

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Members' Council

Approved minutes of the Members' Council meeting held on Zoom on Tuesday 2 August 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	TS		
London & South East	Robert Dufton	RD		
Midlands	Andy Potter	AP	Standing in for Claudia Sarner	
Peak	Alison Cairns	AC		
South West	Helen Wilson	HW		
South West	Philip Wilson	PW		
Yorkshire	Martin Christmas	MC		
Yorkshire	Mick Green	MG		
Nationally Elected Councillor for Hill Walkers	Rose Gare-Simmons	RGS	For item 38 only	
Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbers	Stuart Holmes	SH		
Nationally Elected Councillor for Rock Climbers	Steve Clark	SC		
Specialist Councillors	Clubs Committee	Peter Saleniaks	PS	Who is also a Council Nominated Director
	Funded Partners	Guy Jarvis	GJ	
	Training, Youth & Walls Committee	Abbi Blakey	AB	

Observers

Specialist Committees
Board of Directors

Hill Walking Group	Peter Judd	PJ
Chair of the Board	Roger Murray	RM

Others

BMC staff

Yorkshire	Richard Eden	RE	Shadowing Mick Green in Area Rep role
Minute taker	Tony Ryan	TR	

* denotes supporting paper(s) circulated prior to meeting

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
34	Welcome & apologies for absence			
34.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including former Midlands Area Chair Andy Potter, who was standing in for Claudia Sarner as Midlands Area Rep, and Guy Jarvis as the Funded Partners Rep.			
34.2	Apologies were received from: Aaron Hodgson, Jon Punshon, Steve Quinton, Claudia Sarner, Chris Stone, and Jonathan White.			
35	Note Conflicts of Interest			
35.1	None declared.			
36	Urgent issues for AOB			
36.1	The Chair advised that Council had been asked by the Pwyllgor Cymru - Wales Committee for its view on a request made to the committee for support of a private members' bill in the Senedd.			
36.2	The 16 July Council meeting had agreed (item 25.2) that a vote would be held on the scheduling of physical and virtual Council meetings in 2023.			
37	Minutes of previous meetings and Outstanding Actions			
37.1	Minutes of meeting held on 16 July 2022*			
37.1.1	The draft minutes were approved without amendment.	Publish approved minutes on BMC website	TR	Done
37.2	Review of Outstanding Actions The meeting reviewed the list of outstanding actions managed as Tasks on Teamwork. See Outstanding Actions (link only available to Council members)			
37.2.1	RD advised that he would not be standing for re-election as an Area Rep at the October round of Area AGMs, which meant that Council would need to replace him as the Council's Representative on the Nominations Committee (NomCom). He also advised that he would	Add replacement Council rep on NomCom to 25 October meeting agenda	AS	11 Oct

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	prepare a handover of the work undertaken by the Role of the President Task & Finish Group (T&FG).	Prepare handover of Role of the President T&FG	RD	1 Oct
38	Vision Events Feedback to Board*			
38.1	To support the papers uploaded to the Vision Event section of the Council Chat Teamwork project, all three Nationally Elected Councillors (NECs) present provided summaries of the feedback presented by the NECs to the Board in July following the four Vision Events held within Council meetings since July 2021, and the individual and collective requests made to the Board. SH also summarised on behalf of the NEC for Mountaineering, who was unable to attend the meeting.			
38.1.1	In respect of indoor climbing, the meeting discussed the need for clarity on what the BMC wants its relationship with climbing walls and indoor climbers to be, and the need for partnerships, which are vital for developing pathways.			
38.1.2	The meeting also discussed opportunity for feedback via a survey which would be going out to members (and some non-members) soon.			
38.1.3	Other discussions revolved around liability insurance, EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion), education, membership offers based on values, social media strategy, and website structure.			
38.1.4	RM suggested that a similar presentation to staff as the one made to the Board would be beneficial, and he would raise this with Paul Davies (CEO).	Recommend Vision Event session to CEO for BMC staff	RM	ASAP
39	Members' Council 2023 Agenda*			
39.1	MG explained that the document is a stepping stone paper that will be developed over the coming months. With early comment it should be possible to carry out the Councillor skills and interests survey based on the principal activities of Council, and create a timetable and agenda for the next 18 months for discussion and approval at the November 2022 Council meeting.	Comment on 2023 Council activities paper	All	30 Sep
		Publish Councillor skills and interests survey	CSt	7 Oct
		Include 2023 Agenda on 12 Nov Council meeting agenda	AS	28 Oct
39.1.1	There was some discussion about the proposal to reduce the core size of the Council, and the potential impact that could have on recruitment of volunteers for Task & Finish Groups. MG acknowledged that concern, and suggested that proposal could be de-emphasised for			

