



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 10:30am. 16 November 2019, Monyash Village Hall

MINUTES

Present:	Officers	Wayne Sheldon [WS]	Chairman (Ind.) & Acting Secretary
		Mike Higgins [MH]	Membership Secretary
		Angus Sawyer [AS]	Treasurer & Webmaster
		Pete Knight [PK]	Projects Officer
		Phil Wolstenholme [PW]	Newsletter Editor / Cave Registry Secretary
		Jenny Potts [JP]	Publications Sales
	Clubs	Darkside C.M.C.	(Pete Knight)
	Individual Members	Scott Bradley, (Jenny Potts, Mike Higgins, Pete Knight, Angus Sawyer, Wayne Sheldon, Phil Wolstenholme)	

1. Chairman's Welcome:

WS welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence: Establish Quorum.

2.1 **Apologies:** Bob Dearman, Alan Brentnall, Nige Atkins, Charlie Cooley, Karen Skatcher, Shirley Burtonshaw, Martin Long, Nigel Addy. Masson Caving Group, Shropshire Scouts Caving Team.

2.1 **Quorum:** Meeting was quorate with 6 officers present.

3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: (01 June 2019, previously circulated).

That the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. M.Higgins.
Agreed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising Therefrom: (Note that some of these issues may be dealt with in Officers' Reports.)

See Register of Actions attached.

4.1 27 **Scan surveys held by BCL and place on DCA website.**

JP reported that the John Beck surveys are currently being catalogued by SB and ML, they are about halfway through the stack after 1 year. A copy of the current list so far is with WS.

4.2 32 **Stub Scrin Shaft to be capped.**

See PK's report, 6.6.

4.3 36 **Investigate possible DCA funding of Radon Dosemeters.**

Agreed to drop this item. Discharged.

4.4 42 **MH to scan earlier DCA Newsletters for website**

See MH's report, 6.2.b.

4.5 45 **Tackle bags to be bought for the use of bolt installers**

See PK's report, 6.6.

4.6 48 **DCA Store: It is still the intention to move the container to a better location,**

The container is still at Cavendish Mill but there are concerns that the site is now a rather disorganized general storage site. JP suggested that the car park of Pindale Cement works may be available, PK would investigate via a contact.

4.7 51 **The Registry and the DCA front page should contain information directing people to sites with information about how to cave responsibly.**

AS reported that "New to Caving" and "Minimum Impact Caving Guidelines" are on the website. Discharged.

4.8 53 **Currently Unfilled Vacancies. Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Access coordinator**

Offer for Access Officer - Allan Brentnall. He can be accepted as Acting Access Officer till the AGM and can then be elected. AB has agreed he will continue as Vice Chairman

Accept Alan Brentnall as Acting Access Officer. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. A.Sawyer.
Agreed Unanimously.

Noted that DCA still needs a Secretary, and other officers.

4.9 56 **Waterways Swallet car park**

SB reported that action is planned for CCPC working w/e plus other helpers on 30th. Nov. It is aimed to have Derbyshire key access for the gate to the car park. See SB's report 6.7.a

4.10 58 **Lathkillhead Cave Top Entrance. BD proposed replacing a piton used to deviate the second pitch with a "Chinese" bolt**

Agreed a bolt is not necessary as there us a useable thread belay. Discharged.

- 4.11 59 **Masson Mine. Alternative access etc.**
See WS's report, 6.1.
- 4.12 60 **Old Jant Mine**
See WS's report, 6.1.
- 4.13 61 **Long Rake Mine. Bad Air. etc.**
Situation referred to DCRO. Discharged.
- 4.14 63 **Giants Hole: PK to get permission from landowner for private property signs.**
See PK's report, 6.6.
- 4.15 64 **A meeting has been arranged with the National Trust to discuss future access to both Longcliffe venues and Odin Mine.**
See Access Officer's report, 6.5.
- 4.16 65 **Topo Standardization for different type of bolts. AS agreed, to draw up a set of standards.**
See AS's report, 6.3.a

5. Election of New Members

No applications received.

