



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Council Meeting, 10.00am, 16 April 2005, at Monyash Village Hall

PRESENT:	<u>Officers:</u>	Chairman DCA	Bob Dearman [BD]
		Secretary/Treasurer:	Jenny Potts [JP]
		Conservation Officer:	David Webb [DW]
		Equipment Officer:	Dave Cowley [DC]
		Assistant Secretary:	Chris Broome [CB]
	<u>Clubs:</u>	Eldon P. C.	(Bob Dearman, Dave Cowley)
		Orpheus Caving Club	Boyd Potts [BP] (Jenny Potts)
		Masson Caving Group	(David Webb, Chris Broome)
	<u>Individual Members:</u>		Terry Jackson [TJ] (Bob Dearman, Jenny Potts)

1. APOLOGIES / QUORUM:

- 1.1 Confirmed the meeting was quorate.
- 1.2 Apologies received from: Conservation & Access Officer - John Taylor, Access Officer - Iain Barker, L&I Officer - Peter Mellors, Training Officer - Nigel Atkins, Publications Officer - Paul Lydon, Dave Jones & Heather Lomas - Orpheus C.C., Andy Tickle.

2. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF 27TH. NOVEMBER 2004: (Previously circulated & on website)

That these be accepted as a correct record. Prop. TJ, sec. CB. *Agreed unanimously.*

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 27 NOVEMBER 2004:

- 3.1 3.1 Countryside Stewardship Scheme: TJ reported that a new scheme was being introduced into England which was different from that in Scotland & Wales and the situation was not yet clear. If a farmer opts for the "conservation" option it could possibly affect access. TJ would continue to keep a watch on progress and report back.
- 3.2 5.1.3 Pic Tor Mines: DW had submitted a report on this to Derbyshire Dales District Council but progress had been held up by the resignation of the DDDC officer involved. It had been suggested that there could be a "Heritage Trail" along the river bank.
- 3.3 5.1.4 Winster Mineral Extraction: DW was keeping a watch on progress but nothing to report as yet.
- 3.4 5.2.1 SUSS: Noted that, because of impossible conditions being applied by the University authorities via USport, SUSS were intending to form an independent club outside the University. There was disgust at the attitude of the University, despite all efforts to help SUSS by other caving bodies and individuals, and considerable sympathy for SUSS members.
- 3.5 5.3.3 Waterways Swallet: Noted that the dig had now "gone". JP had already advised the club involved of the possibility of a Cave Discovery Fund grant.

4. MATTERS OF IMMEDIATE IMPORT ARISING FROM THE DCA AGM OF 19 FEBRUARY 2005:

- 4.1 9 Constitutional Amendments: Agreed to call SGM to deal with outstanding Constitutional Amendments relating to Associate Membership on 16 July 2005. This was already publicised as a Council Meeting so the SGM would immediately precede it and the Secretary would notify members that the SGM would be held on that date.
- 4.2 14.2 Honorary Membership for R.Paulson: BD was due to write to him and this could also be actioned at the SGM.
- 4.3 6.2.a Decline in Club Membership: The increase in individual membership of DCA was continuing. Delays in organising and reporting on club and associate membership of BCA was creating difficulties for regional secretaries & treasurers who needed to know their membership figures.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

No applications.

6. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

6.1 SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT: (Written report tabled.)

Noted that payments by clubs and associate members to BCA were still behind and information from BCA was slow in coming through.

That the Secretary/Treasurer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. D.Webb. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.2 CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT: (Written report tabled.)

- 6.2.1 Hillocks: Now left as a concrete-lined entrance tube. The plastic pipe bought for Hillocks would now be used at Hungerhill Swallet.
- 6.2.2 Graffiti in Youds & Devonshire: Agreed that "positive" notices might help to reduce the problem. JP would liaise with DW on this.
- 6.2.3 Shaft Capping: Stakeholder and Steering group meetings had already taken place. There had been extensive discussions and consultations.
- 6.2.4 National Trust Meeting: This appeared to be a local meeting and was felt to be a positive step in improving access generally.
- 6.2.5 Bat Workshop: No date for this yet but it would be in July at Poole's Cavern. Interested people should contact DW.
- 6.2.6 Giants Hole Track: The landowner has already acquired the chippings and had offered to pay for the work. Suggested the matter should be left to J.R.Johnson who was already liaising with the landowner.

That the Conservation Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. C.Broome, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.3 ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT: (Not present but written report tabled.)

- 6.3.1 P.8 car park: Noted that progress was being made and IB was liaising with the relevant authorities.

Contd. over

6.3.2 Stoney Middleton Dale purchase: JP explained that she had been told that persons unknown were buying part of Stoney Middleton Dale. She and IB were trying to find out more to ensure that access was preserved for cavers.

That the Access Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. B.Potts, sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.4 LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Not present but written report tabled.)*

6.4.1 Liability: JP emphasised P.Mellors comments re. the necessity of informing him in the event of an incident which might have insurance implications and also informing him as soon as possible of new club members added to the scheme. She would remind members of this in the next DCA Information Circular.

6.4.2 Work at Height: Members welcomed the news re. the Work at Height Regulations. JP would ensure the an article was sent to P.Lydon for the next DCA Newsletter.

That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. B.Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.5 TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Not present but written report tabled.)*

6.5.1 Noted that the report showed an extremely active programme of work on training - the Training Officer's efforts were much appreciated by members.

