



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 27th. February 2016, Monyash Village Hall
Started at 12.25pm, after the 2016 AGM

MINUTES

Present:	Officers:	Vice Chairman:	Terry Jackson [TJ] (Ind.)
		Secretary:	Jenny Potts [JP] (Ind.)
		Treasurer:	Angus Sawyer [AS] (Ind.)
		Projects Officer:	Pete Knight [PK] (Darkside CMC & Ind.)
		Legal & Insurance Officer:	Pete Mellors [PM] (Ind.)
	Clubs:	Equipment Officer:	Bob Dearman [BD] (Eldon P.C. & Ind.)
		Newsletter Editor:	Mike Higgins [MH] (Ind.)
		Masson C.G.	D.Webb [DW]
		Orpheus C. C.	B.Potts [BP]
		P.D.M.H.S.	Adam Russell [AR]

1. Chairman's Welcome:

In the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman TJ welcomed members.

2. Apologies for absence: Establish Quorum.

2.1 **Apologies for absence:** received from: Wayne Sheldon (Chairman), Christine Wilson (Conservation Officer), Gary Noble (Access Officer), Nigel Atkins (Training Officer), Jim Borrington (Masson C.G.), Alan Brentnall (Ind), Karen Slatcher (Ind).

2.2 **Quorum:** The meeting was quorate with 7 elected officers present.

3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: (24 October 2015, previously circulated).

3.1 **That the Minutes of the Council Meeting 24 October 2015 be accepted as a correct record.**

Prop. P.Knight, Sec. M.Higgins. **Agreed unanimously.**

It was agreed to take Item 5 on the agenda next.

5. Matters of Immediate Import Arising from the 2016 AGM:

5.1. To agree on the signatories for the Derbyshire Caving Association Bank Mandate:

5.1.a **That the four signatories for the bank mandate shall be the Derbyshire Caving Association Treasurer, the Derbyshire Caving Association Chairman, the Derbyshire Caving Association Secretary and the Derbyshire Caving Association Vice-Chairman.**

Proposed A.Sawyer, Sec. J.Potts. **Agreed unanimously.**

5.1.b **That the signatures of any two of the above four persons be required to authorise a cheque on behalf of Derbyshire Caving Association.**

Proposed A.Sawyer, Sec. J.Potts. **Agreed unanimously.**

5.1.c **That the assent of any two of the above persons be required to authorise an electronic payment on behalf of Derbyshire Caving Association.**

Proposed. A.Sawyer, Sec. J.Potts. **Agreed unanimously.**

5.1.d **That transfers between the DCA Deposit and DCA Current accounts may be made on the sole authority of the Treasurer.**

Prop. A.Sawyer, Sec. J.Potts. **Agreed unanimously**

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Council Meeting:

(Note that some of these issues may already have been dealt with in reports to the 2016 AGM.)

4.1 **Review DCA Fixed Aids Policy:** This is in hand. JP and BD would liaise.

ACTION: JP, BD

4.2 **Magpie Mine / River Lathkill proposal:** AR reported no definite decision so far. AR and CW would liaise.

ACTION: AR, CW

4.3 **Level behind Bateman's Shaft - P-bolts required:** On the agenda but waiting for drill repairs.

ACTION: BD

4.4 **Devonshire, agreed to defer securing door pending sale of land:** There needed to be a check new shafts which are believed to have appeared following clearance in the woods. There is one shaft, believed to be currently bolted shut, which can be used for cave rescue access. We need to find out from the new owner which shafts on their land may be a cause of concern. Suggest new Access Officer GN and possibly Colum Walsh be asked to check.