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	the November meeting paper if feedback suggested so; in any case, the focus should be on Council's priorities, not its structure.			
39.1.2	Any change to the structure of Council would require a change to Council's Terms of Reference.			
40	Aligning Council with Quarterly Reporting*			
40.1	The Chair had published a spreadsheet showing the current proposed schedule of 2023 Council meetings and their timing in relation to the quarterly financial reporting schedule. In order to reduce the time lag between reports and meetings, he had developed an alternative schedule, and asked Councillors to consider the paper and comment on Teamwork, so that the meeting schedule could be discussed at the next Council meeting on 25 October.	Comment on 2023 Council meeting schedule proposal	All	30 Sep
		Include 2023 Council meeting schedule on 25 Oct Council meeting agenda	AS	11 Oct
41	Memorandum of Understanding*			
41.1	The Chair advised that an updated version of the MoU had been published on Teamwork, incorporating the changes requested at the 16 July Council meeting, and including an additional clause about consultation with Council on changes to any Specialist Committee's Terms of Reference, as well as changes to the clause about Council Nominated Directors acting as non-executive directors.			
41.1.1	The Chair noted that the MoU needs to align with the Board Code of Practice and its definition of the terms 'executive' and 'non-executive'.			
41.1.2	PS asked about timelines and RM comment about waiting for a Board sub-group report (including PS) to come to Board, which would in turn result in an update to the Board Code of Practice, so the MoU could not be signed until that process has been completed.			
42	Ethos & Ethics Task & Finish Group Update*			
42.1	The Chair advised that Steven Quinton had submitted a paper for this item, which provided a brief summary of all the Ethos and Ethics Policies that affect members, and links to more detailed information where available online.			
42.1.1	The Chair had asked Steve to produce a brief paper proposing which policies should be prioritised for review and development, and also advised that he and Steve would be meeting with Lucy Valerio (Governance & Compliance Officer) and Kate Anwyl (HR & Office			


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	Manager), who were also undertaking some policy review work, to ensure that the group's work aligned with, but did not overlap the work being carried out by staff.			
42.1.2	In respect of the policies listed on the paper, RM questioned whether there might be some unintended overlap between three of the policies listed: Equal Opportunities Policy; Equality and Diversity Policy; Equity Policy.			
42.1.3	The Chair invited Councillors to comment on the paper on Teamwork.	Comment on Ethos & Ethics Policy list paper	All	ASAP
43	Votes / Agreements (vote = voting members only; agreement = voting members and observers)			
43.1	Item 25.2 (16 July 2022 Council meeting)			
43.1.1	AGREEMENT: Should the schedule of virtual and physical meetings be: A: Alternating (as is); B: Move physical meetings to 'summer' and virtual meetings to 'winter' C: Abstain			
43.1.2	RESULT: A = 10 votes; B = 4 votes; C = 3 votes.			
	Council agreed to continue with the current schedule of alternate virtual and physical meetings.	Agreed		
43.2	Item 44.1: Request to support private members' bill in Senedd			
43.2.1	AGREEMENT: Should BMC Cymru support a private members' bill in the Senedd to make it a statutory obligation on all Local Authority schools in Wales to provide all children with a residential outdoor experience during their schooling? A: Yes B: No C: Abstain			
43.2.2	RESULT: A = 15 votes; B = 0 votes; C = 2 votes.			
	Council agreed that BMC Cymru should support a private members' bill.	Agreed Notify Wales Committee Chair of vote result	AS	Done
44	AOB			
44.1	Request to support private members' bill in the Senedd			

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44.1.1	Graham French, North Wales Regional Chair of the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC) had contacted the Pwyllgor Cymru - Wales Committee to request its support for a private members' bill in the Senedd to make it a statutory obligation on all Local Authority schools in Wales to provide all children with a residential outdoor experience during their schooling.			
44.1.2	PS noted that one of the five key asks in the BMC Manifesto for Wales, published in 2021, is to improve public health through participation, and the manifesto explicitly requests investment in opportunities for young people from the earliest age to enjoy frequent and progressive outdoor activity experiences including via the curriculum for Wales.			
44.1.3	SH thought that such a commitment could provide a financial lifeline for many outdoor centres.			
44.1.4	Council agreed to vote by agreement on whether it felt the Pwyllgor Cymru - Wales Committee should support the bill – see record of vote in item 43.2.			
44.2	Vote on scheduling of physical and virtual Council meetings in 2023			
44.2.1	See record of vote in item 43.1.			
45	Date of next Meetings			
45.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 October – Volunteer Gala and Specialist Committee Review – University of Warwick, Coventry • Tuesday 25 October – pre-meeting – on Zoom • Saturday 12 November – 7th Council meeting – BMC office, Manchester • Tuesday 6 December – post-meeting – on Zoom 			
45.1.1	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
37.1.1	Publish approved minutes on BMC website	TR	Done
37.2.1	Add replacement Council rep on NomCom to 25 October meeting agenda	AS	11 Oct
37.2.1	Prepare handover of Role of the President T&FG	RD	1 Oct
38.1.4	Recommend Vision Event session to CEO for BMC staff	RM	ASAP
39.1	Comment on 2023 Council activities paper	All	30 Sep
39.1	Publish Councillor skills and interests survey	CSt	7 Oct
39.1	Include 2023 Agenda on 12 Nov Council meeting agenda	AS	28 Oct
40.1	Comment on 2023 Council meeting schedule proposal	All	30 Sep
40.1	Include 2023 Council meeting schedule on 25 Oct Council meeting agenda	AS	11 Oct
42.1.3	Comment on Ethos & Ethics Policy list paper	All	ASAP
43.2.2	Notify Wales Committee Chair of vote result	AS	Done

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

Signed  Date 31/8/22

Andy Syme, Chair