



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 1st. March 2014, Monyash Village Hall

Commenced at 13:30, after the 2014 AGM

MINUTES

Present:	Officers:	Vice Chairman	Terry Jackson [TJ]	(Ind.)	
		Secretary	Jenny Potts [JP]	(Ind. & OCC)	
		Treasurer	Wayne Sheldon [WS]	(Ind. & TSG)	
		Access Officer	Ewan Cameron [EC]	(OCC)	
		Legal & Insurance Off.	Pete Mellors [PM]	Ind. Hon. Member)	
		Projects Officer	Pete Knight [PK]	(Ind. & DCMC)	
		Equipment Officer	Bob Dearman [BD]	(Ind. & EPC)	
		Newsletter Editor	Mike Higgins [MH]	(Ind.)	
		Clubs:	Crewe C.P.C.	Alan Brentnall [AB]	(& TSG)
			Masson C.G.	Jim Borrington [JB]	
			Orpheus C.C.	Boyd Potts [BP]	
			PDMHS	Dave Webb [DW]	

1. Vice Chairman's Welcome:

TJ welcomed members to the Council Meeting.

2. Apologies for absence: Establish Quorum.

2.1 **Apologies** from: M.Milner (Conservation Off.), Nigel Atkins (Training Off.), John Beck (Cave Registry Sec.), Chris Broome (Asst. Sec. Planning Liaison), Karen Slatcher (O.C.C. & Ind.), Paul Lydon (O.C.C.), Kevin West (Ind.), Elaine Hill (Ind.), Adam Russell (PDMHS).

WS explained that JB has lung cancer and also now has growth on the outside of his brain. He is still caving.

2.2 **Quorate** with 8 officers present.

3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: (2 November 2013, previously circulated).

3.1 Amend 6.2.b to read NE (i.e. Natural England) instead of EN.

3.2 **That, with this amendment, the Minutes be approved.** Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. **Accepted**

4. Matters Arising Therefrom:

4.1 4.1 Arrange for DCA plaques to be fitted to shaft lids:

BD said the Nettle Pot plaque had been given to Dan Hibberts but not yet been installed. BD will retrieve it. Ongoing. Credit Crunch expedition shaft plaque being made by DH etc. BD will sort this. Plaque for Son of Nettle needed. Intention is to put a plaque on all DCA-installed lids. **ACTION: BD, PK**

4.2 4.2 Review DCA Fixed Aids Policy in consultation with CNCC:

BD explained DCA's existing system. JP suggested that a group of BD, JP, BP, JB, ST. etc. consider the draft BCA policy to see whether it might be suitable for adoption by DCA with possible additions. JP to send copies to others involved ST, JB, MM. **ACTION: BD, JP**

4.3 4.6 Masson Quarry sale - seek information on purchaser:

Noted it had not been sold - matter in abeyance. JP & AR would continue to check. **ACTION: JP, AR**

4.4 4.8 Hungerhill Swallet - proposal to re-direct road runoff - contact DCC / DO:

DW reports that D.Ottewell is "on the case" but no further action has been taken so far. **ACTION: DW, DO**

4.5 4.9 Magpie Mine / River Lathkill proposal - keep watch on progress:

Noted that DW recorded the meeting re. the Lathkill model and a recording is also available on the UBSS website. Agreed MM & DW to liaise to contact Peak Park with notes of all our concerns. Noted that there are EIAs to be done before anything can go ahead and the proposals are also waiting for Heritage Lottery funding. Also agreed DCA needs to keep a watching brief. PM mentions possible liability issues if the system blows after work has been done. **ACTION: MM, DW, AI**

4.6 4.10 Paper pulp above Stoney Middleton Dale - confirm pulp now spread:

Believed the paper pulp has now been spread.