6. Officers' Reports. (We aim to circulate these at least a week before the meeting)

6.1 Chairman (*Report circulated beforehand.*)

- 6.1.1 **Holme Bank Chert Mine.** Gates need sorting. PK will oversee this. WS is having problems in contacting Chatsworth.
- 6.1.2 **Masson.** It appears the landowner does not want to engage with caver's, but it seems access is still unhindered except for rocks which have been placed on certain shaft tops. No formal agreement is in place, but no cavers have been refused access.
That the Chairman's Report be accepted. Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. P.Knight. ***Agreed Unanimously.***

6.2.a. Acting Secretary (*Report circulated beforehand.*)

The report was noted.

That the Acting Secretary's Report be accepted. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. M.Higgins.
Agreed Unanimously.

6.2.b. Membership Secretary (*Report circulated beforehand.*)

- 6.2.b.1 MH noted that, in response to reminders he had sent out, some members have resigned their membership. An appreciative letter had been received from Tony Gibbs.
- 6.2.b.2 MH has checked with BCA website re. member clubs and some clubs are no longer BCA members so will have to drop out of DCA. It was agreed that, given BCA has agreed to fund all regional expenses, it is reasonable to expect member clubs to also be members of BCA. Query whether club which is member of BCA constituent body but not BCA itself can still be a member of DCA - maybe a change DCA Constitution is needed.
- 6.2.b.3 MH is to liaise with JP re. printed Newsletter subscription for some Individual members.
That the Membership Secretary's Report be accepted. Prop.S.Bradley, Sec. M.Higgins.
Agreed Unanimously.

6.3.a Treasurer / Webmaster (*Report circulated beforehand.*)

- 6.3.a.1 AS noted that we still need entrance photos for the website. JP, PW and KS are researching Frank i' th' Rocks cave systems and will supply updates.
- 6.3.a.2 Noted DCA must have its accounts ready by end of year in order to obtain its BCA grant.
- 6.3.a.3 Noted that the DCA domain name registered by Paul Johnson needs updating. JP will check contact details.
That the Treasurer/Webmaster's Report be accepted. Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. P.Knight.
Agreed Unanimously.

6.3.b Publication Sales (*Report circulated beforehand.*)

Report noted. JP explained that Cave Conservation Audits would now be put on the DCA website for free download.
That the Publications Sales Report be accepted. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. M.Higgins.
Agreed Unanimously.

6.4.a. Conservation Officer (position vacant)

Reports from 4 different people relating to conservation issues appeared in reports 6.4.b, 6.5 and 6.6.

6.4.b. DCA Underground Conservation Forum Convener report. (Report circulated beforehand.)

Eldon Hole. JP expressed concern that HE's refusal of further access for cavers to the dig might discourage cavers from reporting potential archaeological finds in future. There was a suggestion of setting up winch to enable HE officials to access the site in Eldon Hole to inspect the situation, which could enable cavers to continue working there in the future. It was suggested that people like John Gunn and John Barnett might be able to help with this.

6.5 Access Officer (position vacant)

6.5.1 **Odin Mine:** PW noted the various problems relating to re-opening. Noted that there is a now a collapse in the gorge so this needs making safe for cavers to access and to prevent the public having access. Other shafts in area need investigating and shaft tops need protecting.

6.5.2 **Longcliffe:** There is a need to enable some club reps. to have a look at the site with a view to being willing to act as leaders in the future. NT have asked PW to do a photographic survey of the mine and certain relics will be removed for preservation after being photographed in situ.

That the combined access/conservation reports in items 6.4.b, 6.5 and 6.6 be accepted. Prop. S.Bradley, Sec. M.Higgins. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.6 Projects Officer (Report circulated beforehand.)

6.6.1 **Wardlow Sough.** PK's report Included an illustrated addendum tabled about the work in Wardlow Sough.

6.6.2 **Mouldridge Mine.** Still being dealt with by Adam Russell on behalf of PDMHS - he is out of action at present.

