

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road
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Members' Council

Draft minutes of the Members' Council meeting held on Zoom on Tuesday 7 December 2021 at 7.00pm.

In attendance:

Voting Members

Elected Councillors

President	Andy Syme	AS	
Cymru North Wales	Tarquin Shipley	TS	
Cymru South Wales	Steve Quinton	SQ	
Lakes	Fiona Sanders*1	FS	
London & South East	Chris Stone*3	CSt	
Midlands	David Jones*2	DJ	Claudia Sarnar CSa
North West	Bill Beveridge	BB	
Peak	David Brown	DB	Alison Cairns AC
Yorkshire	Mick Green	MG	

Specialist Councillors

Clubs Committee	Peter Saleniaks*1	PS
Training, Youth & Walls Committee	Abbi Blakey	AB
Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbers	Stuart Holmes	SH
Nationally Elected Councillor for Mountaineers	Aaron Hodgson	AH
Nationally Elected Councillor for Rock Climbers	Steve Clark	SC

*1 = also Council Nominated Director

*2 = also Huts Group Observer

*3 = also Deputy to the President

Observers

Specialist Committees

Board of Directors

Hill Walking Group	Peter Judd	PD
Chair of the Board	Roger Murray	RM
Nominated Director (Clubs)	Jonathan White	JW

Others

BMC staff

Minute taker	Tony Ryan	TR
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* denotes supporting paper(s) circulated prior to meeting

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
37	Welcome & apologies for absence			
37.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that this would be DB's last meeting as an Area Representative for the Peak Area, having completed his six-year term.			
37.2	Apologies for absence were received from: Paul Davies, Robert Duffton, Oli Lewis, Helen Wilson, and Philip Wilson.			
38	Note Conflicts of Interest			
2.1	No conflicts were declared.			
39	Urgent issues for AOB			
39.1	DB requested that the meeting considered his replacement as a Council Representative on the Finance & Audit Committee.			
40	Review of minutes and outstanding actions*			
40.1	2 November 2021 meeting minutes			
40.1.1	The draft minutes of the 2 November 2021 Council meeting were approved without amendment.	Publish signed copy of 2 Nov minutes on BMC website	TR	ASAP
40.2	13 November 2021 meeting minutes			
40.2.1	The draft minutes of the 13 November 2021 Council meeting were approved without amendment.	Publish signed copy of 13 Nov minutes on BMC website	TR	ASAP
40.3	23 November 2021 meeting minutes			
40.3.1	The draft minutes of the 23 November 2021 Council meeting were approved without amendment, following discussion about whether it was necessary to redact any elements of the minutes relating to discussion of item 4 (Role of the President Task & Finish Group report). There was unanimous agreement that redaction wasn't necessary, and that members should be able to read about the discussion generated by the report, which itself had not made any specific recommendations.	Publish signed copy of 23 Nov minutes on BMC website	TR	ASAP

