

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Final Approved Minutes of Committee Meeting 8th October 2016, Hellifield Institute, Hellifield

Attendees in order of signature on attendance sheets:

Name	Club	CNCC officer/co-opted role?	Committee voting?
Matt Ewles	York CC	Secretary, taking minutes	
Gary Douthwaite	York Uni CPC	Webmaster	Yes
Peter Hambly	Northern PC		Yes
Martell Baines	Bradford PC	BCA representative	
Ian Cross	Bradford PC		Yes
Ric Halliwell	Craven PC	Birks Fell/Mongo/Fairy Holes meets	
Tim Allen	N/A	Access representative	
Alan Speight	Yorkshire SS		
Fiona Durham	Yorkshire SS		Yes
Victor Wain	White Rose PC		Yes
Roy Holmes	Dent House SS	Chairman	
Sam Lieberman	Red Rose CPC		Yes
Andrew Hinde	Gritstone Club		Yes
Pete Bann	Northern Boggarts	Treasurer	Yes
Ray Duffy	Red Rose CPC		
Pat Halliwell	Craven PC		Yes
Bob Mehew	N/A	BCA Legal and Insurance	
Kay Easton	Bradford PC	Conservation Officer	
Lyndon Easterbrook	ULSA		Yes
Matt Day	ULSA		

Numbering of sections in these minutes relates to agenda item numbering.

Committee clubs not present (3/13):

Over and Under Caving Club
Burnley Caving Club (apology received)
Earby Pothole Club (apology received)

(1) Apologies for absence

Pete Monk (Northern Boggarts)
John Holloway (ULSA)
Maureen Blair (Earby PC)
Bernard Bond (Burnley Caving Club)
Johnny Latimer (Access Officer)
Simon Wilson (BCA E&T rep)

The meeting opened at 9:33am with a welcome from the Chairman.

(2) Acceptance of January Committee meeting minutes

No matters were raised so the meeting proceeded straight to a vote.

Acceptance of minutes:
Proposed: Andrew Hinde
Seconded: Lyndon Easterbrook
Votes: 8 votes for, 2 abstentions

Action: Matt Ewles issue the final minutes, no changes.

(3) Matters arising from the September Committee meeting

Each action item from the agenda was discussed in order. **Responses highlighted in red.**

Individual(s)	Action item from July 2016 meeting
Matt E.	Issue January meeting minutes as final. DONE
Johnny L./Tim A.	Start the process of drafting new Casterton/Leck access agreements, to include access for individual cavers. ONGOING (see further discussion later in meeting)
Andrew H.	Report back at next meeting on progress regarding Fairy Holes access agreement. ONGOING (see further discussion under Access Officer report)
Ray D.	Continue work to list all fixed aids in Ease Gill Caverns. DONE (see agenda)
Tim A.	Keep CNCC informed of any feedback regarding our access agreements and any related legal/insurance matters. ONGOING (scheduled for discussion later)
Pete B.	Arrange reimbursement of £120 for Fairy Holes agreement to Andrew H. DONE
Gary D./Matt E.	Look into some website content on our initiative to clean up abandoned surface digs and create a reporting tool for people to use. DONE (Matt Ewles provided verbal update on new conservation section of website launched in the week before the meeting, including a reporting tool, information on the initiative and a means for people to sign up as a conservation volunteer with FAQs).
Matt E.	Write up discussions on fixed aids, schedule for next Committee meeting and try to get input from all Committee and full member clubs. DONE (Matt Ewles reminded the Committee that he had circulated all thoughts received from full members).
Matt E.	Look into possible suitable prizes for Eurospeleo from CNCC. DONE (see Secretary report for more information)

(4) Reports

Chairman's report:

No questions, however, Roy said that he would be considering standing down as Chairman at the AGM. Matt Ewles asked Roy for confirmation that the position should be advertised as becoming available to try to encourage someone new to come forward for the role. Roy confirmed.

Secretary's report:

No questions.

Treasurer's report:

Roy Holmes asked if CRO had claimed the £500 for communications equipment from CNCC. Pete Bann said no, so far only Swaledale MRT have claimed this money.

Conservation Officer's report:

No questions.

Training Officer's Report:

Matt Ewles reminded everyone that Dan Irving has stepped down as Training Officer, and said that he was working with a couple of potentially interested candidates for the position.

