



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of DCA Council Meeting, 7pm. 17th. June 2011

Monyash Village Hall

Present:	Officers:	Chairman	Bob Dearman [BD]
		Vice Chairman	Terry Jackson [TJ]
		Secretary	Jenny Potts [JP]
		Treasurer	Wayne Sheldon [WS]
		Asst. Conservation Officer	Christine Wilson [CW]
		Legal & Insurance Officer	Peter Mellors [PM]
		Projects Officer	Martyn Grayson [MG]
		Newsletter Editor	Paul Lydon [PL]
		Asst. Secretary/Planning Liaison	Chris Broome [CB]
	Clubs:	BCA Observer	Andy Eavis [AE]
		Eldon P.C.	(Bob Dearman)
		Masson C. G.	(Chris Broome, Christine Wilson)
		Orpheus Caving Club	Boyd Potts [BP], (Karen Slatcher)
		TSG	(Martyn Grayson, Wayne Sheldon)
		Individual Members: Alan Brentnall [AB], Karen Slatcher [KS], (Bob Dearman, Terry Jackson, Peter Mellors, Jenny Potts)	

1. QUORUM / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed BCA Chairman Andy Eavis to the meeting as an observer.
 1.2 Apologies received from: Conservation Officer, David Webb.
 1.3 The Meeting was quorate with 9 officers present.

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING: (16 Feb. 2011: circulated previously and on DCA website.)

That the Minutes of the 16 Feb. 2011 Council Meeting be accepted as a correct record.
 Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*

3. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

- 3.1 4.1 **Poster Advertising Manifold/Hamps Publication:** Ongoing. **ACTION: JP**
 3.2 4.2 **Water Icicle Lid Repairs:** KS suggested repairs not needed but the lid needs straightening to prevent further damage. **ACTION: KS, PL**
 KS and PL would check.
 3.3 4.4 **Peak District Access & Rigging Guide, Progress Report:** Rigging section: PL had completed all topos but a few rope lengths needed to be checked. Access section: Completed by TJ. Appendix: Conservation section awaited (from DW); Legal & Insurance updates completed by JP & PM; List of clubs and websites completed; JP to complete section layout. Suggested that TJ, PL and JP meet to approve final draft when it is ready and then arrange for printing. **ACTION: DW, JP, TJ, PL**
 3.4 4.6 **Water Icicle Access, Progress Report:** KS reported that 5 groups had been into the new extensions since February and trips are booked as far ahead as April 2012. Full details are on the OCC website and visitors need to fill in an information sheet before their trip.
 3.5 4.7 **Contact Clubs for information for the DCA Newsletter:** JP has sent a plea to Club in the recent Information Circular. Mel Milner has promised material and KS has material re. Water Icicle. JP would send material on Cliffhanger. PL had pointed out that he required material sent to him to enable him to produce the Newsletter. **ACTION: ALL**
 3.6 4.8 **Timing of future Council Meetings:** Defer to item 8.
 3.7 AGM 6.1.a & 7.3 **Appointment of Events Officer:** Defer to item 5.1.

4. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

NFI Caving Club had applied for membership of DCA (they are a BCA member club). *Approved unanimously.*

5. OFFICER'S REPORTS:

5.1 Secretary's Report: (Written report tabled.)

- 5.1.a **Cliffhanger:** MG and BP would be there to help and MG thought he could find other helpers. PM would check that we were covered by DCA's PL insurance for the event. CW would organise loan of helmets and harnesses for the ladder climb and liaise with BP to get them to Cliffhanger. **ACTION: ALL**
 5.2 *That the Secretary's Report be approved.* Prop. P.Lydon, Sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

5.2 Treasurer's Report: (Written report tabled.)

- 5.2.a **2010 Accounts Audited:** WS confirmed that the 2010 DCA Annual Accounts have been audited and he has the certificate.
 5.2.b **Agreed Spending Limit:** Currently the Treasurer may authorise up to £50.00 spending on an item but must refer larger sums to Council.

