



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 27 September 2021, 19:30, Online Meeting

MINUTES

Present:	Officers:	Chair / Secretary	Wayne Sheldon [WS]
		Vice Chair / Membership / BCA Rep	Mike Higgins [MH]
		Treasurer	Angus Sawyer (AS)
		Conservation Officer	Victoria Kocher (VK)
		Projects Officer	Pete Knight [PK]
		Equipment Officer	Scott Bradley (SB)
		Cave Registry / Newsletter	Phil Wolstenholme [PW]
		Publication Sales	Jenny Potts [JP]
		Training Officer	Nigel Atkins (NA)
		Gas Man	Pete Dell (PD)
Clubs:	DCMC	(Pete Knight)	
	T.S.G.	(Phil Wolstenholme)	
	Orpheus Caving Club	(Jenny Potts)	
Individual Members:	Alan Brentnall, (Jenny Potts, Pete Knight, Phil Wolstenholme, Angus Sawyer, Mike Higgins, Scott Bradley, Wayne Sheldon, Nige Atkins, Victoria Kocher)		
	Guests/Observers:	Russell Myers (BCA Chair)	

1. Chair's Welcome:

Meeting began at 19:35 via Go to Meeting Platform. WS welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for absence:

2.1 **Apologies received from:** Steve Pope, Karen Slatcher, Ann Soulsby.

2.2 **Quorum:** Quorate with 9 officers present plus Chair.

3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: (21 June 2021, previously circulated).

3.1 *That the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 21 June 2021 be approved.*

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

4. Matters Arising Therefrom: (Note that some of these issues may be dealt within the DCA Report.)

		From Council 30-06-18	
4.1	042	MH to scan earlier newsletters for website. See 6.2.b. Ongoing.	MH
		More newsletters have been scanned and uploaded to website.	
		From Council 27-10-18	
4.2	048	DCA Store move. See 6.6. Ongoing.	PK
		From Council 23-02-19	
4.3	059/060	Great Masson / Old Jant Mine. See 6.5. Ongoing.	ASu / WS
		From Council 22-02-20	
4.4	071	Scanning of surveys. See 6.1. Ongoing.	WS
4.5	075	Eldon Hole Dig Site. See 6.1. Completed	WS / John Gunn
4.6	079	Holme Bank Chert Mine. See 6.6. Closed.	ASu / PK
4.7	080	Long Rake Mine. See 6.5 and 6.10. An approach still needs to be made.	ASu / RR / WS
4.8	086	Wapping Mine. Confirm ownership. See 6.6. Ongoing.	NA
4.9	087	Giants Hole. Private Land Notices. See 6.4. Ongoing.	VK
4.10	088	Giants Hole Interpretation Board. See 6.4. Ongoing.	VK
4.11	091	COPD Supplement. Styles required from Peter Miles. See 6.10. Completed.	PW
4.12	092	Cave Monitoring Scheme Price Draw. See 6.1. Completed.	VK/WS
4.13	093	Cave Passage Discovered Competition. See 8.1.	WS/MH
4.14	094	Bincliffe Mines Entrances. See 6.5, Ongoing.	ASu
4.15	095	Ash Dieback – collation of sites, See 6.1. Ongoing.	WS

5. Election of New Members

5.1 No membership applications

6. Officers' Reports.

6.1. Chair. (See report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.1.1. Eldon Hole Bones. A successful event took place. A selection of bones was removed for analysis. Awaiting feedback from the archaeologists / scientists on the way forward. Reports appeared in The Derbyshire Caver and Descent. A more detailed report will appear in due course.

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

6.2.a. Secretary (See report- written by W. Sheldon in the absence of a secretary - circulated prior to the meeting.)

That the Secretary's Report be accepted. Prop P. Knight. Sec. V. Kocher. **Agreed**

6.2.b. Membership Secretary / Vice Chair. (See report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.2.b.1. MH to copies of the membership lists to NA as training officer so he knows if cavers applying for training are members of DCA or DCA Cub Members.

