

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Members' Council

Approved minutes of the Members' Council meeting held on Zoom on Tuesday 28 June 2022 at 7.00pm.

In attendance:

Voting Members

Elected Councillors	President, and Chair of the meeting (The Chair)	Andy Syme	AS	
	Cymru North Wales	Tarquin Shipley	TQ	
	Cymru South Wales	Steve Quinton	SQ	
	Lakes	Mike Parsons	MP	
	London & South East	Robert Dufton	RD	
	London & South East	Chris Stone	CSt	also Deputy to the President
	Midlands	David Jones	DJ	
	Midlands	Claudia Sarnier	CSa	
	North West	Bill Beveridge	BB	
	North West	Carl Spencer	CSp	also Council Nominated Director
	Peak	Alison Cairns	AC	
	Peak	Sam Harris	SH	
	South West	Philip Wilson	PW	
	Yorkshire	Martin Christmas	MC	
	Yorkshire	Mick Green	MG	
	Constituency Councillor for BMC Affiliated Club members	Peter Neden	PN	
	Nationally Elected Councillor for Rock Climbers	Steve Clark	SC	
Specialist Councillors	Clubs Committee	Peter Salenieks	PS	also Council Nominated Director
	Training, Youth & Walls Committee	Abbi Blakey	AB	
Observers				
Specialist Committees	Hill Walking Group	Peter Judd	PJ	
Standard Committees	Remuneration Committee	Jonathan White	JW	
Board of Directors	Chair of the Board	Roger Murray	RM	
Others				
BMC staff	Minute taker	Tony Ryan	TR	

* 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.			
1.2	Apologies were received from: Jon Punshon, Fiona Sanders, Helen Wilson.			
2	Note Conflicts of Interest			
2.1	None declared.			
3	Urgent issues for AOB			
3.1	Minutes of previous meeting (7 June 2022) (TR)			
3.2	Council agenda for the next 12 to 18 months (MG)			
3.3	BMC Policies – visibility and update (AS)			
3.4	Specialist Committee attendance of Council meetings as Observers (AS)			
3.5	Update on replacement of Access & Conservation Officer (England) (AS)			
4	Review of outstanding Actions			
4.1	The meeting reviewed the list of outstanding actions managed as Tasks on Teamwork. See Outstanding Actions (link only available to Council members)			
5	Constituency Reports			
5.1	Nationally Elected Councillor (NEC) for Rock Climbers			
5.1.1	SC reported that the session provided to all four NECs at the 18 June Board meeting went very well, and enabled them to present a list of ‘asks’ to the Board based on the output of the four Vision Events held at Council meetings over the past 12 months.			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
5.1.2	The NECs for Indoor Climbers, Hill Walkers and Mountaineers were not present at the Council meeting.			
5.2	Constituency Councillor for BMC Affiliated Club members			
5.2.1	PN had only just been co-opted to the role.			
5.2.2	The Constituency Councillor for Mountain Training candidates was not present at the Council meeting.			
6	Deputy President Role Description*			
6.1	At the Council meeting on 7 June, PN had volunteered to update the role description in preparation for an election for the role at the 16 July Council meeting.			
6.1.1	PN described the process by which he had developed the revised draft role description.			
6.1.2	The Chair asked the meeting whether it felt that the role description was appropriate for the period to the 2023 AGM, and a show of hands indicated a majority of Councillors supported the role description.			
6.1.3	The Chair requested that Councillors who wish to request any amendments to the role description post their requests by commenting on the file on Teamwork , with the aim of finalising the paper by Monday 4 July, two weeks before the Council meeting at which election will take place.			
6.1.4	If any eligible Councillor (voting member of Council, who is not a Director) wishes to stand for election to the role, please inform the Chair and TR by midnight on 14 July.	Eligible Councillors who wish to stand for DP to inform AS and TR	Voting Members excluding Directors	14 July
6.1.5	CSp felt that the primary role of the Deputy President is to act as Chair of the Council (in the President's absence), and he would like to see that listed in the role description.			
6.1.6	PN explained that it was in the appendix, and that he would be happy to re-position it in the paper.			
7	Council Due Diligence*			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
7.1	The meeting discussed what might be the most appropriate approach for Council to conduct due diligence checks on potential / elected Councillors. Options included a formal checking process, and a self-certification scheme.			
7.1.1	The meeting generally felt that self-certification would be more appropriate, and the question of timing (before or after election) was considered.			
7.1.2	It was noted that Council doesn't have formal power to remove an Elected Councillor, although the Articles of Association (Art. 18.11) do state that the circumstances for disqualification of a Director are also applicable to Councillors. Additionally, 25 Area Members can make a written representation to Council to terminate the appointment of an Area Representative (Art. 30.4.9).			
7.1.3	Acknowledging that Council doesn't have formal powers of removal, and that members approve the election of Area Representatives via Area Meetings, it was suggested that Council should consider how it might support Areas with a more rigorous election process.			
7.1.4	It was agreed that current Councillors should also complete a declaration if such a process was introduced, that any process shouldn't be too onerous, and that it should comply with Council's Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct			
7.1.5	It was agreed the Chair would look for an appropriate declaration statement that Councillors would be required to sign/agree to. Once agreed the statement would be included on MC webpage and circulated to Areas for inclusion with their job specs.	Present appropriate declaration statement for Council's consideration	AS	ASAP
8	Patron Nomination*			
8.1	CSt reported on the work of the Awards & Honours Panel, comprising BMC Patron Mick Fowler, Clubs, Huts & Volunteers Officer Jane Thompson, DJ, RD and CSt, in relation to the role of Patrons and discussions around the appointment of a new Patron.			
8.1.1	The panel had conducted Pairwise analysis of a list of potential Patrons, and had shortlisted two females and two males. The panel felt that the next Patron ought to be female, and			