That the expenditure amount the Treasurer may authorise without consultation be doubled to £100.00.
 Prop. T.Jackson, Sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*

- 5.2.c **Boulder Piles Piping:** See DW's report.
- 5.2.d **Bank Account Transfer:** WS reported this was proving to be a lengthy business, which he was still pursuing. JP reported that bank communications were still coming to her and she was forwarding them on to WS.
- 5.2.e **Caves of the Peak District:** JP is keeping tabs on numbers sold and we will decide at the October Council meeting if and when we need to do a re-print. **ACTION: JP**
- 5.2.f *That the Treasurer's Report be approved.* Prop. B.Potts, Sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 5.3 Conservation Officer's Report.** (DW had sent his apologies but his written report was tabled.)
- 5.3.a **NE Grant:** CW confirmed on DW's behalf that a grant had been agreed for 2011-12.
- 5.3.b **NE Certificate of Recognition:** DCA and its members have been awarded a Natural England Certificate of Recognition for all their conservation work.
- 5.3.c **Odin Mine:** PM queried who was responsible for the repairs. National Trust is liaising with DCA via CW and she will report to the next meeting. She will be asking about progress on the work and if they need DCA's help. **ACTION: CW**
- 5.3.d **Boulder Piles piping:** As soon as an estimate of cost is available, WS would contact officers to authorise the expenditure. **ACTION: WS, DW, MG**
- 5.3.e **Storage of Conservation Materials:** It was suggested that a shipping container, which could be locked securely and sited in a suitable place would be the best solution. WS would look into cost and BD would look into siting. **ACTION: WS, BD**
- 5.3.f **Dave Webb:** *It was proposed that we express our appreciation of the work Dave Webb has done and continues to do for DCA.* Prop. P. Mellors, Sec. J. Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 5.3.g *That the Conservation Officer's Report be approved.* Prop. T.Jackson, Sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 5.4 Projects Officer's Report.** (Verbal report given.)
- 5.4.a **Long Rake:** Mr. Hadfield's solicitor is advising that he should refuse all requests for access to sites on his land. MG suggested that special archaeological mining sites could be monitored. It was agreed that DCA should make no requests for access for the present but would continue to keep a watching brief.
- 5.4.b **Repairs to Rowter Pot lid:** This would be dealt with after the "Credit Crunch Expedition" was over. **ACTION: MG**
- 5.4.c *That the Projects Officer's Report be approved.* Prop. J.Potts, Sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 5.5 Access Officer's Report:**
Iain Barker was away on holiday and no written report had been received.
- 5.6 Legal & Insurance Officer's Report:** (Written report tabled.)
- 5.6.a **Sites owned by Chatsworth Estates:** PM reminded members that annual safety inspections are required for these sites: Lathkill Head Upper Entrance, Lathkill Head Garden Path Entrance, Ashford Marble Mine. Noted that a new pen is required for the Log Book kept in Lathkill Head Upper Entrance.
- 5.6.b **Insurance Limit:** BCA's Insurance Manager had asked for views on whether the current P.L. insurance limit should be raised from £2 million to £5 million. It was generally agreed that this would be helpful in obtaining and retaining access. JP reported from the recent BCA AGM that the expected effect on premiums would mean a rise of about £1 per person from the present £16. *That DCA recommend an increase to the BCA insurance liability level from £2 million to £5 million.* Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 5.6.c **Safety Inspection Reports:** PM asked that he receive these each year by March so that he could forward them on to Chatsworth.
- 5.6.d *That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be approved.* Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 5.7 Equipment Officer's Report:**
Jules Barrett was not present and no report had been received.
- 5.8 Training Officer's Report:**
Nigel Atkins was not present and no report had been received.
- 5.9 Newsletter Editor's Report:** (Verbal report given.)
PL reported that he had sufficient material for a Newsletter but nothing in hand for the next one.
- 5.10 Asst. Secretary, Planning Liaison Report:** (Verbal report given.)
CB reported that nothing affecting caves had come to his notice recently but he continued to keep a watching brief.
- 6. CAVE DISCOVERY FUND APPLICATIONS:**
Noted that no applications had been received for 1st. March this year. The next round of applications should reach the Treasurer, Wayne Sheldon by 1st. September.
- 7. BCA REPORT:**
- 7.1 **BCA AGM:** JP had represented DCA at the BCA AGM and BP had also been present as Orpheus C.C. representative. BCA now had a new Treasurer, Paul Ibberson. Minutes of the meeting, including Officers' reports would be published on the BCA website.
- 7.2 **BCA Discussion Paper:** Andy Eavis introduced the BCA Discussion Paper, produced by himself and the BCA Secretary, which encouraged a look at how BCA was functioning at present with a view to putting any firm proposals for change to the AGM in June 2012. In particular it was felt that the subscription structure needed to be simplified in order to encourage more cavers to become members. It had also been suggested that it might be beneficial for BCA to become a charity.