Access officer's report:

Johnny Latimer had given apologies, but it was noted that he had requested in his report some discussion by the Committee of the Langcliffe Hall estate situation.

- Tim Allen said the National Parks have discussed this but no action has been taken and there has been no movement on the situation. Tim said that Johnny Latimer has tried to speak to the landowner with no success and Johnny suggests that we could withdraw from the access agreement. Tim said that as he was currently working with the three estates (Leck, Casterton and Ingleborough) to develop a single access agreement across all three areas, we wait until this is established and then we can invite Langcliffe Hall Estate to join. Tim said that if this is not successful we cannot continue to support a 1977 access agreement and further actions may be necessary.
- Andrew Hinde said that Natural England had considered the tax exemption status of the land of Langcliffe Hall Estate and found there to be no breach of the conditions associated to this.
- Alan Speight commented that if they (Langcliffe Hall Estate) have invested in the agreement with the CNCC, should we not just write to tell them that we are changing the agreement to open access? Tim Allen said that Johnny has tried to bring them to the table to discuss this but they are unwilling unless we are willing to pay for their time.
- Ric Halliwell asked if we could push this as a formal request for help from the National Parks through the Local Access Forum to try to gain higher priority. Tim said that he believed the National Parks had already done all they can.
- Sam Lieberman asked if we still present any lists of permits issued to Langcliffe Hall Estate. Alan Speight said we used to post used permits through the door but not anymore.

- Tim said he believes this is an example of where the CNCC needs to show greater due diligence in ensuring our access agreements are up to date and reflect current practice.
- It was clarified that the main caves we are dealing with on Langcliffe Hall Estate are Dale Head Pot and Penygvent Pot.
- Lyndon Easterbrook asked if we abandon the access agreement, what is to stop the landowner refusing access and closing off or filling in the cave entrances. Tim said he does not feel this is likely; there is no evidence of any feeling against cavers/the CNCC that could lead to reprisals such as this, and that the hardest part of improving access had simply been getting the landowners to meet with us to discuss the matter; and not any specific wish to stand in the way of access to the caves.
- Tim provided an update on his work with the three estates (Leck, Casterton and Ingleborough) to create a single consistent up to date access agreement across the three estates. A meeting has already taken place with the estates and Tim is currently working towards an agreement. This will include a calendar based booking system and a registration process to deal with liability issues. The three landowners are discussing this offline and will come back with comments. Work is ongoing; to be discussed in future meeting.

Action: Tim to keep CNCC Officers/Committee informed of any developments on this.

- Tim Allen emphasised the important of our initiative to address surface digs to maintaining landowner relations; Jonathan Coates has complained about an uncovered dig on Leck Fell into which some sheep have fallen.
- Martell Baines noted from Johnny's report that he is stepping down at the AGM. Matt Ewles added that he only said he MAY be stepping down, and he has yet to confirm this.
- Andrew Hinde provided an update on the access situation at Fairy Holes. He has been able to contact the Land Agents (Savills in York) and they would be interested in a standard CNCC style access agreement. Ric Halliwell emphasised that all permits available under the current agreement were not being used so it would be hard to justify a push for more. Andrew said that we are under obligation to make access as open as possible, but based on this, we may struggle to justify asking for more permits to be available. He suggested that initially we continue under similar terms to the previous arrangement as this has the greatest likelihood of being accepted. Johnny needs to present some documents to Savills before Christmas for their consideration. Tim said that as this is a bespoke situation, the documents need not be typical of a normal CNCC agreement. Ric Halliwell emphasised that if possible there should be no requirement stated to provide advanced lists of those attending to allow last minute permits to be issued. Alan Speight suggested the Committee should instruct the Secretary to pursue this, but Matt Ewles said that he had enough work at the moment without also picking this up. It was agreed that Tim Allen and Andrew Hinde would continue to work together to come up with an agreement to put to Savills before Christmas.

Action: Tim/Andrew/Johnny: Work together to prepare Fairy Holes access agreement.

Meets Secretary reports:

- Andrew Hinde asked if it was normal to see a reduction in permits for Casterton over summer; it was mentioned that this is when the students are away, so yes.
- Regarding Penyghent Pot, Pete Hambly said that the NPC would be willing to be involved in any works necessary to restore/stabilise the entrance. Martell Baines asked whether improvements to the entrance could be leverage for greater access.
- Ric Halliwell said he had just issued his first permit for Mongo Gill of the year.

