

## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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### Members' Council

Approved minutes of the Members' Council meeting held on Zoom on Tuesday 21 February 2023 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

Lakes

Mike Parsons MP

London & South East

Chris Stone CSt

Who is also Deputy to the President

London & South East

Stella Südekum SS

Midlands

Claudia Sarner CSa

North East

Jon Punshon JP

North West

Bill Beveridge BB

North West

Carl Spencer CSp

Who is also a Council Nominated Director

Peak District

Sean Milner SM

South West

Trevor Smith TS

South West

Philip Wilson PW

Yorkshire

Martin Christmas MC

Yorkshire

Richard Eden RE

Constituency Councillor for BMC Affiliated Club members

Peter Neden PN

Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbers

Stuart Holmes SH

Nationally Elected Councillor for Rock Climbers

Steve Clark SC

Specialist Councillors

Clubs Committee

Peter Salenieks PS

Who is also a Council Nominated Director

Equity Steering Group

Mohammed Dhalech MD

Training, Youth & Walls Committee

Abbi Blakey AB

#### Standing Observers

Specialist Committees

Hill Walking Group

Peter Judd PJ

Board of Directors

Chair of the Board

Roger Murray RM

Nominated Director

Martyn Hurn MH

Chief Executive

Paul Davies PD

#### Ad Hoc Observers

Huts Group

Lynsey McAuley LM

Land Management Group

Tim Daniells TD

#### 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
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; apologies for absence</b>			
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Mohammed Dhalech and Stella Südekum, attending Council for the first time.			
1.1.1	For the benefit of the new attendees, the Chair asked everyone to briefly say what role they undertook within Council.			
<b>1.2</b>	Apologies were received from: Rose Gare-Simmons, Sam Harris, Steve Quinton, Paul Ratcliffe, Jonathan White.			
1.2.1	Steve Quinton was unable to attend, as he had been taken into hospital suddenly. Council wished to record its best wishes to Steve for a speedy recovery. TR will arrange for a Get Well card, to be signed by the Chair, to be sent to Steve.	<b>Arrange Get Well card, signed by the Chair, for Steve Quinton</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>1.3</b>	The Chair explained that a request had been made by Huts Group, which currently does not have a Chair, for one of its members, Lynsey McAuley to attend Council, and to have access to Council projects on Teamwork.			
1.3.1	Huts Group is an Ad Hoc member under Council's designation of Specialist Committees, and does not ordinarily have access to Teamwork projects, so the Chair wished to get agreement from Council for this request.			
1.3.2	Council agreed that it was happy for Lynsey to attend tonight's meeting, and to have access to Teamwork.	<b>NOTED</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Note Conflicts of Interest</b>			
2.1	None declared.			
<b>3</b>	<b>Urgent issues for AOB</b>			
3.1	None requested, other than the two AOB items already on the agenda.			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
<b>4</b>	<b>Review of Outstanding Actions</b>			
4.1	The meeting reviewed the list of outstanding actions managed as Tasks on Teamwork; see <a href="#">Outstanding Actions</a> (link only available to Council members).			
<b>5</b>	<b>Area Reports</b>			
5.1	A revised Area Report template has been introduced, which asks Areas to list any issues they wish to discuss in Council, and any action they feel is required.			
5.2	The North East Area wished to seek clarity on why the BMC's response to the ruling on wild camping on Dartmoor had been so low-key compared to other organisations, given our status as the national representative body for hill walkers, and wanted to know what the BMC hopes to achieve in the current campaign. The Area also wished to convey a message of support for the South West Area, and its attempts to maintain traditional rights of access on Dartmoor. On the same issue, the South West Area wished to agree an inclusive strategy/policy for supporting all staff and volunteers involved in the BMC's actions on this matter.			
5.2.1	TS had provided an update on the situation, which outlined how the BMC is working with a loose coalition of organisations, including the Ramblers and the Dartmoor Preservation Association, to influence support for the campaign; much of this work is done out of the public eye. Other protest groups, including Right to Roam and Stars Are For Everyone continue to organise actions and social media events to maintain public interest and support. The update also summarised how Area volunteers are working with BMC staff to provide local input and direct support to Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA).			
	PW stated that South West Area did not agree that the BMC had not played a visible leadership role, but there was agreement that the BMC was less prominent in the media than some other organisations			
5.2.2	There was a general discussion about how the BMC might improve its visibility in the press, and whether the BMC's response to this case had been constrained by resources.			
5.2.3	The Chair felt that it would be useful to know what strategies have been developed for the different outcomes of the appeal, acknowledging that it may take many months for the courts to decide if DNPA has sufficient grounds for appeal, and only then can the appeal itself be submitted.			

