick update on actions from the Rock Climbing Vision Event.			
4.2	Minutes of previous meeting*			
4.2.1	17 July 2021: the draft meeting minutes were approved with a couple of minor amendments.	Publish 17 July 2021 minutes on BMC website	TR	Done
4.2.3	AC expressed some difficulty in following the new process of listing Actions as Tasks on Teamwork. CSt advised that he was in the process of uploading help sheets and videos on the Council Chat Teamwork Project, to assist Council members in using the various features on Teamwork.			
4.2.4	CSt offered to arrange a Teamwork training session on Zoom for any Council members who wanted to improve their understanding of Teamwork; he agreed to set up a Doodle Poll of potential dates.	Set up Doodle Poll of dates for Teamwork training session on Zoom	CSt	Done
4.2.5	Under the Partner Reports section, AB offered to provide a report from NICAS for future Council meetings.			
5	Actions from Rock Climbing Vision Event			
5.1	SC reported that some more follow-up work needed to be conducted, including contacting Specialist Committee chairs.			
5.2	The Chair asked SC to provide a short, written summary.	Provide Addendum for 17 Jul Minutes	SC	Done
5.3	MG noted that the schedule for Vision Events included a snapshot at 6 months and 3 months before the event, but no formal output mechanism, which would be useful to have.			
5.4	The Chair suggested that it might be possible to add that element to the November Council meeting.	1. Add Rock Climbing Vision Event output mechanism to November Council meeting	AS	Nov 21

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		2. Add previous vision event updates to standing agenda for main meetings		
6	Specialist Committee and other partner engagement, including Specialist Committee Reports			
6.1	The meeting discussed how to improve engagement with Council of the BMC Specialist Committees, particular those which do not have a vote as a Specialist Councillor, and with the BMC's partner organisations, noting that Mountain Training is the only partner to regularly attend meetings and submit reports.			
6.2	It was felt that a formal reporting process for Specialist Committees wasn't necessary, and that reporting should be initiated by the Specialist Committees or by a request from Council for a report from a particular committee on a specific issue.			
6.3	Terms of Reference for Specialist Committees should be amended to include their duties in respect of their relationship with Council. RM to ensure that this happens during the annual Specialist Committee review process.	Update Specialist Committee ToR to include working relationship with Council	RM	End 2021
6.4	In respect of Specialist Committees with Observer status on Council, it was felt that all Specialist Committees should have access to Council papers, and be able to attend meetings if they wished to, although HW questioned whether all Specialist Committees needed to be Observers, and MG felt that engagement went beyond access to papers and reporting, but needed to include active engagement with Council. It was agreed that the Chair would contact all Council Observers to remind them that they are welcome to attend Council meetings.	Contact Council Observers to encourage meeting attendance	AS	ASAP
7	November meeting items:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MHT – Yes / No / 22 Feb / separate call 			
7.1	The Chair reported that Chris Martin, the new Chair of the Mountain Heritage Trust (MHT) had offered to make a presentation to Council on the Trust's work, and asked whether Council wanted to take up this offer, and if so, when to schedule it.			
7.1.1	The meeting discussed how this scheduling might work, including whether presentations from the BMC's charities (MHT, Access & Conservation Trust, Land & Property Trust) could be included in the annual Specialist Committee review process, and whether there were	Investigate feasibility of adding ACT and MHT into SC feedback sessions.	RM	End 2021