BCA representative report:

Martell Baines (BCA/CNCC representative) provided a verbal update on matters of relevance to northern caving from the recent BCA meeting. See Appendix 1 for an overview of points raised.

Acceptance of all reports:

Proposed: Ian Cross

Seconded: Pat Halliwell

Votes: 10 votes for (unanimous)

(5) Continued discussions on the role of the CNCC in fixed aids

- Andrew Hinde opened the discussions by asking the mood of the room
- Matt Ewles said that he felt that there was an expectation from the caving community for the CNCC to take some kind of role in fixed aids. Matt had asked for thoughts from member clubs and received only a small number of responses (Bradford Pothole Club, SUSS, Michael Hale, Jim Sloane and Philip Judson), which were mixed in nature (these had been circulated privately to the CNCC Committee ahead of the meeting). He referenced the response from SUSS saying that they supported the CNCC taking a proactive role in fixed aids in a way similar to the DCA. Matt said he felt we should explore all options to enable us to do so; however, this was clearly going to require manpower and careful considerations about liability. He said that he generally agreed with the Craven PC position (which has been presented to him at the start of the meeting on a hand-written note).
- Pat Halliwell summarised the Craven PC position by reading the note:

"At its last meeting the CPC Committee discussed the CNCC's position on fixed aids. It agreed that bolts are an essential part of current day SRT techniques and therefore bolt placement was not considered in the discussion. It was agreed that fixed aids can be essential in some sites either for safety reasons or to assist conservation. However, it was thought there had been an excessive proliferation of fixed aids, some of which were there simply to make life easier and these should not be supported. It was agreed that some fixed aids on popular routes, especially through-routes, are essential and therefore their installation should be supported. However, this must be done in a way which minimises any legal responsibility from falling on either the installer or the access body. Any reference to the fixed aid must include a statement to the effect that any user is responsible for making their own safety assessment and use of the fixed aid is at their own risk."

- Matt said that concerns over liability and manpower were common themes in responses.
- Tim Allen said that anything we did regarding fixed aids would have to be a proper job. He raised the consideration of where fixed aids can be justified. He also raised the question of CNCC resource to perform inspections with suitable rigour/frequency that would address liability concerns (he hazarded a guess that this might be every 3 months for hand lines) as well as the difficulty in ensuring appropriate levels of competence in those performing the inspections. He also asked what the CNCC would do regarding non-CNCC maintained fixed aids and how will a caver identify one which is maintained by the CNCC from one which is not.
- Alan Speight said that with all this complexity in mind, we had to reject this (i.e. have nothing to do with fixed aids).
- Pete Hambly said that there was particular complexity for ropes, which are easily damaged.
- Bob Mehew (BCA Legal and Insurance) was at the meeting having been asked to attend by the Secretary. Bob said that this was something we should either do properly or not at all. This should not be done badly. We cannot adopt a stance that we will not have anything to do with fixed aids, as we already support anchor installation. However, anchors are easier than other fixed aids as historically it has been proven with suitable evidence that just a pre-use inspection of an anchor is adequate, in combination with a reporting tool for cavers to report loose anchors. No routine scheduled inspections/maintenance was needed. The question we are considering is whether we want to expand what we already do other forms of fixed aids, which may require alternative considerations.
- Bob said his opinion was that we could probably create a similar regime as to the one for anchors, but for iron ladders, steel wires or chains, which are difficult to damage and would probably require little more maintenance than anchors. Ropes however can be cored in a very short space of time (3 monthly inspection would certainly not be sufficient) and by only a few people using them (he cited examples of ropes being cored in only 12 uses), and so these are a major problem when discussing fixed aids. The BCA handline experiments are ongoing, but the current tests showed that flooding was particularly problematic for these and that serious damage to ropes was caused by being thrashed about in flood waters. Bob said that in his opinion we should forget about rope for fixed aids. We would need to focus on a more solid material than rope where a fixed aid was deemed necessary.
- Matt Ewles said that many of the areas we are talking about (especially Stake Pot and Fall Pot in Ease Gill) do currently have rope. Ray Duffy said that there shouldn't be any fixed rope at Fall Pot at all, but acknowledged that no sooner have you taken one out, another appears.
- Bob said that any CNCC policy should minimise the risk of liability to the installer. If we actively publicise the statement that we take no responsibility for any fixed 'tat' that this will go some way to absolve us of liability. Pat Halliwell said that similar wording had been used at EuroSpeleo; i.e. it must always be inspected before use. Tim Allen said the problem with this was that many fixed aids are there for people to go UP and therefore cannot be inspected from above before use.