That the Membership / Vice Chair Report be accepted. Prop P. Knight, Sec. N. Atkins. **Agreed**

6.3.a. Treasurer / Webmaster. (See report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.3.a.1. PK and AS have started work on the new website using the WordPress system which has been sent around officers already. At the moment is predominantly copying stuff across. Its more modern and each officer will be able to edit their own section rather than rely on one person. Its quick and easy to edit things as well.

6.3.b.2. The website can be developed to incorporate other modules such as membership and training so cavers can apply for training on the website, renew membership online completing online forms etc. The event management module is already on the site for training, added some test events and sees no reason why this wouldn't work for membership.

6.3.b.3. The using of PayPal and other online payment systems was discussed, as this could be used for membership, paying for training, publication sales etc. SB added that this has been used to good effect within the TSG over the last few years, seeing an increase in membership, especially under 25's category and anything that will see an increase in DCA membership should be perused. PK added that the event module is linked to PayPal so if we went forward with the training module, we would have to embrace the use of PayPal.

6.3.b.4. PK asked whether DCA can give him go ahead to proceed with moving our old site to a new site, a direct copy of the existing site then other sections can be added on in due course when developed. Prop. W. Sheldon, Sec. P. Dell. All for.

6.3.b.5. PK asked that all officers review their sections and send feedback to Pete.

That the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Prop. M. Higgins, Sec. P. Wolstenholme. **Agreed.**

6.3.b. Publication Sales. (See report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.3.b.1. JP added that a further 5 copies of COPD have been sold.

6.3.b.2. PK asked how many surveys we had left for sale as he is willing to put a social media post out there to get them shifted. JP said that they are Peak Speedwell System and Giants Hole. It was agreed that they would go on sale at £3.00. Use the publication sales forwarding email.

That the Publication Sales Report be accepted. Prop P. Knight. Sec. V. Kocher. **Agreed**

6.4. Conservation Officer. (See report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.4.1. **SSSI Interpretation Board for Giant's Hole.** Peakshill Farm have responded to VK, they are happy to have some signs put up. Action point 87 and 88 partially complete

6.4.2. Jess Eades of the Derbyshire Bat Group wants to encourage more cavers to report the sightings of bats. This is not to stop cavers going underground if they discover bats, its so they can build up a national picture of where they are. PK suggested that this can be built into the functionality of the new website, with emails firing directly to Jess.

That the Conservation Officer Report be accepted. Prop. M. Higgins. Potts, Sec. N. Atkins. **Agreed.**

6.5. Access Officer. (See report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.5.1. **Long Rake Mine, Bradwell.** The landowner died last year; the land is now owned by his sister. The farm is currently being farmed by a tenant farmer. The previous record of the presence of carbon monoxide was noted. We need to approach to negotiate access so we can undertake a gas test down the mine, test the anchors and check out the state of the mine. Raddlepitts is also on his land so it would be good to negotiate access to this as well.

6.5.2. We need a list of sites that is on their land.

Action. PW

6.5.3. Approach farm to speak to them about access to the sites.

Action. WS, ASu, RR

6.5.4. Water Icicle Close Cavern. JP informed the meeting that there are now four leaders from Orpheus Caving Club. Should we also try to expand the list with leaders from other clubs?

Action. VK

That the Access Officer Report be accepted. Prop. P. Knight, Sec. P. Wolstenholme. **Agreed.**

6.6. Projects Officer. *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*

6.6.1. **Pindale Shafts.** Pete submitted a report to the meeting about three mine shafts that have recently been inspected in the pindale part of the Castleton catchment. One is a recently opened shaft which needs capping not particular interesting while the other two are existing sites and they all need making good with safe caps and integrated scaffolding bars as a belay.

DCA to install new caps to all these shafts. Prop. W. Sheldon, Sec. P. Wolstenholme. **Agreed.**

6.6.2. **Christmas Swallet.** This site will be inspected when the weather is settled to see what the state of the bolts and undertake a SSSI inspection.