It had been agreed that the 2012 BCA AGM would take place on a Sunday with a science meeting on the Saturday and a party on Saturday evening, hoping to encourage more people to attend and take an interest - this would be held in the Peak District region.

8. DATE OF NEXT DCA COUNCIL MEETING:

- 8.1 Agreed that the next DCA Council Meeting would be at **7pm. on Friday, 11th. November 2011.** at Monyash Village Hall.
8.2 Confirmed that the first Council Meeting of 2012 would follow immediately after the DCA AGM, which would be at 10am. on Saturday, 25th. February 2012 at Monyash Village Hall.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- 9.1 **Underground Conservation Forum:** The next meeting of the Forum would be at 7pm. on Monday, 17th. October at the Miners Standard, Winstler.
9.2 **Water Icicle:** PM reminded members that he would need to report on the situation of the New Extensions at Water Icicle to Chatsworth Estates. KS would supply the necessary information to him. **ACTION: PM, KS**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.16pm.

*J.E.Potts, Hon. Secretary,
Recorder*

APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM IS THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT:

Officers' Reports to the DCA Council Meeting, 17 June 2011:

- | | | |
|----|----------|-------------------------------------|
| a. | Item 5.1 | Secretary's Report, |
| b. | Item 5.2 | Treasurer's Report, |
| c. | Item 5.4 | Conservation Officers' Report, |
| d. | Item 5.6 | Legal & Insurance Officer's Report, |

Item 5.1 - Secretary's Report

Communications

Communications to members are normally sent by email where possible and posted only where I have no recorded email address. DCA papers also appear on our website, thanks to Paul Johnson, our webmaster.

Circulated at the beginning of May were:

- Minutes of the DCA AGM 26 Feb. 2011 (email or paper)
- DCA Annual Report and Accounts for 2011 (Paper copy posted to all members)
- Minutes of DCA Council Meeting 26 Feb. 2011 (email or paper)
- Information Circular 2011/1, Jan to May 2011 (email or paper)
- DCA Caver Training Events for 2011 from May onwards (email or paper)

Circulated 13 June 2011

- Agenda for DCA Council Meeting 17 June 2011 (email or paper)
- BCA Discussion Paper (email or paper)

Also circulated by email only to members who have internet access were the following items of information:

- 28 Feb. 2011: details of Caving/Mining History films 19th. March
- 4 March 2011: Updated warning re. Odin Mine Collapse
- 10 May 2011: Details of the BCRA Karst Science meeting in Derbyshire on 9 June
- 13 May 2011: DCA Helpers wanted for events (NT Family Fun Day at Castleton on 30/31 May) and Cliffhanger at Sheffield on (1-3 July)
- 12 June 2011: Cliffhanger (appeal for volunteers to help)

DCA Events

I was away on holiday during the weekend of the National Trust Family Fun Days (30/31 May) when DCA's Artificial Cave (aka ASS) was deployed, and I'm grateful to Wayne for helping with organisation (though he couldn't be there himself) and to those members who turned up to help on a rather wet weekend. Wayne has informed me the ASS (together with other DCA publicity material) is still with the National Trust, stored in a secure location while it is drying out. They are quite happy to store it until Cliffhanger (1-3 July) and transport it to Cliffhanger for us on that Friday 1st. July. It appears they would like to store it for us permanently and to use it on a number of occasions as well. They want it for an event at Chatsworth in September. This is something DCA should discuss and agree on and I shall be visiting N.T. people at Castleton next week to talk this over with them. Dennis Jump, the builder of the ASS, has now supplied a Risk Assessment for its use and also a draft Information Sheet and Conditions for Loan.

Ewan Cameron has stepped forward to offer his services as Events Officer but will not be able to organize Cliffhanger himself, though he will be there on the Sunday. By default, it seems I shall have to be Cliffhanger organiser myself this year but I am concerned at the lack of volunteers to help - 9 people only so far and most of these for only part of the time.

We have other events for which the ASS has been requested, including Chapel-en-le-Frith High School on 8th. October, which Ewan will be able to organise. I have set up a "booking list" which can be handed on to the Events Officer in due course.