- Gary Douthwaite suggested the first thing any policy would have to do would be to say what we are and are not going to support and take responsibility for. Roy Holmes said we would need to list exactly which fixed aids we are responsible for, and clearly state that any not specifically listed we take no responsibility for whatsoever.
- Bob said that we would need to accompany any policy with a means for reporting of dodgy aids and ensuring this information was disseminated to the caving community as a warning (the same is true for any loose anchor reports we receive). This is necessary to make people aware of the issue and would be an expectation of insurance.
- Gary Douthwaite asked whether, when a report was received e.g. of an unstable entrance, it would be sufficient in these situations simply to issue a warning that we have had a report of potential instability; or do we have to close the cave? Bob said this depends on how you judge the competency of the person making the assessment to judge the situation and accurately report on the risk.
- Gary asked where, from a liability perspective, do we stand with the phrase 'do it at your own risk'. Bob said that the real problem here would be failure to disclose information; if we knew of a risk but did not seek to disclose this as best as we could, this would be the real liability concern.
- Andrew Hinde said that if we did have a policy and a reporting system, would we be obligated to stop issuing permits to a cave if something was reported. Bob said it would have to be a judgement of the severity of the issue and the risk of incident. What would be most important would be to ensure it was reported and investigated in a timely way.
- Andrew Hinde said that there are lots of fixed aids we would wish to distance ourselves from in caves to which we issue permits, such as the 90ft of scaffolding and block walling in Committee Pot.
- Kay Easton expressed concern that if we have a reporting function, after a few years could this develop into an assumption that no report means everything is safe? Bob said that any policy would need to clarify that this was not the case and include a recommendation for pre-use inspection of all fixed aids. Kay asked if this would have to extend to a pre-inspection of the cave itself (i.e. natural features). Bob returned to the example of Ibbeth Peril (see BCA representative report) where a large slab frequently used as a crossing point has slipped and is potentially dangerous. Roy Holmes mentioned an alternative route to avoid the mobile block; information such as this should be made available. If we did not communicate this kind of known information about caves where we had a permit system in operation, this could be problematic.
- Martell Baines said that the BCA participation statement contained an overarching statement saying that participation in caving is at your own risk.
- Ray Duffy emphasised that the aim of his original query when the fixed aid discussion started a few meetings ago was whether the various fixed ropes across Ease Gill could be removed.
- Sam Lieberman said it seemed reasonable to provide a reporting tool on the website for circulation of information or additional hazards that have become known to us. We can

follow up reports with a process/action where we deem it necessary. Ray Duffy said that we need to be careful in what action we take; he has been to Straw Chamber three times acting on reports of recent rock fall and each time there has been no change; so, next time he gets a report does he go and inspect again?

- Tim Allen said that we need to be careful that we don't get too concerned about liability concerns where the risk is incredibly remote.
- Andrew Hinde asked if the DCA have a fixed aid policy. Bob confirmed that they do and a maintenance schedule for their adopted fixed aids.
- Andrew asked whether there was anyone in the CNCC who would be willing to put the work into developing a similar policy in the CNCC. Matt Ewles said that this was important to him and he would be willing to do the legwork in working with the BCA E&T to develop a policy and bring decisions about which fixed aids we should support to the CNCC Committee. However, this would require the buy-in from several clubs to be willing to support the necessary installation and inspection regimes.
- Alan Speight said that we shouldn't be getting involved in this; we are wasting time discussing this and fixed aids are making caving too easy.
- Gary Douthwaite raised the matter of the Stop Pot ladder; if this was reported as dangerous and in need of replacement, who, currently, would do/fund this if not the CNCC?
- Bob Mehew said that before we consider fixed aids further we need to revisit bolts. The CNCC is currently very involved in anchor schemes but we need to review our policies and procedures to ensure that we are doing the best we can reasonably do in this area. Matt Ewles said we currently have a reporting function for loose anchors, but that he felt greater circulation of these loose anchor reports was desirable to serve as a warning to cavers.
- Matt Ewles suggested that we had not reached a consensus on fixed aids; there seems to be a desire for the CNCC to be able to take a proactive role but we are held back by concerns of liability and manpower. Matt asked if we needed to postpone these discussions and instead review the policies and procedures for the current (anchor) system to ensure they still meet modern standards before we move on to considering extending this scheme to fixed aids.
- Bob Mehew agreed. We needed to ensure that all reporting was publically available and that we adopt a clear policy regarding fixed aids which at present states that we don't have anything to do with any fixed aids other than anchors.
- Matt Day agreed, saying that fixed aids (beyond anchors) was a can of worms and ULSA would not support the CNCC taking an involvement at the moment.
- Matt Ewles suggested that this is something that could be revisited in future.
- Roy Holmes called for proposals. Kay Easton suggested two proposals:

