



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 21 May 2022, 10:00.
BCA Library, Glutton Bridge

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]	
		Clubs:	DCMC	(Pete Knight)
			T.S.G.	(Phil Wolstenholme)
Orpheus Caving Club	(Jenny Potts)			
PDMHS	Shirley Burtonshaw			
WMRG	Martin Long			
Individual Members:	Terry Jackson, (Jenny Potts, Pete Knight, Phil Wolstenholme, Angus Sawyer, Mike Higgins, Scott Bradley, Ann Soulsby, Wayne Sheldon, Nige Atkins, Victoria Kocher, Shirley Burtonshaw, Martin Long)			
Guests/Observers:	Jessica Eades (JE), Monika Madecka (MM), David Webb (DW)			

1. Chair's Welcome:

The hybrid meeting began at 10.00 am. WS welcomed those present and Dave Webb who had dialed into the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence:

2.1 **Apologies received from:** Nige Atkins, Pete Dell, Martyn Grayson, Karen Slatcher.

2.2 **Quorum:** Quorate with nine 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. P. Knight, Sec. J. Potts. **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. More newsletters have been scanned and uploaded to website.	MH
		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. Complete	
		From Council 22-02-21	
4.4	080	Long Rake Mine. See 6.5. Ongoing	ASu / RR / WS
4.5	086	Wapping Mine. See 6.6. Ongoing.	ASu / RR
4.6	088	Giants Hole Interpretation Board. See 6.4. Complete.	
4.7	094	Bincliffe Mines Entrances. See 6.5, Ongoing.	ASu
4.8	095	Ash Dieback – collation of sites, See 6.1. Ongoing.	WS
		From Council 21-02-22	
4.9	096	PDCi Hydrology Section. See 6.1. Ongoing.	WS

- 4.10 097 **DCA Newsletter Subscribers.** See 6.9. Complete
- 4.11 098 **Peakshole Farm Gate.** Ongoing. VK
- 4.12 099 **Advertise DCA Training Events.** See 6.8. Complete
- 4.13 100 **Need Additional Bolters.** See 6.7.a. Complete

5. Election of New Members

- 5.1 **Club Membership.** Lancashire Caving and Climbing Club.
- 5.2 **Club Membership.** Oxford University Caving Club
- 5.3 **Individual Membership.** Dave Webb
- 5.4 **Individual Membership.** Jessica Eades
- 5.5 **Individual Membership.** Martyn Grayson
- 5.6 **Individual Membership.** Monika Madecka
- 5.7 **Club Membership.** Slough Mountaineering Group
All proposed on block by J. Potts, seconded by M. Long. All accepted.

6. Officers' Reports.

- 6.1. **Chair.** *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*
- 6.2.a. **Secretary** *(See report- written by W. Sheldon in the absence of a secretary - circulated prior to the meeting.)*
- 6.2.b. **Membership Secretary / Vice Chair.** *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*
- 6.2.b.1. Katie Eavis, BCA Membership Officer has sent a list of cavers / clubs who want to officiate with the DCA, so he is working through that list and asking them to join. The Derbyshire Scout Group has expressed an interest to join but can't get hold of them. Contacts will be forwarded on.
- 6.2.b.2. JP added that it would be useful to approach Derby University, with a view to getting them to form a caving club via the BCA and CHECC.
- 6.2.b.3. There are five members who still pay standing orders into the RBS Account. MH has tried contacting them via email and post, in order for them to change their standing order to the Lloyds Account but has had no luck. MH intends to contact the 5 by telephone to resolve the issue. **Action: MH**
- 6.3.a. **Treasurer / Webmaster.** *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*
- 6.3.a.1. New Website. AS explained that he is going through every page, making some minor changes to it. PK and PW offered to review the site.
- 6.3.b **Publication Sales.** *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*
- 6.3.b.1. JP added that a further twenty copies of COPD have been sold to Mike Moore Books. Mike is one of our main sellers.
- 6.4. **Conservation Officer.** *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*
- 6.4.1. Owl Hole bolts need sorting out. This is going to be visited later today and there is rubbish dumped in the shake hole so we VJ would like feedback on the amount of rubbish so this can then be removed by the council or in the back of our truck.
- 6.4.2. **Waterways Swallet.** The thread has been broken off on the lid so needs looking at. **Action AS, RR, PK**
- 6.5. **Access Officer.** *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*
- 6.5.1. **Chatsworth Agreement.** The agreement has landed with the Chair who will send a scan to ASU for checking. WS will also check it and sign it once everybody is happy with it. **Action. WS, ASu**
- 6.5.2. **Wapping / Cumberland.** More graffiti in the mine so need to sort out a gate with Derbyshire key as soon as possible. **Action. ASu, RR**
- 6.5.3. **Parking for Great Masson and Jug Holes.** All cars were parked safely and considerate on Salter Lane, but a few cavers got some abuse from a local. The cars were also climber and local walkers. Monitor the situation.
- 6.5.4. **Rowter Hole Fence.** The landowner wants the fence replacing. Volunteers required. **Action. WS**
- 6.5.5. **Eldon Hole Pull Through.** The pull through string has snapped so access has been lost to Miller's Chamber. This needs re-climbing. A question was asked who originally climbed it, and what route did they take. **Action. PK, SB, PW**
- 6.5.6. DCA still need to meet with Breedon via Tony Marsden but due to delays in contacting them, it might be better to make an approach ourselves.
- 6.6. **Projects Officer.** *(See report circulated prior to the meeting.)*
- 6.6.1. **Snelsnow Swallett.** We are still awaiting a quote. VK to ask her contact for a quotation. JE reminded us that gates need to be bat friendly. **Action. VK**

