



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

## Annual General Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, 19:30. Online Meeting via Go to Meeting Platform

### MINUTES

#### Present: Clubs

Crewe C.P.C.  
Darkside C.M.C.  
Orpheus C.C.  
P.D.M.H.S.  
T.S.G.

Alan Brentnall [AB]  
Pete Knight [PK]  
Jenny Potts [JP]  
Shirley Burtonshaw [SBu]  
Phil Wolstenholme [PW]

#### Individual Members

Angus Sawyer [AS]  
Wayne Sheldon [WS]  
Mike Higgins (MH)  
Martin Long [ML]  
Jenny Potts (JP)  
Nigel Atkins (NG)  
Pete Dell (PD)  
Ann Soulsby (AS)  
Victoria Kochier (VK)

#### Observers

#### 1. Chair's Welcome: Introduction, quorum & procedures.

- 1.1 Welcome: WS welcomed those present.
- 1.2 Quorum & Procedures: OK with 4 Clubs and 6 Individual Members.

#### 2. Apologies for absence.

- 2.1 Apologies received from: Charles Cooley, John Gunn.

#### 3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting: *(previously circulated)*.

- 3.1 Changes to the Cave Discovery Fund. The money allocated to the Cave Emergency Fund to be transferred to the Cave Discovery Fund.
- 3.2 **That the Minutes of the AGM of 22 February 2020, subject to these corrections, be approved.**  
Prop. P. Knight, Sec. Martin Long. **Agreed.**

#### 4. Matters Arising Therefrom:

- 4.1 None.

#### 5. Election of New Members

- 5.1 **Individual Member: Alan Cash.** Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. N. Atkins. **Agreed.**
- 5.2 **Club Member: Wirksworth Mine Research Group.** Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. N. Atkins. Martin Long - Abstained. **Agreed.**

#### 6. To Approve the DCA Annual Report:

*(The report was tabled at the meeting together with a detailed breakdown of the accounts.)*

##### 6.1 Chair. *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

##### 6.2 Secretary. *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

##### 6.3 Membership Secretary. *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

Three clubs to remove from the membership list. East Essex Caving Team, NFI and North Leicestershire Mountaineering Club. They are no longer BCA Members. **Action: MH**

##### 6.4 Treasurer / Webmaster. *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

The new PDCI website is now online.

##### 6.5 Access Officer. *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

##### 6.6 Conservation Officer. *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

Rookery Mine Lock has now been purchased. Send the invoice to the Treasurer. **Action: VK.**

##### 6.7 Projects Officer. *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

##### 6.8 Equipment Officer. *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

We now have a new Hilti Drill that is now stored within the DCA Equipment Store.

##### 6.9 Cave Atmosphere Monitoring. *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

##### 6.10 Cave Registry Secretary. *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

Phil Walker is sending pictures to be updated to the registry / website).

**6.11 Training Officer.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

As well as DCA Training Officer, he is also BCA training officer and he intends to reduce the amount of voluntary work he does going forward. NA is going to start actively looking for a replacement going forward for DCA. In terms of DCA training events, these are available to buy from commercial providers, as this would reduce the conflict of interest. We will concentrate on training for cavers that does not exist from commercial providers such as photography, surveying courses etc. Bolting Climbing was suggested as a course that may be popular.

**6.12 Newsletter Editor.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

Derbyshire Caver No 154 has now been published. 88 online views to date.

**6.13 Publications & Sales Officer.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

**6.14 BCA Update.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

**All reports were approved in one go.** Prop: P. Knight, Sec: Nigel Atkins. **All Agreed.**

**7. Election of Officers for 2021/2022:** *(There was no list of nominations received in advance of the meeting.)*

The meeting thanked Alan Brentnall for his service to DCA over the last ten years in the roles of Vice Chairman, Access Officer, Gasman and Trustee.

<b>7.1 Chair:</b>	W.Sheldon	Prop P.Knight, Sec.N.Atkins..	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.2 Vice-Chair:</b>	M Higgins	Prop. N.Atkins, Sec. V.Kocher.	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.3 Secretary:</b>	W Sheldon	Prop. P.Knight, Sec. A.Brentnall.	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.4 Treasurer:</b>	A Sawyer	Prop. A.Soulsby, Sec. P.Knight.	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.5.1 Joint Access Officer:</b>	A Soulsby	Prop. P.Knight, Sec J.Potts.	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.5.2 Joint Access Officer:</b>	R Rodgers	Prop. P.Knight, Sec J.Potts.	<b>Unanimous</b>
<b>7.6 Conservation Officer:</b>	V.Kocher	Prop: P.Knight, Sec. N Atkins.	<b>Unanimous</b>

**7.7. Projects Officer Position:**

**7.7.1.** Prior to the election of the project officer. Pete made the meeting aware that and Phil Wolstenholme are starting a business which does involve doing work on caves and mine surveys, and it might involve some safety work and things like that. Although there is nothing on the cards yet, we have just finished a contract with Natural England, surveying about 50 sites. The reason he is bringing this up, is there is obvious potential conflicts with the project officer role, as within the business might involve capping shafts. I am quite happy to do these two things together, and I do not think, it will affect what I'd do. The situation could occur where DCA must make a decision on a project and if we turn it down, it could be self-serving towards our business so I will automatically remove myself from votes on these issues. Personally, I do not see much overlap in what DCA do and what I would do commercially but the main thing, everybody is now aware.