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40.4	Outstanding Actions			
40.4.1	The meeting reviewed the list of outstanding actions managed as Tasks on Teamwork, and updated the status of any actions where it had changed.			
40.4.2	For the action recorded on item 17.2.5 of the 8 June meeting minutes relating to the induction process for new Councillors, it was agreed that Helen Wilson would upload the formal induction process file to the relevant section of the Council Chat project on Teamwork.	Upload Induction Process file to Council Chat on Teamwork	HW	ASAP
40.4.3	For the action recorded on item 9.4 of the 3 August meeting minutes relating to Area communications, there was a discussion about how best to communicate the Area volunteer roles which had not been filled at the October round of Area AGMs, which covered the tone and content most appropriate to generate interest from members whilst ensuring that any requirements with the Articles of Association and the Area Terms of Reference are conveyed.			
40.4.4	It was agreed that TR would contact the Chair and Secretary in each Area to suggest some Area-specific information for emailing to all members in the Area, and offering each Area the opportunity to provide its own information for the mailing.	Contact Area Chairs and Secretaries to agree wording for Area volunteer vacancies promotion	TR	ASAP
40.4.5	FS identified that Councillors were subjected to no scrutiny or verification of their compliance with Article 30.4.6 nor more widely; e.g. should a Councillor attend a Youth Series event in BMC role when they are not subject to CRB/DBS checks? It was agreed that the Chair would consider how best to ensure that Article 30.4.6, which relates to disqualification from office should be applied to new and current Area volunteers, and that this might be achieved by means of a form each volunteer is required to sign stating that there is no reason why they should be disqualified from holding office. More widely it was agreed that further checks would be determined by event specific criteria.	Consider to how apply compliance with 'disqualification' Article (30.4.6) to Area volunteers	AS	ASAP
41	To Agree Virtual and Physical Meetings for 2022			
41.1	The Chair observed that the agreed meeting schedule gave quite a lengthy period between the third full meeting of the year on 16 July and the fourth and final full meeting on 12 November, and asked Council whether it felt a meeting in between those dates was necessary. There was no strong feeling either way in response.			

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41.1.1	<p>As Council had already agreed to hold two virtual and two physical meetings, the Chair suggested alternating between the two meeting types, and following discussion about how this alternating schedule might impact the planned Vision Events (VE), it was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the next full meeting on 12 February 2022 would be physical and include the Mountaineering VE; the following VE (Hill Walking) would be held during the planned AGM / Volunteer Gala weekend scheduled for 14-15 May, and a virtual full Council meeting originally scheduled for 14 May will be held (online) on some other date around that time; the full Council meeting scheduled for 16 July will be physical; and the full Council meeting scheduled for 12 November will virtual. 	Reschedule 14 May 2022 Council meeting	AS	ASAP
41.2	RM advised that the additional meeting scheduled for Saturday 15 January, to cover the Specialist Committee review, and he intended it to be a physical meeting. AH thought that it should probably be a hybrid meeting, as some will want to dial in.			
41.2.1	MG wondered whether there might be a way to hold the meeting more economically without the need to provide overnight accommodation, but SH thought that providing overnight accommodation might enable two VEs to be held within one Council meeting, by scheduling one VE for Friday evening and another for Saturday morning.			
41.3	AC said that she struggled to use the Calendar feature on Teamwork to find Council meeting dates. CSt explained that default settings in the Calendar show only the meetings you have been assigned to, and it was necessary to change those settings to view all items in the Calendar. He said he would put instructions on Council Chat on how to change Calendar settings.	Put instructions on Council Chat on how to change Calendar settings.	CSt	Done
42	Awards & Honours Panel Terms of Reference*			
42.1	<p>CSt advised that an updated version of the Terms of Reference (ToR) had been uploaded to Teamwork following the 13 November Council meeting. The updates included three additional remits in year one of the panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> role definitions for Patrons and Ambassadors; review of all current volunteer awards; strategy for creating volunteer awards which includes process guidelines. <p>A recommendation that the panel should include a Patron or Ambassador has also been added to the ToR.</p>			