ACTION: GN

4.5 **Manifold bolts required - List of sites needed:**

- 4.5.1 Sorted. Need drills repaired and access when weather is dry. BD will sort of out list of installers and areas they are to cover.
- 4.5.2 **Lid Bolts:** MH has talked to Peter Kay about lid bolts being replaced because of corrosion. He has done the ones in the Hamps and needs to do the ones in Manifold.
- 4.6 **Odin Mine - Check progress with N.T.:** AR reports almost no communication from NT. Bring up at the next UCF meeting. **ACTION: AR**
- 4.7 **JH Leviathan Pitch - Re-bolt the alternative route with BP bolts:** Awaiting drill repairs. **ACTION: BD**
- 4.8 **Eyam Dale House Cave access - New keyholder required:** New owner will be approached once building work on site is completed but we have a volunteer keyholder. JP is liaising with local cavers. **ACTION: JP**
- 4.9 **Eldon Hole - Ground anchors renewal:** Refer to AGM Minutes 6.6.3. To install one new bollard costs £75 in materials. Suggestion is we go instead for holes using rock drill with 25mm diameter long bars inserted and resined in. This should have an 80-year life span. The bollards can be used elsewhere. Can be done by a contractor - e.g. Dan Hibberts is able to do this. **ACTION: PK, BD**
- 4.10 **Titan shaft repair work - Progress:** Shaft top work has been nearly completed at a cost of £882.26 and the entrance should be open again within a couple of weeks. WS had suggested that DCA should donate an amount towards the cost.
That a Donation of up to £500 be made to the Titan project.
Prop. B.Potts, Sec. M.Higgins. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 4.11 **Christmas Swallet & Snelslow Swallet - Access:** Progress had been delayed awaiting Ewan Cameron's draft letter, which has not appeared. PM has now drafted his own letter to be sent to Mr. Baldacci requesting access to monitor the SSSI site. PM needs to send this by recorded delivery and is still trying to find Mr. Baldacci's postal address. General discussion ensued: it was uncertain who had asked for access and been refused; noted that site was cleared of rubbish and a new drystone wall was built round the site at DCA's expense several years ago; Alan Brentnall suggested that the existing fixed ladders need to be removed on safety grounds proper bolts need to be installed; noted there is an open lead rake on the ground and there is a fenced-off collapse probably on Faucett rake. **ACTION: PM**
- 4.12 **Garden Path Shaft - Access arrangements improvement:** The new permit system is now in operation.
- 4.13 **Bolt Installation - Progress re. new bolting approved 20/6/15 (Rowter, Peak Cavern Assault Course):** BD is still awaiting repairs to BCA drill. He also noted that the Hydrajaws is out of calibration (it should be re-calibrated every year). Cost of re-calibration is approx. £50 but this should be paid for by BCA.
That BD request that BCA E&T pay for this. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 4.14 **Eldon Hole - Funding to support work to stabilise route to Main Chamber, progress:** The diggers have only just started work again after the winter so no request made this year so far.
- 4.15 **EuroSpeleo2016 - Derbyshire "camp" progress:** BP reported so far he has had 5 applications for Derbyshire Camp (5 middle-aged Germans) but will send a questionnaire in April to all who have booked to see what they want to do. Orpheus CC, Crewe CPC and TSG have offered to help. **ACTION: BP**
- 4.16 **Hazelbadge Cave - Access progress report:** Covered in DCA Annual Report by Legal & Insurance Officer.
- 4.17 **EuroSpeleo2016 stand for DCA:** JP is following up to find out who to contact re. arrangements. **ACTION: JP**
- 4.18 **Bank Account changes:** Dealt with under item 5 above.
- 4.19 **DCA Conservation Audits - Printing:** Covered in DCA Annual Report by Secretary.
- 4.20 **Website administrative arrangements:** Covered in earlier discussions - see AGM Minutes 7.1.

6. **Any Other Business**

- 6.1 **Ashford BMM:** PM is awaiting contact from Ewan Cameron but he is known to be in UK for the next week only before going to the Middle East. PM would contact him by phone and try to extract existing paperwork and keys from him to hand this over to the new Access Officer. **ACTION: PM, GN**
- 6.2 **List of Projects.** PK will start from scratch to compile an up-to-date list of projects. Streaks, (both entrances), Carleswark (shoring up Big Dig); JH cartgate needs to be checked and any dodgy areas stabilised and made safe as far as possible. DW offered records of project work done in the past - PK suggests this would be useful. **ACTION: PK, DW**
- 6.3 **Past Conservation Officer Records:** DW will transfer DCA leaflets to JP and CW will go through them. Archive material of interest can go to the British Caving Library as part of DCA records. **ACTION: DW, JP, CW**

Meeting ended at 1.30pm

J.Potts, Recorder