**7.7.2.** Phil added that he would obviously abstain in votes if the above situation occurred.

<b>7.7.3. Projects Officer:</b>	P.Knight	Prop. A.Sawyer, Sec. V Kocher.	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.8 Equipment Officer:</b>	S.Bradley	Prop. P Knight, Sec Phil Wolstenholme.	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.9 Cave Registry Secretary</b>	P.Wolstenholme	Prop. M Higgins, Sec. P.Knight..	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.10 Training Officer:</b>	N.Atkins	Prop. M Higgins, Sec. J.Potts.	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.11 Newsletter Editor:</b>	P.Wolstenholme	Prop. P.Knight, Sec. J Potts..	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.12 Membership Secretary:</b>	M.Higgins	Prop. J. Potts, Sec. P.Knight.	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.14 Publications &amp; Sales:</b>	J.Potts	Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. N Atkins.	<b>Unanimous.</b>
<b>7.15 Cave Atmosphere Officer:</b>	P. Dell.	Prop. M Higgins, Sec. A Sawyer.	<b>Unanimous.</b>

**8. DCA Trustees:**

a) The duties of the Trustees are: DCA is an unincorporated body, cannot legally own property, or enter into contracts or agreements (e.g., the Chatsworth Access Agreement), and the Trustees take on these responsibilities on behalf of the Association. There is insurance in place to cover Trustee liability.

b) Current Trustees are Pete Mellors, Pete Knight, and Alan Brentnall.

c) Alan Brentnall is standing down as a DCA Trustee, and the Council thanked him for his services over the years.

d) Proposed replacement: Wayne Sheldon. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. M Higgins. **Agreed.**

e) Trustees are now: Pete Knight, Pete Mellors and Wayne Sheldon

**9. Appointment of Three Ordinary Members to the Grants Panel of the DCA Cave Discovery Fund.**

The current members are Dave Webb, Mike Higgins, and Scott Bradley, and it was **agreed** that this will remain the case for 2021.

**10. Appointment of Delegates / Representatives to BCA AGM and BCA Committees:**

DCA have one representative on the BCA Council, but no vote at the AGM.

**10.1 BCA AGM** will be by using an online platform in October 2021, exact date to be decided.

**10.2 BCA Council.**

Wayne Sheldon will represent DCA. Pete Knight and Jenny Potts are both individual members representative to BCA council.

**10.3 BCA Special Committees.**

(Appropriate DCA Officers normally attend the Special Committee Meetings: i.e., Conservation & Access, Training, Legal & Insurance, Equipment). DCA Officers to attend as required.

**11. Appointment of Delegates / Representatives to Other Organisations:**

**11.1 DCA Underground Conservation Forum (Incorporating the SSSI Regional Liaison group)**

DCA Conservation Officer, V Kocher is the convener.

11.1.1 There was a discussion about the UCF meeting and when the next one would be. The meeting was told that the next one is hand, an invite will be sent out by Victoria very shortly. Initially we intend to have a caver's only meeting, as we need to discuss cave monitoring and come up with a plan to start this again next year. Once we are happy to have everything in hand, another meeting probably in the Autumn will be arranged, inviting the official bodies as well.

**11.2 Peak Instructed Caving Affiliation**

Pete Knight will report back, but other officers are welcome to attend.

**11.3 UK Cave Conservation Emergency Fund**

Wayne Sheldon to continue representing DCA. It is a five-year term.

**12. Date, Time, and Venue of Meetings for the year:**

**14.1 2021 AGM. Saturday, 21 February 2022;** to be followed by a brief Council Meeting. Location / meeting type to be confirmed.

**14.2 Council Meetings for 2021.**

**14.2.1** Online Meeting on Mon 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 19:30.

**14.2.2** Provisional date of Mon 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 19:30 if its online. This will be further discussed at the June Meeting, with a view to changing it to a weekend meeting but at Monyash Village Hall but it depends on the Covid situation.

**14.2.3** There was a discussion about the meeting format going forward and whether they would be all online or in a meeting location. PK mentioned that we had planned to have an event following a meeting so we should keep this as a possibility.

**15. Any Other Accepted Business:**

15.1 Cave Discovery Fund. JP suggested that we take another look at the Fund's constitution because the changes made last year effectively made a difference to how the money was awarded. It used to be provided retrospectively, as somebody involved in digging did not know whether things were going to work out but had a breakthrough and then found something really cool so could apply retrospectively. It also did not envisage that it was going to be covering, something very expensive, such as a full-scale shaft-capping project such as the Intake Dale Head Mine lid. She felt we needed to think this through and decide whether to put proposals together for next year's AGM. MH to produce a report for consideration at the next meeting.

**Action: MH / JP / WS**

The A.G.M. concluded at 20:28

**W.Sheldon, Recorder**

**Appended to these Minutes and forming part of them is the DCA Annual Report for 2020, including the provisional DCA Annual Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2020.**