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42.1.1	The meeting discussed the proposal made by the Chair at the 23 November meeting (item 4.8.2 of minutes) that BMC Ambassador Steve McClure, who would appear to be effectively the senior BMC Ambassador, should be invited to join the Honours and Awards Panel.			
42.1.2	JW felt that the role of Ambassadors should be part of the staffing review. DB thought that the focus should be on the role of Patrons; RM agreed and thought that the role of Ambassadors could follow on later as a separate consideration.			
42.1.3	Council was happy to approve the updated ToR, and agree to the formation of the panel, and the Chair asked for volunteers to sit on the panel; DJ volunteered, and it was agreed that the new Chair of the Equity Steering Group (ESG), when appointed, should be invited to join the panel.	Invite new ESG Chair, when appointed, to join Awards & Honours Panel	AS	ASAP
42.1.4	In discussion on whether an Ambassador or Patron (or both) should be invited onto the panel, it was agreed that Steve McClure (Ambassador) and Pat Littlejohn (Patron) would be invited; if Pat was unable or unwilling, Mick Fowler would be invited.	Invite Steve McClure and Pat Littlejohn to join Awards & Honours Panel	AS	ASAP
43	Director Portfolios*			
43.1	JW said that the Director Portfolios formalising the relationship between the Board and various bodies within the BMC including committees and trusts, as well as external organisations, was the culmination of two years' work, and he wished to thank RM and PS for their help in pulling together the portfolios.			
44	Council Annual Report			
44.1	Council had agreed to publish a report, and the Chair asked for three Councillors to volunteer to produce a draft. SC and AH volunteered.	Noted		
44.1.1	MG thought that the report should reference Council's contribution to the BMC's Vision and the Strategic Plan, as well as Council's two-year agenda programme.			
44.1.2	The Chair requested that everyone should email MG with a list of the work they have been involved in; CSt to ensure that the Council Contact list is up to date for this purpose.	Email MG with information for Council Annual Report	All	ASAP
44.1.3	AC requested clarification on the period covered by the report, and it was agreed that it should cover the period between BMC AGMs.			
45	Youth Panel*			

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45.1	CSt wished to know whether Council was happy to take forward the proposal, which would also require a conversation with the CEO around resourcing.			
45.1.1	The proposed age range of panel members (14-27), and whether there should be a lower limit, was discussed. The paper acknowledged that the panel would be representing all young people including those that are younger than 14, and that further work needs to be undertaken with regards to how the panel will engage with under 14s, but widening the age range also had potential issues including the possibility that the older panellists might dominate proceedings.			
45.1.2	AB advised that the proposal had been discussed by the Training, Youth & Walls Committee, and that it felt the need for clarification on the scope of, and the recruitment process for, the panel.			
45.1.3	A question about whether panel members should be BMC members was discussed; there was some support for the suggestion that those panel members who were not already BMC members could be given membership. Discussion also covered how the panel should be representative of all BMC member activities.			
45.1.4	RM felt that the panel was a great idea, but resourcing it could be an issue.			
45.1.5	The Chair felt that the volunteer gala event planned for May 2022 could be an opportunity for the panel to meet.			
45.1.6	The Chair asked whether a formal vote to approve the establishment of a BMC Youth Panel was necessary; the meeting felt that it was not necessary, and agreed unanimously to support the establishment of a BMC Youth Panel.	Agreed		
46	Ambassadorial President Task & Finish Group formation*			
46.1	The Chair referenced the paper produced by CSt asking how the proposal to transition to an Ambassadorial President (AP) could be taken forward and suggesting a framework including key decisions that would need to be made and ways of engaging members in the process.			
46.1.1	Discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when to establish the T&FG; • who should sit on the T&FG, and what sort of recruitment process should be used; 			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> whether it might be more feasible to focus on addressing the current issues affecting the role of the President without transitioning to the AP role; whether other priorities should be addressed first, including the role of BMC Patrons; and current resource limitations. 			
46.1.2	The Chair asked MG if he was willing to continue to support this work, having sat on the Role of the President T&FG; he said that he would be happy to assist with the recall of previous discussions.			
46.1.3	It was agreed that the Chair would contact Robert Dufton and Alex Hamilton-Baily, who both sat on the Role of the President T&FG, and ask them if they would be willing to make recommendations on how to take forward the work already undertaken on this subject.	Seek advice on taking forward the proposal to transition to an Ambassadorial President	AS	Done
47	Votes / Agreements			
47a	Item 40.3 of 23 November 2021 meeting minutes			
47a.1	AGREEMENT: should the public minutes of the 23 November discussions be redacted except for paragraphs 4.1,4.84 and 4.8.5?			
47a.1.1	No vote taken following unanimous agreement (recorded in 40.3.1) not to redact the minutes.			
47b	Item 30 – BMC Youth Panel			
47b.1	AGREEMENT: do you support the establishment of a BMC Youth Panel in accordance with the proposal and any amendments put forward?			
47b.1.1	No vote taken following unanimous agreement (recorded in 45.1.6) to establish a BMC Youth Panel.			
47c	Item 42 – Awards & Honours Panel			
47c.1	VOTE: Council supports the formation of an Awards & Honours Panel.			
47c.1.1	No formal vote taken following agreement (recorded in 42.1.3) to the formation of an Awards & Honours Panel.			
47d	Item 46 – Ambassadorial President Task & Finish Group			
47d.1	AGREEMENT: how should the proposal to transition to an Ambassadorial President be taken forward?			