6.6.3 **Devonshire.** No action taken yet due to other work, but it is in hand and will be started a.s.a.p.

6.6.4 **Ashford Black Marble Mine.** Problems with trees have now been sorted. PK noted that a survey of the mine is automatically sent to all permit holders.

6.6.5 **Actions.** Updates are listed for those dealt with.

6.6.6 **Thanks** PK expressed his thanks to all those local cavers who have helped out with all the various projects.

That the Projects Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. S.Bradley, Sec. M.Higgins. **Agreed Unanimously.**

6.7.a. Equipment Officer (Report circulated beforehand.)

6.7.a.1 SB had sent in a report. He is still shadowing BD ready to take over and noted the importance of keeping records, spreadsheets, etc. accessible to other officers to avoid losing information. It was suggested DCA sets up a Google drive account in DCA's name and use this to keep records and then, in due course, place the information on the DCA website. AS will set this up and officers can each have their own folders.

6.7.a.2 It was noted that funding is needed to continue working on projects and to inspect sites at the request of official bodies when required and DCA has to maintain suitable working standards. JP pointed out that BCA has agreed to fund regional expenditure and C&A expenditure can now go direct to BCA Treasurer without having to go through the BCA Finance Committee.

That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. P.Wolstenholme. **Agreed Unanimously.**

6.7.b DCA Cave Atmosphere Monitoring report. (Report circulated beforehand.)

6.7.b.1 AB's report was noted.

6.7.b.2 **DCA single gas recorder.** PK reported that this now has only 4 months left of its scheduled working time. PK now has his own, so he suggested we don't bother to replace the DCA one.

That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed Unanimously.**

6.8 Training Officer

6.8.1 **BCA Training** events schedule has been circulated by Nige Atkins.

6.8.2 **Terms of Reference for Regional T.O.** Agreed to deal with this at the next meeting when NA is present.

6.9 Newsletter Editor (Report circulated beforehand.)

Newsletter Issue 152. PW stated that the next NL is full so is ready to go to print next week. Some material is being left until the next issue as it is not of such immediate importance. Noted that shorter "information items" can now go onto DCA website and UK Caving so that the NL can concentrate on longer articles. JP emphasized that the number of pages and colored sides must remain as at present for the printed issue to avoid any price rise for printing and postage; a Newsletter subscription covers 4 issues, so it is better to increase the number of issues rather than increase the size of any one issue.

That the Newsletter Editor's Report be accepted. Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed Unanimously.**

6.10 Cave Registry Secretary (Report circulated beforehand.)

PW's report was noted, including the police request. Emphasized that we need to continue to update the Registry.

That the Cave Registry Secretary's Report be accepted. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. J.Potts. **Agreed Unanimously.**

7. BCA Matters / Agenda Items

- 7.1 Report from BCA AGM 09th June 2019 and BCA Council 12th Oct 2019 (Report circulated beforehand.)**
- 7.1.1 JP's report was noted. (WS and MH had also been at the BCA AGM and WS had attended the October BCA Council Meeting.)
- 7.1.2 **BCA C&A Officer.** WS reminded members that BCA is looking for a new C&A Officer following the resignation of Louise Baddeley. It was noted that there were now two cavers who had expressed an interest in the post and it was felt essential that such a post, which would concentrate on national Cave Conservation issues since access is dealt with on a regional basis, should be taken by a caver used to dealing with landowners, Natural England, other statutory bodies, etc. and not by a non-caver outsider.
- 7.1.3 **2021 BCA AGM.** JP suggested that DCA recommend that BCA uses the Rotary Club Castleton for the BCA AGM in 2021. BCA would do the organizing and DCA would be willing to assist. We need to advise BCA to organize the booking in good time.
That Jenny Potts' BCA Report be accepted. Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. P.Knight.
Agreed Unanimously.
- 7.2 BCA Ballot**
WS said that, in accordance with views expressed at the June Council Meeting, he has already entered DCA's vote in favor of the BCA proposals.