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5.2.4	<p>It was agreed that Council would ask Cath Flitcroft, access &amp; conservation officer (policy) and Andy Tickle (Access Management Group chair) to attend Council on 11 or 28 March to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide an update on the current position and strategy for DNPA to appeal decision, and options on what to do if the appeal is: a) won or; b) lost.</li> <li>2. Discuss strategy for wider access law changes, potentially leveraging point 1 above.</li> <li>3. Provide views on the BMC's role; this was in respect of the fact that we are 'less visible' than other organisations in media (TV and radio particularly) and whether, and if so how, we could become more visible.</li> </ol>	<b>Ask Cath Flitcroft and Andy Tickle to attend Council to update on Dartmoor wild camping appeal strategy, and for their views on the BMC's role and visibility in the media.</b>	TR	Done
5.3	The North East Area had concerns about the increasing use of e-bikes in the hills, and the inconsistency in their users' consideration of others in shared spaces, and requested that the BMC asks relevant cycling organisations to influence their participants to be considerate of others.			
5.3.1	JP provided some background to this developing issue, and the meeting discussed what might be the most effective method of reaching these users, many of whom appear to be relatively new to the outdoors and not members of cycling organisations or clubs.			
5.3.2	The Chair asked whether we could approach British Cycling (BC) and other relevant cycling bodies about the possibility of a joint awareness campaign. PD said that he would discuss the matter with Cath Flitcroft, BMC access & conservation officer, as we already have good links on access issues.	<b>Discuss with Cath Flitcroft e-bike user awareness campaign with British Cycling and other bodies</b>	PD	Done
5.4	The following Areas submitted a report, but did not request a discussion or action: Cymru South Wales; Lakes; London & South East; Yorkshire.			
5.5	The following Areas did not submit a report: Cymru North Wales; Midlands; North West; Peak.			
6	<b>Constituency Reports</b>			
6.1	The Chair noted that there isn't a template for Constituency and Nationally Elected Councillors to report to Council, and it might be beneficial to create one similar to the Area Report template. He asked the Councillors if they had anything they wanted to bring up.	<b>Create report template for CCs and NECs</b>	TR / AS	ASAP
6.2	<b>Constituency Councillor for BMC Affiliated Club members – Peter Neden</b>			
6.2.1	Nothing to report.			
6.3	<b>Constituency Councillor for Mountain Training candidates – Oli Lewis</b>			