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	recommended a person, who at this stage had not been consulted as to whether she would be willing to undertake the role.													
8.1.2	The panel had not recommended the appointment of a second Patron, preferring instead to suggest that members are invited to submit names of potential Patrons for consideration in due course. It was agreed that discussion of the method for selecting a second Patron would be included on the 16 July meeting agenda.	Include method for selecting a second Patron on 16 July agenda	AS	ASAP										
8.1.3	The meeting discussed how specific a role description for Patrons should be; it was generally felt that the role should not be tightly defined.													
8.1.4	Discussion also covered the level of credibility a potential Patron might have within the climbing, hill walking and mountaineering community, and the potential risks and benefits of appointing a person with a high public profile but not such a strong connection to our activities. TS offered Her Majesty the Queen as an example of a very effective patron of numerous organisations who is most likely not an active participant in the activities those organisations represent.													
8.1.5	The meeting was asked to vote on the appointment to the role of Patron, subject to due diligence checks and her acceptance, the female who had scored highest on the Pairwise analysis.													
8.1.6	Should XXXX be approached to become the next Patron?													
	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>7 votes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>YES – when a second candidate is agreed</td> <td>5 votes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>3 votes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ABSTAIN</td> <td>1 vote</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NON-VOTING MEMBER</td> <td>7 votes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	YES	7 votes	YES – when a second candidate is agreed	5 votes	NO	3 votes	ABSTAIN	1 vote	NON-VOTING MEMBER	7 votes			
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	Council agreed to approach the potential Patron.	Approach the potential Patron, ideally as a joint letter with existing Patrons	AS	ASAP										
8.1.7	It was also acknowledged that, should a high-profile Patron be appointed, careful management and support would be required.													
9	Board Report													
9.1	CEO													
9.1.1	The CEO was not in attendance and had not submitted a report.													

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
9.2	Chair*			
9.2.1	The Chair advised that a report is on Teamwork; comments can be posted on the file, and then discussed at the 16 July Council meeting if needed. He expressed dissatisfaction with the way Board reporting was working at the moment.			
9.2.2	RM suggested that the same report compiled for Directors attending the round of Area Meetings which precede Council meetings could also be utilised at Council.			
9.3	CNDs			
9.3.1	No report submitted.			
9.4	The meeting discussed the utilisation and timing of the of the Board reports in relation to the schedule of Council meetings, in particular the pre-meetings and full meetings.			
9.4.1	The Chair felt that it was up to Council to say what reports it wants.			
9.4.2	RM thought that Council should get separate Chair and CEO reports, as they are different.			
9.4.3	In respect of timing of the publication of these reports, the Chair said that Council should have time in advance of meetings to read the reports, and the CNDs should have sufficient time to produce a complementary report, which can highlight Council's 'holding to account' function if required.			
9.4.4	TR would, in conjunction with AS, RM and Paul Davies, develop a timetable for triggering and publishing reports.	Develop timetable for Board reports	TR	ASAP
10	Votes / Agreements			
10.1	Other than the vote recorded in 8.1.5, no votes were taken nor agreements made.			
11	AOB			
11.1	Minutes of previous meeting*			
11.1.1	The draft minutes of the 7 June Council meeting were published on Teamwork over two weeks ago, and since no requests for amendments had been made, the Chair suggested that the minutes should be approved.	Agreed Publish approved minutes on BMC website	TR	ASAP
11.2	Council agenda for the next 12 to 18 months*			