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47d.1.1	No vote taken following agreement (recorded in 46.1.3) to seek recommendations from members of the Role of the President T&FG.			
47e	Item 46 – Ambassadorial President Task & Finish Group			
47e.1	AGREEMENT: should the public minutes of today's discussions be redacted?			
47e.2	No vote taken, as not required following decision (recorded in 40.3.1) not to redact related section of 23 November meeting minutes.			
48	Any Other Business			
48.1	Replacement Council Representative on Finance & Audit Committee			
48.1	Since DB's term as an Area Representative is due to end after the Peak Area AGM in January, Council needs to appoint someone to replace him as a Council Representative on the Finance & Audit Committee (FAC).			
48.1.1	Council currently has two representatives on FAC (DB and BB), and ideally needs two reps, so that the burden isn't solely on one rep to attend meetings, especially since FAC is not quorate without a Council Representative.			
48.1.2	TS volunteered to replace DB and was appointed.			
48.1.3	The Chair wished to record Council's appreciation of DB's support for Council during his six years as a Peak Area Representative, as well as the other work he has undertaken on behalf of Council during that period.			
49	Date of next Meeting			
49.1	The schedule for the 4 th Members' Council is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 1 February 2022: pre-meeting (19:00-21:00, online) • Saturday 12 February 2022: full meeting (9:00-16:30, hybrid – venue tbc) • Tuesday 1 March 2022: post-meeting (19:00-21:00, online) 			
49.2	Prior to the round of meetings constituting the 4 th Members' Council, there will be an additional all-day Council meeting for the annual Specialist Committee Review; this meeting is scheduled to be held on Saturday 15 January 2022 – format (online / face-to-face / hybrid) to be confirmed.			

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There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Summary of actions:

See [3rd Members' Council Outstanding Actions](#) (link only available to Council members)

Item	Action	Involving	Target date
40.1.1	Publish signed copy of 2 Nov minutes on BMC website	TR	ASAP
40.2.1	Publish signed copy of 13 Nov minutes on BMC website	TR	ASAP
40.3.1	Publish signed copy of 23 Nov minutes on BMC website	TR	ASAP
40.4.2	Upload Induction Process file to Council Chat on Teamwork	HW	ASAP
40.4.4	Contact Area Chairs and Secretaries to agree wording for Area volunteer vacancies promotion	TR	ASAP
40.4.5	Consider to how apply compliance with 'disqualification' Article (30.4.6) to Area volunteers	AS	ASAP
41.1.1	Reschedule 14 May 2022 Council meeting	AS	ASAP
42.1.3	Invite new ESG Chair, when appointed, to join Awards & Honours Panel	AS	ASAP
42.1.4	Invite Steve McClure and Pat Littlejohn to join Awards & Honours Panel	AS	ASAP
44.1.2	Email MG with information for Council Annual Report	All	ASAP
46.1.3	Seek advice on taking forward the proposal to transition to an Ambassadorial President	AS	ASAP
48.1.2	Extend invitation to all Councillors not present at the meeting to become Council Representative on FAC	AS	ASAP

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

Signed  _____ Date 10/1/2022 _____
Andy Syme, Chair