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6.3.1	Councillor not in attendance and no report submitted.			
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Nationally Elected Councillor for Hill Walkers – Rose Gare-Simmons</b>			
6.4.1	Councillor not in attendance and no report submitted.			
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbers – Stuart Holmes</b>			
6.5.1	SH advised that he has a meeting scheduled with Gavin Finch, chief commercial officer.			
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Nationally Elected Councillor for Mountaineers – Aaron Hodgson</b>			
6.6.1	Councillor not in attendance and no report submitted.			
<b>6.7</b>	<b>Nationally Elected Councillor for Rock Climbers – Steve Clark</b>			
6.7.1	SC commented that so far we had still not had a group meeting of all Constituency and Nationally Elected Councillors with staff to present the Vision Event concept; he also suggested a Zoom meeting with BMC members. SH suggested considering a presentation at a BMC event. PD advised that a presentation to members would need to be integrated into the comms plan for the year. PD also noted that the staff members who have been nominated as leads for the four activity pillars would provide a better link for communications to staff on Vision Event outcomes.	<b>Confirm how the Vision Event outcomes are best communicated with staff</b>	<b>PD</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>6.8</b>	TR to notify Rose and Aaron to provide one-page reports for next Council pre-meeting on 23 May. SH & SC were present.	<b>Provide report for 23 May Council meeting</b>	<b>SC /SH / RGS / AH</b>	<b>9 May 2023</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Replacement Council Representative on NomCom</b>			
<b>7.1</b>	RM had produced a role description for the role.			
7.1.1	Two councillors (JP and SM) had expressed interest in the role.			
7.1.2	The Chair proposed that each candidate should have two minutes to give a brief statement on why they want to undertake the role and their relevant experience and skills.			
7.1.3	After the statements, JP and SM left the meeting temporarily while discussion took place.			
7.1.4	The discussion covered diversity of the committee members, differing approaches to evaluating the two candidates, and the process for appointing a representative.			
7.1.5	The Chair proposed that both candidates should provide a short, written statement against the skills and person specification, which NomCom could score in order to recommend one			

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	of the candidates to Council, as well as providing reasoning for its recommendation, so that Council could then vote to ratify NomCom's recommendation.			
7.1.6	A show of hands on the Chair's proposal was held, with all Councillors able to vote: For – 19; Against – 2; Abstentions – 2.	<b>AGREED</b>		
7.1.7	JP and SM returned to the meeting, and the Chair explained Council's decision. He asked both candidates to provide a statement by Wednesday 1 March.	<b>Provide statement for NomCom Rep application</b>	<b>SM / JP</b>	<b>1 Mar 2023</b>
7.1.8	The Chair asked RM about the timing for the process; RM to check with Lucy Valerio, governance & compliance officer about engaging NomCom in the process.	<b>Confirm timing of NomCom engagement in Rep selection process</b>	<b>RM</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
7.1.9	The Chair also commented that Council needs to consider the best process for this type of recruitment in future, and offered to write a discussion paper.	<b>Produce discussion paper on future recruitment process for roles open to Councillors</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Councillor Declaration*</b>			
<b>8.1</b>	The Declaration is the result of a discussion held at the 28 June 2022 Council meeting on the most appropriate approach for conducting due diligence checks on potential / elected Councillors.			
8.1.1	The Chair advised that he would like to use tonight's meeting to discuss the Declaration, and sign off on it if Council is happy to do so, and use some time during the full Council meeting on 11 March to discuss the President's Statement, which was posted on Teamwork on 5 February, and which some Councillors have commented on, if Council felt that was necessary.			
8.1.2	There was a general discussion about the need for the Declaration, and a more specific discussion about the last of the four bullet points in the Declaration, which refers to "Councillors' personal responsibility for the success of the Council", and whether this point was needed in the Declaration or simply duplicated what was already in the Council Code of Practice. It was agreed that the Chair would update the Code, with assistance from PS.	<b>Update Code of Practice</b>	<b>AS / PS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
8.1.3	The meeting was asked by a show of hands to vote on whether to adopt the Councillor Declaration, subject to the changes discussed, which the majority approved.	<b>NOTED</b>		