6.6.3. Shipping Container (Action point 48). Update from Tony Marsden who still intends to ask at Hope Quarry.

That the Projects Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. M. Higgins, Sec. N. Atkins. **Agreed**

6.7.a. Equipment Officer. *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*

6.7.a.1. **Bolts:** We have managed to locate enough bolts to start the Giant's Hole Bolting. We are intending to reduce the order with Bolt Products, with enough bolts in stock for two years

6.7.a.2. **Hungerhill Swallet:** This is on one of the bolter's lists.

6.7.a.3. Victoria Aven, Peak Cavern. Loose slab. This doesn't fall under the DCA remit, more under the Peak Speedwell Keyholders but can ask DCA for advice / help if required but only as friendly volunteers.

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

6.7.b. DCA Cave Atmosphere Monitoring report. *(No report circulated prior to the meeting.)*

6.7.b.1. Reports of bad air in Knotlow Cavern where DCRO were called but the caver managed to get out okay. Not heard anything since.

6.8. Training Officer. *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*

6.8.1. NA updated the meeting on caver numbers booked onto his courses, they are proving popular.

6.8.2. NA asked if anybody knows any farmers that need some dry-stone walls building. There is one farmer who we are intending to cap some of his shafts for and he may have some walls that need doing and the name will be sent to Nige.

That the Training Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. V. Kocher, Sec. P. Knight. **Agreed.**

6.9. Newsletter Editor. *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*

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

6.10. Cave Registry Secretary. *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*

6.10.1. The three shafts at Pindale have recently been added and some photographs of entrances that we took yesterday have also been uploaded.

6.10.2. PK has received a request via Facebook who advised him to email the registry secretary. They were asking if all the entrances are available on Google Earth as a download. AS said that this was available on the old Hitch N Hike site but not added to this site yet but can be.

That the Cave Registry Secretary's Report be accepted. Prop. M. Higgins, Sec. P. Knight. **Agreed.**

7.1. BCA Matters

7.1.1. **BCA AGM.** JP reminded people that if you want to participate in the meeting that you need to register up prior and the information is available on the BCA website. If you just want to watch it, you can click on a link on the day.

7.1.2. **BCA Hustling's.** Both candidates for the chair position have been asked a serious of questions, the questions were received from the BCA members who submitted them. They will appear on BCA website in due course.

8. Any Other Business

8.1. Cave Passage Discovered Competition. Terms and Conditions.

8.1.1. JP asked whether this was an annual competition, as the document implies it but doesn't say it. MH will amend the document to make it clearer.

8.1.2. The price will be 200 m of rope, provided by Starless River, this will be supplied at cost. Retail prices are: 9 mm Gleistein at £366 or 10 mm Beal at £243.00. This will need adding to the documentation. **Action: MH**

DCA to provide Gleistein as a prize. Prop M. Higgins, Sec. P. Knight. **Agreed.**

8.1.3. PK also said that when we launch this competition, we need to provide a fanfare in terms of coordinated emails, Facebook, UKCaving etc. so we can get the competition out there.

8.2. DCA AGM and Council Meeting 2022 – Online or Back in Monyash.

- 8.2.1. PK proposed that we have the meeting online, as we don't know what will be happening with COVID over the winter so stick with the safe option. While he enjoys coming out to Monyash, none of us as burnt any fuel, as soon as the meeting is over, we are at home. Meeting agreed that the AGM will be online. Meeting time is 22nd Feb 2021 at 19.30.
- 8.2.2. JP added that Monyash doesn't have WIFI, and the mobile phone signal is rubbish.
- 8.3. DCA June Council Meeting 2022 and Event to follow.**
- 8.3.1. JP added that if this meeting was held in Monyash, its not far from the Orpheus Cottage where we could arrange an event. Use the railway bridge for SRT training and hold something inside the cottage. There is also plenty of parking. This event will need planning and a venue booking.
- 8.3.2. Date to be agreed once we know BCA AGM date, Orpheus Barbeque date etc. **Action: All**

There being no other business the meeting finished at 21.23.

W. Sheldon.
Recorder

DRAFT