



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 21st February 2022, 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)
		Access Officer	Ann Soulsby (ASu)
		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)
	Clubs:	Darkside C.M.C.	(Pete Knight [PK])
		Orpheus C.C.	(Jenny Potts [JP])
		P.D.M.H.S.	Shirley Burtonshaw [SBu]
		T.S.G.	(Phil Wolstenholme [PW])
		Eldon Pothole Club	(Victoria Kocher (VK))
		Peak Caving Club	Ed Carr (EC)
		Masson Caving Group	Fabian Ehlers (FE)
	Individual Members:		Alan Brentnall, (Jenny Potts, Pete Knight, Phil Wolstenholme, Angus Sawyer, Mike Higgins, Scott Bradley, Wayne Sheldon, Nige Atkins, Victoria Kocher)
	Guests/Observers:		Nigel Berry (NB)

1. Chair's Welcome:

Meeting began at 20:40 via Go to Meeting Platform. WS welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for absence:

2.1 No apologies received.

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

3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: (27 Sept 2021, previously circulated).

3.1 **That the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 27 Sept 2021 to be approved.**

Prop. J. Potts, 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**

PK has approached Bamford Garden Centre for a commercial solution. Its £50 a month so that would be £600 for the year. This was discussed and it was agreed that this would be a good option, if we are given short notice to relocate it. Tony Marsden is making an approach to Breedon. We would also have to pay to relocate the container, which is a couple of £100.

Proposal to move container to paid location in principle if all other approaches fail. Prop: J. Potts, Sec: M. Higgins. **Agreed.**

JP still has the DCRO tent in her garage. DCRO might be able to use this, but they have storage issues so at the moment, it will stay with JP.

From Council 23-02-19

4.3 059/060 **Great Masson / Old Jant Mine.** See 6.5. Ongoing. **ASu / WS / MH**

WS suggested that we make another approach to the landowner using a letter. In the meantime, MH is going to check the land registry to confirm who owns the land. ASu raised the issue of the blockage in the mine workings in the low section just beyond the coffin level, that it needs to be attacked from the Sough / Day Shaft direction. NB from Peak Caving Club has offered the clubs services to remove the blockage.

- From Council 22-02-20**
- 4.4 071 **Scanning of surveys.** See 6.1. Completed
JP proposed a thanks to Shirley Burtonshaw and Martin Long for scanning all of John Beck's surveys in the library. WS has scanned most of the useable ones and these are on the PDCI website.
- 4.5 080 **Long Rake Mine.** See 6.5. Ongoing. **PW**
Tony Marsden is making an approach to the landowner. It's very important that a contact from DCA attend as well. PW is very likely to attend as well.
- 4.7 086 **Wapping Mine.** See 6.7. Ongoing. **NA**
The landowner is happy for this to go ahead and put a gate on it. WS requested that this was in writing. Cumberland Cavern is not on Wapping Mine land. We are still trying to find out the owner.
- 4.8/4.9 087 **Giants Hole.** Private Land Notices and Interpretation Board. See 6.5. Ongoing. **VK**
Sign to go adjacent the payment box. Where does the one near the cave go. PK says it needs to be kept away from direct sunlight. NA suggested using the concrete wall, rather than bolt on the cave wall. Perspex over the top will be good, to keep dirt off. VK instructed to get on with it.
- From Council 21-02-21**
- 4.10 093 **Cave Passage Discovered Competition.** See 6.5. Completed.
- 4.11 094 **Bincliffe Mines Entrances.** See 6.6, Ongoing. **ASu**
We are awaiting to hear back from Chatsworth, but we have told them that we don't want these locations on the access agreement. They are still working on the access agreement.
- 4.12 095 **Ash Dieback – collation of sites,** See 6.1. Ongoing. **WS**
- From Council 27-09-21**
- 4.13 096 **Water Icicle Close Cavern.** See 6.6. Completed.
Martyn Grayson and Gordon Fiander are now additional leaders / guides.
- 4.14 097 **DCA May Council Meeting 2022 and Event to follow.** Completed
A save the date email will be got out there this week, then a poster will be produced.

5. Matters of Immediate Importance Arising from the 2022 AGM

- 5.1 **Cave Discovery Fund Constitution.** JP suggested that we get the revised version up on the website, especially as we have had an application within the last week. MH intends to promote the fund on UK Caving and our Facebook page,
- 5.2 **Ashwood Black Marble Mine** – replaced the missing / damaged warning tape. He has started replacing the red / white tape, with the orange conservation tape.
- 5.3 **Garden Path** - keys have been tested. One is for the DCA Access Officer while the other one is DCRO's.
- 5.3 **Pindale Shafts** - Plans are in progress to cap the two shafts at Pindale during March.
- 5.4 **Hope Shaft, Middleton Level 7** Bolts and deviation in the entrance to Eyam Dale House Cave. The meeting has no issue with these bolts being installed.
- 5.5 **Peakshole Farm Gate** – VK has a quote for this, this won't cost more than £250. WS mentioned that are we setting a precedent by fixing this gate and will other farmers want their gates fixing. NA says no money is paid at Eldon Lane while money is paid at Giants Hole. PK added that the repair of the gate would benefit the tenant farmer who is very friendly to cavers and NA added that this relationship is very important. JP said that we need to ensure that we are doing this for his benefit, not the landowner. **Action: VK**
- 5.6 **Cave Monitoring Competition** – this competition is carrying on this year.
- 5.7 **Caver Training**
BCA training committee doesn't have any function at the moment, it's a working party. The BCA training officer doesn't have any budget for training now while other regions do it their own way. Training for CNCC doesn't come from training committees anymore, they pay instructors their full fee while claiming it back from BCA another route. DCA Instructors agree a minimum fee that they will run the event for. Clubs to do their own training, with DCA providing guidance. NA is looking to promoting coaching workshops for the clubs.
JP and MH are members of BCA Council, and they will start asking questions at the next BCA Council Meeting in April, about training. Council members should be able to read working group minutes.
CNCC are advertising events, and we are not advertising any. The DCA events are carry over from last year so should be funded from training committee. The meeting agrees for NA to crack on with advertising these events. A full training sheet will be available in a few days.

Action: NA

NA wants to run events that are not available via CIC's such as flooding, geology, photography, dry stone walling etc. As running SRT training is in direct competition with them, you could say a conflict of interest here and we don't need this and its direct competition with the clubs also.

NA would like an assistant to help him sort caver training. He has a couple of people in mind. Any officer is allowed to appoint assistants to help them.

5.8 Hydrology of the Castleton Karst Donation

We are undertaking a load of dye tracing in the Castleton catchment, a recent one was from Winnats Head through to Peak Speedwell. There are also some studies on the water levels within the Peak Speedwell System and Giants Hole; pressure sensors located in Five Arches, Lower Bung Streamway, Bottomless Pit, East Canal, Main Rising, Whirlpool Rising etc. This allows us to record flooding events and papers will appear in DCA newsletter and BCRA C&KS in due course. John Gunn has recently purchased some more pressure sensors, £400 each. These studies will benefit Derbyshire cavers. It would be good if we could donate some money towards the purchase of these. £100 donation was proposed.

Prop. W. Sheldon. Potts, Sec. J. Potts. Agreed

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Hungerhill Swallet. This has been on the list for years. Safety is a concern here. Scott to go out to the wider installer group for volunteers.

Action: SB

6.2. Bolting Installer Group. There has been a couple of volunteers come forward for bolting and do we need to remove the bolters who are not active.

There being no other business the meeting finished at 21.43.

**W. Sheldon.
Recorder**

DRAFT