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8.1.4	The meeting then discussed possible sanctions for conduct, and whether signing the Declaration should be mandatory. It was agreed that the Chair would produce an updated paper covering sanctions for discussion at the 11 March meeting, and that a vote on mandatory signing should will be held at that meeting.	<b>Produce paper on sanctions for conduct for 11 March Council meeting</b>	AS	1 Mar 2023
		<b>Include vote on mandatory signing of Councillor Declaration at 11 March Council meeting</b>	AS	1 Mar 2023
8.1.5	With regard to discussion of the President Statement at the 11 March meeting, or the 28 March post-meeting, the Council was not clear of the benefits of such a discussion and agreed that it did not need further detailed discussions.			
<b>9</b>	<b>Deputy to the President T&amp;F Group</b>			
9.1	The Chair advised that a small group needs to be formed to produce a role description for the Deputy to the President covering 2023/24.			
9.1.1	PN carried out this task last year, and offered to do so again; BB and MC also volunteered for the group.	<b>NOTED</b>		
9.1.2	It was suggested that the role description be made available for the Council post-meeting on 28 March, so that a vote to elect a Deputy to the President can be held at the 9 <sup>th</sup> Council pre-meeting on 23 May.	<b>Produce role description for Deputy to the President</b>	BB / MC / PN	20 Mar 2023
		<b>Include Deputy to the President election on 23 May agenda</b>	AS	9 May 2023
<b>10</b>	<b>Meeting Dates</b>			
10.1	Agenda item not covered during the meeting.	<b>Include Meeting Dates on 11 March meeting agenda</b>	AS	ASAP
<b>11</b>	<b>Co-option of Area Reps</b>			
11.1	<b>Ian Wyatt (Midlands)</b>			
11.1.1	Alex Brown, Midlands Area Chair, wishes to co-opt Ian as Area Representative, to fill the position vacated by Dave Jones last year, and in accordance with Article 30.4.10.			

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11.1.2	Council agreed unanimously to the co-option.	<b>AGREED</b> <b>Notify Ian Wyatt and Midlands Area Chair of co-option</b>	TR	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Andy Say (North West)</b>			
11.2.1	Agustin Guardiola, North West Area Chair, wishes to co-opt Andy as Area Representative, to fill the position that is being vacated by Carl Spencer, who completes six years this month, in accordance with Article 30.4.10.			
11.2.2	Noting that CSp is currently a Council Nominated Director (CND), and his continued position on Council had already been agreed until that date, the Chair suggested that CSp could continue as an Area Rep until his term as a CND ends in October, and Council supported this suggestion.	<b>NOTED</b>		
11.2.3	As a consequence, Council decided that having CSp plus two North West Area Reps was inappropriate at this time, but they would review the co-option when CSp stepped down.	<b>Discuss North West Area representation at 11 March Council meeting</b>	AS	<b>11 Mar 2023</b>
11.2.4	Post Meeting Note: CSp's continued representation would break <a href="#">Article 30.4.5 and 18.10.1</a> , so this will need to be reviewed on 11 March meeting, which will also need to discuss CND & Councillor Succession planning. See Item 20.2 and 20.3 from <a href="#">12 Feb 22 Minutes</a>	<b>Discuss Councillor and CND succession planning at 11 March Council meeting</b>	AS	<b>11 Mar 2023</b>
11.2.5	It was agreed that BB would report back to the Area Chair.	<b>Advise NW Area Chair of suggestion for Carl Spencer to continue as Area Rep</b>	BB	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Board Report</b>			
<b>12.1</b>	<b>CEO*</b>			
12.1.1	The Chair advised Councillors to comment on the report on Teamwork, and if there is anything that requires discussion, it can be added to the agenda for the 11 March meeting.	<b>Comment on CEO and Chair Reports on Teamwork</b>	All	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>12.2</b>	<b>Chair*</b>			
12.2.1	As per 12.1.1.			
<b>12.3</b>	<b>CND</b>			
12.3.1	No report submitted.			
<b>13</b>	<b>Votes / Agreements</b> (vote = voting members only; agreement = voting members and observers)			



Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
<b>13.1</b>	<b>Item 8</b>			
13.1.1	Vote taken by show of hands during discussion of agenda item 8.			
<b>14</b>	<b>AOB</b>			
<b>14.1</b>	<b>Dartmoor</b>			
14.1.1	Covered in agenda item 5.2 (Area Reports).			
<b>14.2</b>	<b>Ratho Update</b>			
14.2.1	The Chair advised that the overall cost of hosting the IFSC Climbing World Cup event at EICA Ratho in September 2022 was higher than reported on 12 Nov, but within the £30-90k range. The Overview and Benefits report had been shared with Council on Teamwork, but RM and the Chair confirmed that the costs had been exceeded by the amount of renewed and new sponsorship income the event helped to generate.			
14.2.2	The event also strengthened our reputation with other organisations including partners UK Sport and Event Scotland.			
14.2.3	There was a discussion about the need for bigger venues for future events, in order to increase income from spectator attendance. Many climbers were left frustrated at their inability to purchase tickets for the event, which sold out within 7 minutes of going on sale.			
<b>14.3</b>	<b>Martin Wragg</b>			
14.3.1	Tim Daniells, vice-chair of the Land Management Group (LMG), had joined for part of the meeting, and advised that Martin Wragg, LMG chair, was in hospital. Council wished to record its best wishes to Martin for a speedy recovery. TR will arrange for a Get Well card, to be signed by the Chair, to be sent to Martin.	<b>Arrange Get Well card, signed by the Chair, for Martin Wragg</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>14.4</b>	<b>Dave Turnbull</b>			
14.4.1	The meeting also wished to record its best wishes to Dave Turnbull, head of access, conservation and environmental sustainability, as he continues his recovery from heart surgery.			
<b>15</b>	<b>Date of next Meetings</b>			
<b>15.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday 11 March 2023 – 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting – on Zoom;</li> <li>• Tuesday 28 March 2023 – post-meeting – on Zoom.</li> </ul>			

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15.1.1	Zoom links for above meetings are on the <a href="#">Teamwork Calendar</a> .			
15.1.2	Agendas for the meetings will be issued ASAP.  There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.35pm.			

**Summary of actions:** See [8th Members' Council Outstanding Actions](#) (link only available to Council members)

Item	Action	Involving	Target date
1.2.1	Arrange Get Well card, signed by the Chair, for Steve Quinton	TR	Done
5.2.4	Ask Cath Flitcroft and Andy Tickle to attend Council to update on Dartmoor wild camping appeal strategy, and for their views on the BMC's role and visibility in the media.	TR	Done
5.3.2	Discuss with Cath Flitcroft e-bike user awareness campaign with British Cycling and other bodies	PD	Done
6.1	Create report template for CCs and NECs	TR / AS	Done
6.7.1	Confirm how the Vision Event outcomes are best communicated with staff	PD	Done
6.8	Provide report for 23 May Council meeting	SC / SH / RGS / AH	9 May 2023
7.1.7	Provide statement for NomCom Rep application	SM / JP	Done
7.1.8	Confirm timing of NomCom engagement in Rep selection process	RM	Done
7.1.9	Produce discussion paper on future recruitment process for roles open to Councillors	AS	ASAP
8.1.2	Update Code of Practice	AS / PS	Done
8.1.4	Produce paper on sanctions for conduct for 11 March Council meeting	AS	Done
8.1.4	Include vote on mandatory signing of Councillor Declaration at 11 March Council meeting	AS	Done
9.1.2	Produce role description for Deputy to the President	BB / MC / PN	20 Mar 2023
9.1.2	Include Deputy to the President election on 23 May agenda	AS	9 May 2023
10.1	Include Meeting Dates on 11 March meeting agenda	AS	Done
11.1.2	Notify Ian Wyatt and Midlands Area Chair of co-option	TR	Done
11.2.3	Discuss North West Area representation at 11 March Council meeting	AS	Done
11.2.4	Discuss Councillor and CND succession planning at 11 March Council meeting	AS	Done
11.2.5	Advise NW Area Chair of suggestion for Carl Spencer to continue as Area Rep	BB	ASAP
12.1.1	Comment on CEO and Chair Reports on Teamwork	All	Done
14.3.1	Arrange get well card, signed by the Chair, for Martin Wragg	TR	Done

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

Signed  Date 20/3/23

**Andy Syme, Chair**