Suggestion 1:

"We will review the policy and procedure on anchors and ensure it meets modern standards"

Proposed: Ian Cross

Seconded: Matt Day

Votes: 10 votes for (unanimous)

Suggestion 2:

"That the CNCC does not support or take responsibility for any fixed aids in caves and mines other than anchors installed under the anchor scheme."

Proposed: Matt Day

Seconded: Pete Hambly

Votes: 10 votes for (unanimous)

The fixed aid discussion was closed and the meeting stopped for a short break.

Action: Matt Ewles to convene discussions with all relevant parties to ensure our current scheme meets modern standards and if necessary make recommendations for improvement. Matt Ewles/ Gary Douthwaite to create mechanism to list known hazards/loose anchors etc on CNCC website to bring these to attention of caving community, and to include updated statement on other fixed aids to clarify that we have no responsibility for these.

(6) Descriptions and rigging information on CNCC website

Matt Ewles provided an overview of this as outlined in the agenda. He emphasised that this was a personal project (rather than a secretarial project for the CNCC) but he thought that it might be able to be integrated into the CNCC if the Committee agreed.

- Martell Baines suggested that we made these descriptions available on the CNCC website.
- Pat Halliwell said that we would need to include suitable disclaimers.
- Lyndon Easterbrook asked if this would conflict with Sam Allshorn's work on the new Northern Caves books. Martell suggested that the proposal here is essentially a caving wiki which can be updated on an ongoing basis, very different to Northern Caves. Matt Day said that Sam supports the CNCC proceeding with this. Matt Ewles added that the descriptions were those of the most popular routes through the most popular caves; far from as comprehensive as Northern Caves, which covers all parts of all caves.
- Andrew Hinde said that these descriptions could cause increased traffic though the caves for which there are descriptions, and that by adding descriptions for caves elsewhere that are less visited, we could spread this traffic and promote a few 'hidden gems'.

Proposal: Make descriptions available on CNCC website as outlined in agenda, with disclaimers.

Proposed: Martell Baines

Seconded: Pat Halliwell

Votes: 10 votes for (unanimous)

Action: Matt Ewles and Gary Douthwaite to make descriptions available on CNCC website and examine means to introduce appropriate disclaimers.

(7) BCA guidance to Access Controlling Bodies

Bob Mehew provided a verbal update on the status, the following is a summary:

The BCA insurance broker has raised a desire for written risk assessments. This is based in part on a court case where a claim was rejected because there was a risk assessment. Bob also emphasised that the use of risk assessment was not linked to the health and safety at work act.

The brokers acknowledge that willingly accepting/acknowledging risks goes a long way towards mitigating liability, and there was no desire to start installing signs at caves etc. Bob had produced some draft guidance to access controlling bodies to help them comply with these requirements. However, the broker has said it is too comprehensive and goes too far. Nick Williams and Bob are now working to reduce the document to minimise the workload on access controlling bodies. This is unlikely to be finalised in the next few months.

Some access controlling bodies, especially the CNCC, will need help due to the number of caves that we are involved with and Bob plans to help us work through this. The time frame for this, according to the broker, is up to BCA but it is unlikely to be finished before Christmas. Overall, once this is issued we need to take reasonable steps towards compliance. The CNCC will not be viable without public liability insurance and so we need to do this.

There will be no need for individual documents for each cave entrance, and we will probably be able to group by access agreements or geographical location in places.