4.7 4.11 Castleton Moor Shaft - new lid needed:

BD has the lid, which needs to be installed. **ACTION: PK, BD**

4.8 4.12 Level behind Bateman's Shaft - needs new access grill on shaft:

BD dealt with this initially. Decided it would be better to install a gate in the adit leading to the top of the shaft rather than on the shaft itself. **ACTION: BD, PK**

4.9 4.16 Christmas Swallet & Snelslow Swallet - defer discussion of access agreement to AGM:

PM notes that the owner is not likely to turn down access to Giants as he makes too much money from this and he is also indemnified by DCA using the BCA insurance. EC comments that the farmer now renting the land appears to think there will be same sort of use as Giants but this is unlikely. WS suggests the existing spits will be showing wear and tear. Suggested that DCA might ask to arrange to inspect the existing spits and, if necessary replace the spits with BP bolts. Possible that involving NE might help to arrange access. EC to contact Baldacci initially and report back.

ACTION: EC

4.10 4.19 Appoint new Trainer for bolt installers:

In hand.

ACTION: BD

4.11 6.1.b Devonshire, old show cave entrance needs to be secured properly:

In hand. Noted that existing door, lock, etc. working well. Final stabilising needs to be done. AR has some materials ready.

ACTION: PK, AR

4.12 6.2.a BCA Funding, WS to contact MM about National Trust possibly funding work in Manifold:

WS has been in contact with MM and there is a possibility of funding from NT. Not a great deal needs to be spent at present so DCA can fund it.

ACTION: MM, WS

4.13 6.2.b NE funding for 2014, WS to liaise with MM on projects which could be funded by NE:

NE has had the list. Waiting for feedback.

ACTION: WS, MM

4.14 6.3.a Stoney Middleton C.C.P., JP to follow up progress with MC:

JP reported that this is in the final stages of editing.

ACTION: JP, MC

4.15 6.5.i.a Jug Holes gate, arrange for new bolt to be installed as needed:

See AGM minutes.

ACTION: PK, BP

4.16 6.6.c Eldon Hill Quarry, install BP bolts above Sidetrack cave and also on the ledge outside:

Job done. Thanks to BD and JB.

4.17 6.6.e Waterfall Hole, liaise with appropriate authority to arrange for parking for cavers:

PM has had a meeting with National Trust to establish the land area actually owned by NT. Now need to establish ownership of lane/verge where car parking area is and, if it is in NT ownership, they will help fund surfacing. We have to wait for information before work can be started. Now no need to phone Mark Noble prior visiting but keep entrance to the farm clear when parking.

ACTION: PM, EC, PK

4.18 6.6.f Chatsworth Check List, complete checks on ABMM, Lathkill Head and Garden Path:

All checks are now in hand by various people. BD notes that Eco anchor placements should all be checked as part of the inspection to see they meet BCA standards.

ACTION: KS, PL, BP, EC, PM

5. Matters of Immediate Import Arising from the 2014 AGM:

5.1 Pleasley Vale Railway Cutting Pot: Check that there is no conflict with bats.

ACTION: PM, EC, MM

5.2 DCA Chairman Needed: JP to put out request for nomination or volunteer.

ACTION: JP

5.3 Cave Atmosphere Monitoring:

See AB's report to AGM.

Propose DCA spends the money to buy a GasAlertClip O₂ meter. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. D.Webb. ***Agreed.***

AB to liaise with WS.

ACTION: AB, WS

6. Any Other Business:

6.1 Old bolt placements: BD concerned about the number of defunct anchors, spits, etc. in "tourist" routes, which are now unsafe and unwanted. Suggests we should now have a policy for "exploration bolts", which should be capable of being removed if not required; and that we should now remove all older unwanted spits and, if necessary replace them with new BP bolts. BD is prepared to draw up a policy to bring to the next DCA meeting.

ACTION: BD

6.2 British Caving Library:

JP reminded members of the existence of BCL; visitors are welcome and volunteers are needed to help with cataloguing.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 14.56.

J.Potts, Recorder