



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 22 February 2020, 12:30pm,
Monyash Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Officers:	Chairman / Secretary	Wayne Sheldon [WS]	
	Vice Chairman / Access Officer	Alan Brentnall [AB]	
	Treasurer	Angus Sawyer [AS]	
	Projects Officer	Pete Knight [PK]	
	Equipment Officer	Scott Bradley [SBr]	
	Cave Registry / Newsletter	Phil Wolstenholme [PW]	
	Membership Secretary	Mike Higgins [MH]	
	Publication Sales/BCA Rep	Jenny Potts [JP]	
	Clubs:	Crewe C.P.C.	(Alan Brentnall)
		DCMC	(Pete Knight)
Eldon P.C.		Bob Dearman	
PDMHS		Shirley Burtonshaw [SBu]	
T.S.G.		(Scott Bradley)	
Individual Members:	Terry Jackson [TJ], Martin Long (ML), Pete Mellors (PM), (Wayne Sheldon, Angus Sawyer, Bob Dearman, Mike Higgins, Pete Knight, Scott Bradley, Phil Wolstenholme, Alan Brentnall, Jenny Potts)		

1. Chairman's Welcome:

Meeting began at 12:30pm. WS welcomed those present and noted several apologies for absence.

2. Apologies for absence: Establish Quorum.

2.1 **Apologies received from:** Charles Cooley, Dave Webb, Masson Caving Group, Shropshire Scouts Caving Team.

2.2 **Quorum:** Quorate with 7 officers present plus Chairman.

3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: *(previously circulated).*

3.1 **That the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 16 November 2019 be approved.**

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

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

See Register of Actions attached,

4.1 027 **Scan surveys held by BCL and place on DCA website.**

All 133 tubes have now been scanned. Discharged.

A decision from WS is needed as to which should be published on the website. **WS**

(Now item 071).

4.2 032 **Cap Stub Scrin Shaft.** Ongoing. **PK**

4.3 042 **Scan earlier newsletters for website.** Ongoing. **MH**

4.4 048 **DCA Store move.** Awaiting a reply from Tony Marsden. Ongoing. **PK, WS**

4.5 056 **Waterways Swallet Carpark hard standing.** Discharged. (To be monitored)

4.6 059/060 **Great Masson etc.** Ongoing. Remove warning from Registry. **PW, WS**

4.7 066 **Secretary & Conservation Officer replacement.** Roles to be split. **WS**

4.8 067 **Domain renewal/transfer.** Discharged.

4.9 068 **Google Drive.** Discharged.

4.10 069 **DCA Constitution Amendments.** Discharged.

4.11 070 **DCA Cave Discovery Fund Constitution Amendments.** Discharged.

5. Matters of Immediate Import Arising from the 2020 AGM:

5.1 **Shaft Equipment:** PK and SBr described the safety issues posed when working on various shafts which are common in the Peak District and proposed that DCA purchases suitable equipment to meet these challenges. Prior to today's meeting PK had sent an email to all DCA Officers laying out the problem and describing the solution. See addendum at the end.

Proposal: That DCA accept the expenditure for this equipment on the understanding that BCA is approached to cover the costs up to a maximum of £3000.00. Prop. T.Jackson, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed.**

Action PK,WS

- 5.2 **Caves of the Peak District.** JP stated that, while Caves of the Peak District is getting further out of date with each passing year, there are still reasonable sales of the book, and DCA has sufficient stock for 8 more years. It would be possible to remainder the book, but the retailers involved would need to have a corresponding reduction in the wholesale price. The current plan is to carry on selling as previously, and not to remainder the current issue until there are firm plans to create a new issue. In the meantime, a subcommittee will be created to look into the best way to deal with the future of the guidebook and the on-line website pages which will hold the updated and detailed data to provide current and expanded information to accompany the book. **Action WS**
- 5.3 **DCA Technical Equipment Store.** SBr reported that TSG is offering secure storage at their hostel in Castleton for DCA's equipment. This should provide a more central and convenient location for the tools and other items needed for projects. That we should accept this offer. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. M.Long **Agreed.** **Action SBr**
- 5.4 **Eldon Hole.** Because of the discovery of some 2000 year-old human remains (bones) in a dig in the base of the Main Chamber of Eldon Hole, Historic England is proposing that the dig should be put on hold indefinitely, despite the fact that Eldon Hole is not scheduled or protected in any way. John Gunn has suggested that personnel from Historic England should be taken to the dig site to see what is there, in the hope that there will be a better understanding of the issues, leading to a solution which will allow future cave exploration at the site. Agreed that WS should approach DCRO to see if they would be able to provide the lowering mechanism and the necessary manpower and skills. **Action WS**
- 5.5 **DCA Meetings Location.** This was discussed, and the general agreement was that DCA should continue to hold its meetings at Monyash Village Hall, on Saturdays, but the midsummer (usually June) meeting should include a post-meeting practical session, possibly in a local cave / mine. SBr agreed to organize something suitable for the next meeting. **Action SBr**
- 6. Any Other Business.**
- 6.1 **Hidden Earth 2020.** The date and venue for Hidden Earth are as yet unconfirmed, but it will be sometime in September, and is likely to be held at a location in Burnley. It was agreed that DCA should have a presence at the conference, that we should aim to have a stand to publicize DCA and that we should produce a pamphlet describing the work done by DCA.
- 6.3 **PICA Mines Inspections.** Les Riley, who annually inspects mines used by local Outdoor Centre's and instructors on behalf of PICA, is to retire shortly, and PICA is seeking a suitably qualified replacement. If anybody knows of a suitable candidate, please notify PK (also PICA Chair).
- 6.4 **Filming Requests.** AB reported that he had recently received two requests for explicit/written permission for companies to film at underground locations. His current stance is to provide assistance where this is legal and practical, but to emphasize that DCA is not usually in a position to grant such permission, and cannot pass on contact details, except where the landowner/tenant has expressly given consent.
- 6.5 **Rookery Mine Issues.** The shop which holds the keys to Ashford Black Marble Mine (Roberts) is for sale. Should there be a change of ownership and should the new owner refuse to continue holding the keys, there are two offers to provide a replacement service – AB has the details. There have also been several reports of problems unlocking the gate at the mine, including one instance where two employees from Thornbridge O.C. were incarcerated for over ten minutes. Work is in hand to replace the lock. **Action AB**

There being no other business the meeting finished at 14:40

**A.Brentnall,
Recorder**

Appended to these Minutes and forming part of them are the following reports:

Proposal for a Shaft Top Safety System for DCA