Publications Sales

I have continued to deal with publications sales as my address is on all the publicity and Wayne may be changing his address later this year. Sales of "Caves of the Peak District" continue to go well and I am keeping track of them to identify when and if we go for a reprint. Bob Dearman, Boyd Potts and myself continue to deliver trade orders for bulk copies by hand; single trade orders which have to be posted are charged postage. Bob, Boyd and myself also take copies to sell at caving meetings and they will be on sale at Hidden Earth.

We continue to sell the 4 DCA conservation audits and will need to reprint some of these. There is also a proposal to put these on the web, which I think is an excellent idea.

Jenny Potts, Hon. Secretary. 17 June 2011

Item 5.2 - Treasurers Report

Myself and Jenny did a few hours handover back in March. Sorting out the address of the treasurer and account signatures has been a pain. This should be sorted this week so the bank has told me. This means the bank statements have been going to Jenny's address so she has been forwarding them on; hence there has been a delay in me updating the accounts.

The new account signatures are: Wayne Sheldon, Jenny Potts, Bob Dearman and Dave Webb.

The 2010/2011 accounts have been audited, thanks to Jenny for sorting this out and to Boyd for picking them up from the auditor. A copy of the accounts has been sent to the BCA Treasurer for approval.

I have created a new expenses form; members now have the option of filling this in electronically if they want. This can be printed off and filled in the old way if members wish also.

Caves of the Peak District. Expenditure so far is: £8561.48. We have sold £10,932 so that is: £2370.52 profit. We still have 315 copies, worth £4095 at trade prices.

The DCA Publications (includes CoPD) are still being looked after by Jenny, and records kept accordingly which she sends to me monthly so this ties up with the accounts.

Major payments into our accounts since the 26th February 2011 are: a grant from BCA for Youth Development of £416.85, this is towards the costs of last year's Cliffhanger event. £2810.00 in CoPD sales.

Major payments out since 26th February are: £204.50 towards C & A projects at Flower Pot Entrance and Eldon Hole Trees. £104.10 for travel expenses to deliver CoPD to outlets.

Current funds are:	Deposit a/c:	£14,629.02
	Current a/c:	£ 1,631.59
	Total:	£16,260.61

This amount includes £512.73 in the Cave Conservation Emergency Fund and £417.73 in the Cave Discovery Fund.

At the DCA Underground Conservation Forum meeting, a cave project required some funding came up and the subject of how much could the treasurer agree to spend without the approval of council. There are guidelines available, a maximum limit of £50, after this I must seek approval of council. Could we have a look at this policy, make amendments where necessary.

Wayne Sheldon, Hon. Treasurer. 12/06/11

Item 5.3 - Conservation Officer's Report, February – June 2011

- 1. "Ore to Orchids" film show Great Hucklow.**
An opportunity arose to promote our interest in and conservation of the local lead mines with a film show in the Nightingale Centre on March 19th. It was a joint presentation by Niki and Mat Adlam-Stiles and myself and was attended by around 70 cavers and locals. Feedback was very positive.
- 2. SSSI Monitoring meeting, March 22nd.**
A meeting of SSSI area representatives met Jo Poll to discuss the current situation regarding the monitoring scheme. Jo announced that she would be leaving NE at the end of May but hoped her successor, Dan Abrahams, would be able to run the next meeting provisionally arranged for December 13th 2011. The spreading and stockpiling of paper pulp was discussed. Jo will organise a meeting with representatives from Blue Star, Envar, PDNPA, John Gunn, Environment Agency and Natural England. The aim of the workshop is to be an information gathering session and to open up dialogue about concerns over paper pulp in limestone karst areas.
- 3. Geodiversity meeting (RIGS) March 24th.**
The East Midlands Geodiversity Partnership group met to showcase geodiversity projects taking place in the region. It is hoped that the local RIGS group will be able to move on setting up a Peak District and Derbyshire Geodiversity Action Plan (Local Geodiversity Action Plan *LGAP*) – funding permitting. Jo and myself represented the caving and underground interest and Jo delivered a short presentation on completed DCA/NE partnership conservation projects.
- 4. BCRA Field Meet. Easgill May 6th.**
These BCRA organised field meets are becoming both regular and popular with cavers wishing to expand their knowledge of scientific aspects of caving. The agenda centred upon the geology of the area and in particular the part played in cave formation by the Dent and Craven faults.
- 5. RIGS meeting. May 12th**
The meeting discussed the way forward for the LGAP. Also discussed were the caves designated as RIGS. It has been decided that these now require much more detail in order for them to be accepted by all parties at the planning stage. This has come as a surprise to me since I have always assumed that the 23 sites listed had been ratified by the Geology Group years ago! It is generating a great deal of extra work for both Jo and myself (and Jenny!)