6.5.2 Noted that any Bolt Installation training must be done in close liaison with the DCA Equipment Officer, Dave Cowley.

That the Training Officer's report be accepted. Prop. D.Cowley, sec. D.Webb. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.6 EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

6.6.1 DC apologised that he had not been able to prepare a written report but he had only just returned from working abroad.

6.6.2 Bolting Course: DC reported that he was trying to set up a Bolt Installation course for DCA with Les Sykes. Noted that DCA would fund travel expenses of its own members attending such a course. Noted also that DC needed to liaise closely with the DCA Training Officer.

6.6.3 Fixed Aids Policy: JP noted that DCA had its own Fixed Aids Policy and this should be looked at again to see if it needed to be updated. Our Fixed Aids Policy had formed the basis of an NCA Fixed Aids Policy which was still in draft form so DC would need to check on progress of the national policy with the new BCA Equipment Officer once he was able to make contact with him.

6.6.4 Pull-Throughs: Noted that a number of Pull-Throughs were reported to be not working properly. DC would check on these.

6.6.5 DCA Bolt Installation Records: DC reported that these had been transferred from JP's computer and were now running on his own computer. he now had the written records and diagrams relating to Bolt Installation.

That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. C.Broome, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

7 NCA / BCA MATTERS:

7.1 REPORT FROM DCA REP. TO BCA AGM: *(Written report tabled.)*

JP asked members present for their views on the amendment put forward by D.Cooke to the DCA proposal re. clarification of the status of Club Individual Members. She had felt that the amendment completely changed the sense of the DCA proposal and had been concerned that most of the discussion which had taken place at the BCA AGM had been on the amendment and did not address DCA's original proposal. D.Cooke's amendment had been withdrawn only at the last minute, immediately before the vote was taken. N.Williams' amendment had been accepted and so the proposal voted on had included his amendment to remove the possibility of an SGM having to be called.

Members had no sympathy with D.Cooke's proposed amendment; the general feeling was that clubs should take out P.L. insurance and that all members of a club should be insured. We felt it was not sensible to allow members of a club to pick and choose whether they wished to become "registered" as Club Individual Members of BCA; since there was already an option for any individual to take out Direct Individual Membership of BCA, it was felt to complicate record keeping unnecessarily. JP noted that NW would be looking into the insurance implications of allowing CIMs who were not insured to become voting members of BCA and the view was expressed that, if it was not possible to allow this without insurance, then so be it. NW would be reporting to the June BCA Council Meeting and JP would then report back to DCA.

JP reported that, owing to there being no BCA/NCA Secretary since mid-January, she, Mick Day and Bob Mehew had dealt with AGM & SGM paperwork and organisation and Bob Mehew had acted as recorder for both the AGMs and the SGM. We now had a volunteer for the post of BCA Secretary, Paula Grgich-Warke

7.2 NCA AGM & NCA SGM:

JP reported that the NCA AGM had dealt with the annual reports of the Officers of BCA/NCA covering the past year's work. There had been no properly produced NCA Annual report since the BCA/NCA Secretary had had to resign suddenly in January when he had to take a job in the USA at short notice.

The NCA SGM had formally "wound up" NCA and it remained only for the Trustees to ensure that NCAs assets were passed to BCA.

7.3 BCA COUNCIL:

BCA Council had met immediately after the AGM with Mick Day acting as Recorder since Paul Grgich-Warke would not be able to take up her duties for a further 5 weeks.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

8.1 DESCENT 183 article by Ralph Johnson re. Knotlow pollution: There was a feeling that the article failed to recognise the work done by DCA, and in particular Dave Webb, in co-operation with Environment Agency and others to try to locate and deal with the source of the problem. It was felt that it would be helpful if DW could write something for DESCENT giving details of the work which had already been done by DCA.

Contd. over

- 8.2 Carsington Youth Activities Day: DCA had been invited to "have a presence" at this event on 10 July and there was some discussion on how this could be achieved. DW, JP, CB, and BP were willing to help. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a "DCA Roadshow" ready for future events.
- 8.3 DCA Underground Conservation Forum: DW reported that the next meeting was due on 21st. April.
- 8.4 Caves of the Peak District: Progress on the new edition seems to have slowed. BD will chase up.
- 8.5 Roy Hattersley's Guardian Article re. the Peak Park: The article deplored the machinations of quarry companies seeking still to pursue out of date planning permissions and JP had passed a copy to DW. DW would raise the matter at the next DCA UCF meeting.
- 8.6 Otter Hole, Buxton: BD reported that a detailed underground survey had been done just before Christmas 2004, since when things had gone quiet. There has been a change of Planning Officer at High Peak Borough Council. BD would continue to keep a close eye on the situation.
- 8.7 Checking Planning Applications: Noted that there is now a system of putting information on Council websites and we needed a group of people who would each take on the job of watching out for a particular area so that applications which might affect caves or mines are identified at an early stage. Noted that the system has changed and we needed to know how the new system worked.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.30pm.

J. E. Potts, Recorder

APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM IS THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT:

Officers' Reports to the DCA Council Meeting, 16 April 2005:

- a. Item 6.1 Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- b. Item 6.2 Conservation Officer's Report
- c. Item 6.3 Access Officer's Report
- d. Item 6.4 Legal & Insurance Officer's Report
- e. Item 6.5 Training Officer's Report
- f. Item 7.1 DCA Representative's report on BCA AGM.