- 6.6.2. Pindale End Mine Lids are now fabricated, they just need installing once the concrete plinth is installed. This will be planned.
- 6.6.2. **Shipping Container.** We have managed to secure a spot for the container at Bamford Garden Centre on a £50 a month contract. RR has managed to find a hauler to move it. The issue we have is that the bridge is down to one lane, awaiting repairs so the hauler cannot make the turn until the bridge repairs are complete. It was suggested that we start paying £50 a month to secure the spot, and once removed we pay the fee for 12 months in advance. The container will need painting green once moved.

DCA to secure the space on the site by paying £50 a month. Prop. J. Potts, Sec. A. Soulsby. **Agreed.**

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

- 6.7.a.1. Martyn Grayson has joined the bolting team.
- 6.7.a.2. Peak Caving Club donated £50 to the DCA Bolting Fund. Thanks to them for this kind donation.
- 6.7.a.3. We are working with the BCA on the bolts, and asked them to look at the accreditation on the IC bolts
- 6.7.a.4. There is a long list, and we need the volunteers to do the bolting, but it only gets done by two bolters at the moment.

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

- 6.7.b.1. Pete Dell reports that he needs to go to Knotlow Cavern and Garden Path Entrance to extract the cave atmosphere data from the logbooks.

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

- 6.8.1. It will be useful if NA could supply the next six months of training events so these can be published.
- 6.8.2. There was a discussion about how we should publish our training events going forward. It was noted that CNCC publish their events via the CNCC website and Facebook page, rather than individuals' emails or Facebook accounts. This publicizes CNCC and we need to do the same as DCA, get our name out there.
- 6.8.3. There is a new website imminent for DCA that allows each officer to log in thus the training officer can enter / edit the training event details and these will be published via the website, DCA Facebook Page. As this is not online yet, in the meantime, the training officer needs to send the text for the training events to the DCA Facebook Administrators, in order to do this. There is nothing stopping any member sharing our post via their own page.

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

- 6.9.1. We are struggling for content at the moment. News items are now best placed on a website.
- 6.9.2. JP added that historical pieces do have a place in the newsletter but these need to be written by people which is the problem. One historical bit in each issue.

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

- 6.10.1. The Youds Level Cave Monitoring Form has been amended.
- 6.10.2. All future amendments to the Cave Monitoring Forms need to be sent to the DCA Conservation Officer via the forwarding email.

That the Officer Reports be accepted. Prop. P. Knight, Sec. V. Kocher. **Agreed.**

7.1. BCA Matters

- 7.1.1. MH gave a quick update about the last council meeting. There is currently no Conservation & Access Convener, Publication and Information Convener. JP is trying to convene a BCA conservation and access meeting, with an hope of getting a volunteer from that meeting. There is no Radon Group Convener and there is probably no need. Statement was issued on Russian invasion of Ukraine. A blue plaque is being installed on the former police station in Settle to honor Eli Simpson. Dave Rose has resigned as Newsletter Editor.
- 7.1.2. The BCA AGM is scheduled for the 12th June 2022. MH to send out BCA Club email to our membership.

Action: MH

8. Any Other Business

8.1. Holme Bank Chert Mine.

- 8.1.1. Joe Oldfield has been in contact regarding the Fan Entrance gate which has been ripped off, top quarry lock has been cut off but now been replaced again. Joe has no problems, does not want to stop access but due to him being the leaseholder from Chatsworth, he has a duty of care, and the liability is with Joe so basically wants the entrances to be secure so he has contacted a blacksmith with a view to having some solid doors made up, they will be bat friendly. Access will still be allowed. The doors will be locked doors, with a key kept in a key safe. Cavers need to be booked in, not just turn up and go in. JE suggested adding a plaque to the entrance, telling them how access can be gained.
- 8.1.2. The entrances that will be made secure are: Smithy, Fan, and Quarry Entrance. An application to BCA for funding towards the new entrance doors can be made once we know the costs but, in the meantime, DCA will allocate some money towards this important site for these gates, a budget of £2000 + 10% was suggested.

£2000 + 10% to be allocated from DCA Funds. Prop. P. Knight, Sec. M. Higgins. **Agreed.**

- 8.1.2 Holme Hall is currently up for sale. The adit entrance is located on their land.
- 8.2. New Plaques need to be provided for Ashford Black Marble Mine and Garden Path with relevant emergency contact details. This is a condition from Chatsworth.

9.0 Date and Time of Next Council Meeting

- 9.1 Next Council Meeting is Monday 24th October 2022, 19.30 to 21.30. Online Platform.
- 9.2 A discussion about have further face to face meetings resulted in decision to have a meeting in person once a year in June and an event to follow.

There being no other business the meeting finished at 12.13.

W. Sheldon.
Recorder

**Appended to these Minutes and forming part of them is
the DCA Officer Reports.**

DRAFT