6. UCF Meeting May 17th.

A full agenda was attended by no less than 20 cavers and representatives of national bodies. Jo formally announced her retirement and I thanked her on behalf of cavers and the DCA for all her hard work on our behalf over the last eight years. She was presented with a montage of photos by DW of a caving trip in Giants and a large bunch of flowers.

6a Boulder Piles Piping. An item at the UCF meeting was a request for funding for the purchase of proper clips and piping to ferry the water from Leviathan away from the boulders at the base and directly into the streamway to assist with the stabilising of the choke. The meeting felt this to be a proper use of DCA funds (six DCA Officers present) since collapse would deny us of a major site and the opportunity to inspect the system as required by the monitoring scheme. Varying sums were proposed (£200-£300) and it was agreed that DW obtain an estimate once materials had been sourced. Wayne would raise this at Council.

7. Meeting at Endcliffe. May 24th.

Meeting at NE Offices to discuss handover with Jo and Dan (her replacement)

8. NT Family Fun Day. May 30th

I attended on behalf of DCA to supervise the use of the Artificial Cave. Apart from almost continual rain and a relatively poor attendance the "cave" was a great success and its use is to be encouraged for PR.

9. BCRA Field Meet. Bradwell Catchment. June 9th

A well attended meeting offered a series of presentations on the Bradwell catchment area, the effect of volcanoes on water flows, conservation methods and CO2 levels in Bagshawe Cavern. This was followed by a visit to various sites influencing flow in the catchment and a visit to Bagshawe cavern in the evening.

10. DCA Handbook.

I have submitted a list of amendments to the draft copy of the new Rigging Guide and Handbook. I am currently working on a new conservation section which will be ready soon.

11. NE Grant Aid.

I am still hoping that we shall receive a further grant for conservation work and have submitted a "wish list" to Jo who is negotiating on our behalf. The list is mainly materials for restoration work, such as mesh steel and Rigidrain, and if it goes according to plan we shall need to look for a larger store as the shed at Magpie is filling up with stuff needed by PDMHS.

Time is running out to let Martyn or myself know if you know of work that needs doing and is likely to raise a cost for "labour" or materials.

Dave Webb, Conservation Officer

Item 5.6 - Legal & Insurance Officer's Report

Liability Insurance

I have let Chatsworth have copies, as DCA is required to do, of their Indemnity under the legal agreement we have with the Estate for access to the Garden Path and Lathkill Upper Entrances and the Ashford Black Marble Mine. In respect of the Ashford Mine, I need periodically to check that the insurance cover used by Centres which pay regular visits to the site does in fact extend to fully indemnifying Chatsworth, again as the Agreement requires. I expect this to be a formality. It is almost certain that Centres will offer indemnity up to £5M, as against BCA's present £2M limit. Since £5M has been seen as the standard level for several years now, I feel BCA should also consider subscribing to the higher figure from next January. In this way the gap will not seem so large if and when liability limits rise again.

Annual State-of-Site Reports for Chatsworth

I got reports written up and posted recently on the basis of information given me by Bob Dearman, Jenny Potts, and Iain Barker, and after visits made personally to the Ashford Black Marble Mine and the two Lathkill entrances. Everything seems fine (apart from spilt candle wax in the Ashford Mine, and a missing pen at the Upper Entrance as a consequence of which no record of visits appears in the logbook after October 2010!). Clearly, however, a reliable system needs putting in place for regular annual inspections and feedback to me if I am to be the person expected to continue to write and submit these reports.

Draft BCA Agreement with Forestry Commission

Dave Webb kindly brought this to my attention and as a result I have submitted comments on the need for legal liability aspects of access to caves and mines on Forestry Commission land to be addressed in the course of negotiations. The Concordat, as it's called, sets out broad principles and national guidelines as a basis for agreements to be made at local level between the Commission and caving/mining history groups.

Peter Mellors, Legal & Insurance Officer