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11.2.1	MG had posted a Message on Teamwork with the above agenda item heading as the subject, and attached two relevant papers to the Message.			
11.2.2	MG is unable to attend the 16 July Council meeting, so it was agreed to progress this topic via comment and feedback on Teamwork, with the intention of including it as an agenda item for the round of Council meetings in October/November/December.	Comment on Council agenda papers on Teamwork	All	10 October
	Post Meeting Note: Given the decision to hold a meeting on 2 Aug, and the significant time to the 7 th NC, AS to add agenda item to 16 July meeting to reconfirm if this should instead be discussed on 2 Aug.	Add Council agenda to 7th Council meetings agenda	AS	10 October
11.3	BMC Policies – visibility and update			
11.3.1	To be added to the 16 July meeting agenda	Add BMC Policies to 16 July meeting agenda	AS	ASAP
11.4	Specialist Committee attendance of Council meetings as Observers			
11.4.1	In respect of Specialist Committees which are not Voting Members of Council, the Chair asked whether Council felt that there should be a standing invitation to all Specialist Committees, or should it be limited to those committees which were identified in the Specialist Committee Review as 'member facing'.			
11.4.2	The Chair proposed a vote at the 16 July meeting on which committees should be 'standing' Observers and which are invited only when specifically needed.	Add Specialist Committee attendance to 16 July meeting agenda	AS	ASAP
11.5	Update on replacement of Access & Conservation Officer (England)			
11.5.1	The Chair asked TR to find out from Paul Davies or Dave Turnbull when advertisements for the vacancy created by Rob Dyer's impending departure will go out.	Update on advertisement of Access & Conservation Officer vacancy	TR	Done
11.6	The Chair requested Councillors let him know if there was anything else they wanted to cover in the next meeting (16 July), so that he could add it to the agenda, time permitting. A post-meeting on 2 August is in the calendar, but he felt that, unless something arose on 16 July which required more time for discussion, the 2 August meeting should not go ahead.			
11.7	AC asked whether the Vision Event presentation made by the NECs at the recent Board meeting could be shared with Council. The Chair agreed that it could, but RM cautioned not to expect too much detail in the paper, as it was relatively short (two pages) but acted as a starting point for what was a very valuable session.			

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11.7.1	AS commented that the NECs would be repeating their Board presentation to staff, and therefore could NECs also repeat the presentation to Council on 16 July, or on 2 August if no time available on 16 July, with an additional report from the Chair on what action the Board has taken in response to requests made to it. This proposal was supported for 2 Aug.	Add a meeting for 2 Aug specifically to cover NEC asks to Board (assuming enough NECs available to attend)	AS	ASAP
12	Date of next Meetings			
12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 16 July (9.30am start) – 6th Council meeting – on Zoom • Tuesday 2 August (7.00pm start) – post-meeting – on Zoom 			
12.1.1	Zoom links for above meetings are on the Teamwork Calendar .			
There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.30pm.				

Summary of actions: See [6th Members' Council Outstanding Actions](#) (link only available to Council members)

Item	Action	Involving	Target date
6.1.4	Eligible Councillors who wish to stand for DP to inform AS and TR	Voting Members excluding Directors	14 July
7.1.5	Present appropriate declaration statement for Council's consideration	AS	ASAP
8.1.2	Include method for selecting a second Patron on 16 July agenda	AS	Done
8.1.6	Approach potential Patron, ideally as a joint letter with existing Patrons	AS	ASAP
9.4.4	Develop timetable for Board reports	TR	ASAP
11.1.1	Publish approved minutes on BMC website	TR	Done
11.2.2	Comment on Council agenda papers on Teamwork	All	10 October
11.2.2	Add Council agenda to 7th Council meetings agenda	AS	10 October
11.3.1	Add BMC Policies to 16 July meeting agenda	AS	Done
11.4.2	Add Specialist Committee attendance to 16 July meeting agenda	AS	Done
11.5.1	Update on advertisement of Access & Conservation Officer vacancy	TR	Done
11.7.1	Add 2 Aug meeting specifically to cover NEC asks to Board (assuming enough NECs available to attend)	AS	ASAP

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



25/7/22

Signed _____ Date _____

Andy Syme, Chair