



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 22 Feb 2021, 19:30, Online Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Officers:	Chair / Secretary / BCA Rep	Wayne Sheldon [WS]
	Vice Chair / Membership Sec	Mike Higgins [MG]
	Treasurer	Angus Sawyer (AS)
	Access Officer	Ann Soulsby [ASo]
	Conservation Officer	Victoria Kocher (VK)
	Projects Officer	Pete Knight [PK]
	Cave Registry / Newsletter	Phil Wolstenholme [PW]
	Gas Man	Pete Dell (PD)
	Publication Sales	Jenny Potts [JP]
	Training Officer	Nigel Atkins (NA)
	Clubs:	DCMC
Crewe C.P.C.		Alan Brentnall (AB)
T.S.G.		(Phil Wolstenholme)
PDHMS		Shirley Burtonshaw {SBu}
Individual Members:	Martin Long (ML)	(Shirley Burtonshaw, Alan Brentnall, Jenny Potts, Pete Knight, Phil Wolstenholme, Angus Sawyer, Mike Higgins, Wayne Sheldon)
Guests/Observers:		

1. **Chair's Welcome:**
Meeting began at 20:40 via Go to Meeting Platform. WS welcomed those still present, following the previous AGM.
2. **Apologies for absence:**
 - 2.1 **Apologies received from:** Charley Cooley and John Gunn.
 - 2.2 **Quorum:** Quorate with 10 officers present plus Chairman.
3. **To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting:** *(23 February 2019, previously circulated).*
 - 3.1 **That the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 23 February 2019 be approved.**
Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. J. Potts **Agreed**
4. **Matters Arising Therefrom:** *(Note that some of these issues may be dealt within the DCA Annual Report.)*
 - 4.1 042 **From Council 30-06-18**
MH to scan earlier newsletters for website. Ongoing. **MH**
More newsletter has been scanned and uploaded to website.
JP added that when she does a print run of newsletters, she prints extra copies. Over the years, I have built up a collection of newsletters going back to number 50. I am thinking of advertising these to somebody who wants them, just for the cost of postage. AS to add an entry to website. They can pay postage by bank transfer.
 - 4.2 048 **From Council 27-10-18**
DCA Store move. Ongoing. **PK**
We are still looking to move the container but need to find a suitable location.
 - 4.3 059 **From Council 23-02-19**
Great Masson. Ongoing. No contact yet with owner. **PW, WS**
 - 4.4 060 **Old Jant Mine.** Considering reopening shafts for access. Ongoing. **PW, ASu**
Delayed due to Covid Situation.
 - 4.5 071 **From Council 22-02-20**
Scanning of surveys. Jenny added that more surveys have been located for cataloging. Scanning will start as soon as WS has access back to his office. **WS**
 - 4.6 075 **Eldon Hole Dig Site.** This project is in hand, we have a plan and now we need to arrange a convenient date once COVID restrictions get lifted. **WS / John Gunn**
 - 4.7 078 **Rookery Mine Issue.** A lock has been purchased and will be fitted shortly., **VK**
 - 4.8 079 **Holme Bank Chert Mine.** WS met with Chatsworth a few years ago, they asked

us to beef up the lock so it cannot be broken into. PK added that we are on a no win situation as they will always find a way in, especially with portable angle grinders. now available. We could spend thousand pound on gates that keep getting damaged. When we next have a meeting with Chatsworth, we can discuss this.

- 4.9 080 **Long Rake Mine.** Steven Hadfield has passed away, his sister now owns the land and a tenant farmer farms it. An approach needs to be made.

PW / Asu

5. Matters of Immediate Importance Arising from the AGM

- 5.1 Nothing to be discussed.

6.0. Any Other Business

- 6.1 Fixed Aids in Giants Hole, Chert Hole Traverse and Rising Traverse above the Crabwalk.

- 6.1.1 PK advised that nothing has been discussed at PICA, as the meeting is in a few weeks' time so will not be adding anything.

- 6.2.2 NA added that if you look out from the pitch head, over Garlands, there is an alcove on the right. There are some 8 mm spits in there, put in 30 years ago but these are good for training. This is not the area under discussion, this could be argued that it is a manufactured training ground.

- 6.2.3 Traverse above the crabwalk. A request was made for complete rebolting of the traverse. This request originated from individuals but DCA felt it would be better to come from PICA, so it went to PICA for discussion at their next meeting. There were mixed views on this bolting so it is hoped that a compromise proposal will be forthcoming. PK to facilitate the discussion at PICA and report back to DCA.

- 6.2.4 A general discussion was had, the traverse is exposed in places, if anybody slips off, and falls 10 meters, it will be bad. We have got a duty of care in DCA to safeguard the passage of cavers. We have been using the same bolts for the last 25 years, some like to use the spits for training so it could be a mixture of P bolts, spits, and threads. We need a group of cavers on both sides of the argument, after the restriction is lifted; to look at the area and come up with a new proposal that will satisfy everybody in terms of conservation and safety.

Action: NA / PK / SB

- 6.3 Cumberland Cavern. NA informed the meeting that no approach had been made to the owners.

- 6.4 Devonshire Cavern. Private land signs have been put up by the owners, this does not apply to cavers. DCA to put signs up at the entrance.

Action NA

- 6.5 Wapping Mine. There was a rescue in there several months ago by non-cavers who choose to camp in there. The Parish Council are keen to see this gated with a Derbyshire Key for safety. This needs coordinating with PDMHS. We need something from the Parish council to confirm they have got the ownership and they would like us to put a gate on it. A letter or email will be okay.

Action. NA

- 6.6.1 Graffiti in Giants Hole. Thanks to cavers, the graffiti has been cleaned up. VK visited the cave a few weeks ago and found some non-cavers in there using a light on their phone. She spent some time talking to them who explained they read about it on Facebook so came to have a look so offered friendly advice to them.

- 6.6.2 Private land signs need putting back up, not just at the gate to the track but at the Windy Knoll end as walkers come down from this direction and jump the wall. NA to approach Steph to see about putting private land signs up in various locations. The tenant farmer also needs involving.

Action. NA

- 6.6.3 VK is getting quotes for an Interpretation Board to be erected in a convenient place. Ideas are required for what to include on this board and we need to contact Natural England. The agent, landowner and tenant farmer needs to be involved in this discussion so everybody is aware of the purpose of it.

Action. VK

- 6.7 Odin Mine. Pull tests are still required on the recently installed bolts then the project will be complete.

- 6.8 The Government has recently put out a road map for us to come out of lockdown. BCA has not put anything out yet but BMC are likely to put something out so JP will forward to WS. DCA should then consider putting an update out.

Action. WS / JP

- 6.9 No funding request has been received from the Eldon Pothole Club for the lids on various mine and cave sites.

- 6.10 Snelsnow Swallet. Shaft top was measured up recently for a lid. Awaiting design and quote. This will not be installed until after the lockdown. The 2nd pitch also needs bolting.

- 6.11. We have just launched our new PDCi website and WS added that any DCA / Peak District Caving Notices / news needs to be put on the website first, and we should link across to our site from Facebook, Twitter, UK Caving etc.

AS added that any access news updates will automatically be added to the front page and we will have the option to send it directly to Twitter / Facebook and potentially UK Caving as well.

There being no other business the meeting finished at 21.23.

**W.Sheldon.
Recorder**