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	opportunities for involvement with Council Vision Events, or even with the proposed 'member weekend' incorporating the BMC AGM which had been discussed at recent Council meetings.			
7.1.2	It was agreed that including MHT and ACT into the Specialist Committee reporting meetings would be sensible as well as including them in a future BMC weekend. Discussion also covered the annual Specialist Committee review process, and RM reported on the Specialist Committee Task & Finish Group's work in relation to this process. The group would conduct the review on behalf of the Board and Council, and additional Council meetings would be required for the review; the Chair to add these meetings into the Council meeting schedule at an appropriate time to incorporate into the budget review cycle.	Add MHT & ACT into AGM 2023 planning as options	AS	ASAP
7.1.3	The meeting also discussed at this point the offer from Dave Turnbull of online access briefings (see item 3.1.3 under Urgent issues for AOB). It was agreed that TR would contact Dave to provide date information on the next round of Area Meetings, and get some potential dates from Dave for an online briefing preceding that round.	Schedule Specialist Committee review meetings into Council calendar	AS	ASAP
		Liase with Dave Turnbull for potential online access briefing dates	TR	ASAP
8	Member Code of Conduct Task & Finish Group*			
8.1	The Chair asked Council members whether they were happy with the ToR document which had been uploaded to Teamwork; no objection to the ToR was expressed.	ToR agreed		
9	Youth Climbing / Hill Walking Rep			
9.1	CSt updated the meeting on this proposal to introduce two new youth-related roles focused on running hill walking and climbing days for young people, which had been initiated by BMC youth & equity officer, James McHaffie. Due to office capacity limitations, the new roles probably wouldn't be operating until 2022.			
9.2	The meeting discussed the need for appropriate vetting procedures and management of safeguarding risks. It was agreed that AB would check with James McHaffie and Jon Garside to confirm that the Training, Youth & Walls Committee is happy with any suggested procedures.	Check vetting procedures approved by TYWC	AB	ASAP
9.3	It was noted that the role title includes 'representative' but the role description is not a representative role; the role title needs to change to reflect the role description.			
9.4	The relationship between the roles and BMC Areas was also discussed. It was felt that the roles didn't need to be tied to specific BMC Areas. The proposal suggested two people for each Area, but recruitment to take place at a national level and managed by the office, to			

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	provide a wider pool of potential candidates for the roles. Council expressed the desire for an Area comms plan, and that TR, as the Local Areas Co-ordinator, should be made aware of the plan, so that he can support pre- and post-event communications to Areas.	Liase with James McHaffie for provision of Area comms plan	TR	ASAP
9.5	The importance of pathways for participants in events organised under these new volunteer roles was also noted.			
10	Youth Council proposal*			
10.1	The Chair requested that Council members read the paper and respond to it by commenting on Teamwork by Tuesday 10 August; if there are no objections, CSt will take forward the proposal.	Provide feedback to proposal by commenting on Teamwork	All	10 August
11	Vote on Member Code of Conduct Task & Finish Group			
11.1	A poll had not been prepared for this vote, but agreement to the ToR had already been given under item 8.			
12	AOB			
12.1	Finance & Audit Committee and Board of Directors (David Brown)			
12.1.1	DB noted that he had been a Council representative on the Finance & Audit Committee (FAC) for four years, and that he felt that in that period relations between the FAC and the Board had deteriorated.			
12.1.2	The meeting discussed the need for regular Director attendance at FAC meetings, the role of the CFO who does not sit on the Board, and the need to strengthen and support the FAC.			
12.1.3	DB felt that Council should express its opinion to the Board on the current situation. The Chair said that interaction between the FAC and the Board was on the agenda for the next Board meeting on 24 August. He agreed to draft a communique to the Board and put up on Teamwork for comment.	Draft communique to Board on relationship with FAC and post on Teamwork for comment	AS	ASAP
12.1.4	The meeting also wished to thank DB for his support to the FAC and to Council as he comes to the end of his six-year term as an Area Representative.			
12.2	GDPR and Eventbrite (Mike Parsons)			
12.2.1	Due to a lack of time, this AOB item was not covered.			


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12.3	ACES Briefing			
12.3.1	Already covered at 7.1.3			
12.4	SW area meeting feedback			
12.4.1	Due to a lack of time, this AOB item was not covered.			
12.5	Update on clubs			
12.5.1	Due to a lack of time, this AOB item was not covered.			
13	Date of next meeting:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-meeting – 2 November• Full meeting – 13 November• Post-meeting – 7 December			
13.1	At this point in time, the plan for the full meeting on 13 November is to hold an in-person meeting in Manchester, but not at the BMC office. A venue with more space, to allow for social distancing is being sought by TR.			

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 21:35.

Summary of actions:

See [2nd MC Outstanding Actions](#)

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

Signed  Date 17 Aug 2021
Andy Syme, Chair