8. Date & Venue for next Council Meeting

- 8.1 AGM followed by brief council meeting, Saturday 22nd Feb 2020**
Already agreed.
- 8.2 Propose dates for two council meetings throughout the coming year.**
Suggested that to fit in with future BCA meetings possible dates were 6th. June and 3rd. October 2020.

9. Any Other Business

- 9.1 Constitutional amendments - discussion**
- 9.1.1 **Cave Discovery Fund Constitution:** MH noted that there is almost no publicity about the DCA CDF and suggested there could be a leaflet advertising it and promotion of it. The DCA CDF constitution also needs to be updated in several respects. JP noted that the DCA CDF had become almost unnecessary when Hitch 'n' Hike were running their Derbyshire Cave Discovery award system but H'n'H had now closed so there was a need for an upgraded DCA CDF once more. It had originally been funded by a small levy on club subscriptions to DCA but clubs did not now pay a subscription to DCA so funding would now have to come from donations or by DCA putting in money from its general fund.
JP suggested that MH should come to the AGM with proposals for amendments to the CDF Constitution to be agreed at the AGM. MH agreed to do this.
- 9.1.2 **DCA Constitution:** MH suggested that DCA's own Constitution also needs updating, in particular the membership system and the links to BCA.
JP suggested that MH should come to the AGM with proposals for amendments to the DCA Constitution to be agreed at the AGM. MH agreed to do this.
- 9.1.3 **DCA Cave Conservation Emergency Fund.** MH questioned whether there was any longer a need for such a fund, given that BCA was now agreeing to fund regional access expenditure and that DCA also now had substantial funds of its own which were available. AS confirmed that the DCA CCEF had in it approximately £1,000 and the DCA CDF had in it approximately £300 - both amounts being held within DCA's general account. After some discussion it was agreed that DCA Council was authorized to make changes since no external funds were involved
That Council agrees to close the DCA Cave Conservation Emergency Fund and place the money instead in the DCA Cave Discovery Fund.
Prop. P.Knight, Sec. M.Higgins. ***Agreed unanimously***
- 9.1.4 JP reminded members that there is a national Cave Conservation Emergency Fund, UKCCEF, whose funds are held by BCRA on behalf of all cavers; this fund can be accessed by any caving organization in the event of an emergency.
- 9.2 Access Leaflet needed.**
AB had suggested that a leaflet on access and landowners' rights and responsibilities was needed. Noted that Pete Mellors had produced just such a leaflet several years ago and AS has a copy of this on the website, so it is possible to re-print it as required.

9.3 Venues for Council Meetings and AGMs.

- 9.3.1 PK reported that it had been suggested to him that we might consider rotating meetings round other venues, possibly ones which have better public transport access. JP explained the reason for using Monyash on a regular basis - it was PR for the cavers who use the area's mines and gives a small monetary return to the Village. Some other venues suggested seemed to have problems with parking, were more expensive or would not be available on a Saturday morning but it was agreed it would be useful to have WIFI available at the venue. JP suggested that the British Caving Library was free, has WIFI and parking on a Saturday but could only accommodate about 12 people and is not accessible by public transport.
- 9.3.2 It was agreed to ask members for suggestions for meeting venues which would have parking, public transport & possibly WIFI.

Meeting closed. 13.13

J.E.Potts, Recorder

The following documents are appended to these Minutes and form part of them:

- 6.1 DCA Chairman's report
- 6.2.a DCA Secretary's Report
- 6.a.b DCA Membership Secretary's Report
- 6.3.a Treasurer / Webmaster's Report
- 6.3.b DCA Publications Sales for 1 June to 31 October
- 6.4.b Underground Conservation Forum Meeting 30/10/19
- 6.5 Access Officer Report
- 6.6 Projects Officer's Report including illustrated Wardlow Sough opening report
- 6.7.a Equipment Officer Report
- 6.7.b Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report
- 6.9 Newsletter Editor's Report
- 6.10 Cave Registry Secretary's Report
- 7.1 BCA Matters: Reports on BCA AGM 9 June and BCA Council Meeting 13 October