This was put out to the room for further discussion and questions:

- Tim Allen said he believes the initial document was too thorough, requiring too much information and goes beyond what is expected by the brokers. It would create unnecessary work for access controlling bodies. Bob said he has accepted this and is working on reducing the demands of the document. Bob also made the point that this also meant we had a good idea of the limit beyond which we did not need to go in producing risk assessments.
- Sam Lieberman said there seems no need to discuss or argue about this until the document is final and the official guidance to access controlling bodies has been issued.
- Martell Baines suggested that the extensive document could perhaps be circulated as it is for feedback; this could help Bob speed up the process of reducing the document. However, Bob said that he wasn't keen for the document to be circulated at present.
- Victor Wain said the WRPC was keen to understand what the definition of an access controlling body is. Bob said this was challenging, and was not necessarily the landowner in many places. It may be described as the 'possessor who has the legal right to control access'.
- Lyndon Easterbrook said that Leeds University have requested a risk assessment for every cave, therefore ULSA have some reference documents that may help with the process.
- Bob said that the risk assessments would not just be about assessing the risk to the caver; they would also be about assessing the risk to the landowner of liability from members of

the public due to cave entrances; access controlling bodies may also have duties of care to other users of the land, including maintaining fencing.

- Tim Allen emphasised that Victor Wain's question was an important one. Is the CNCC an access controlling body? We do not control access (i.e. we have no enforcement). Tim said he has been clear with landowners that we cannot control or police access. We are far from being the access controlling body that some other organisations are, for example where a lock and key is employed to control access.
- Bob Mehew emphasised that the 'willing accepted risks' depended upon the person being aware of them. For example, Gaping Gill is an open hole with an obvious risk of falling down the shaft whereas Manchester Hole in Nidderdale does have an unobvious risk due to water overtopping Scar House Reservoir. The access controlling body should draw such unobvious risks to attention of the person to minimise liability.
- Tim asked whether we could simply refer everyone to guidebook wording. Bob confirmed this could be sufficient, assuming the risk was mentioned. Bob also asked how you control activities such as digging which are not in guidebooks. Tim said the CNCC has no responsibility for digging as permission for this comes directly from landowners.
- Gary Douthwaite asked if we could just have one very long, thorough and comprehensive risk assessment addressing every possible conceivable risk in all caves, to cover almost every cave under one assessment. Bob indicated that this could lead to making very onerous judgements on caves which had little risk associated with them.
- Victor Wain asked if the entrance was on CRow Access land who is the access controlling body. Bob said under CRow the liability would be negated, unless there was specific negligence.
- Gary Douthwaite returned to Bob's point that the liability of an access controlling body may extend to other users of the land and asked whether it could extend to public safety for non-cavers near the cave. Bob replied that this would be dictated by the wording of the access agreement. BCA did provide insurance cover to many landowners to cover this aspect.
- Martell Baines said she wanted to bring this discussion to something practical. This should include refinement of the guidance document before the next BCA meeting on 7th January 2017. Until we see the final document we cannot take any further action as a regional council; we need to wait for the BCA to come to an agreement first.
- Lyndon Easterbrook said that we have come around in a bit of a circle, and suggested that we needed to review our access agreements to see what actions might be required and what liability they might impose upon us.
- Tim Allen said that our access agreements need to emphasise that we do not, and cannot, control access. Bob agreed that we did not cover access across the land and noted that we cannot control access to any cave on common land or on CRow Access Land.

- Gary Douthwaite proposed that we defer this to the next Committee meeting. This was seconded by Sam Lieberman and received 9 votes for (unanimous; the YSS representative had left the meeting by now).
- Tim Allen clarified that BCA insurance extends to all visitors to a cave or mine; there is no requirement from the insurers themselves for individuals to be BCA members. Our control systems do not require us to ensure individuals are BCA members. This is because the fundamental need of the policy is for landowners to be covered regardless. Matt Ewles asked whether changing our access agreements to remove a requirement for BCA membership to get a permit would totally undermine the insurance policy. If cavers are basically told there is absolutely no need for them to have BCA insurance and they are covered under the policy regardless of whether they pay or not, and don't need it to get access to caves, won't lots of cavers and clubs stop paying for membership, and won't this lead to the collapse of the viability of the policy? Tim said that he would hope clubs and individuals would continue to pay to join the BCA for reasons other than insurance.

Action: Matt Ewles to schedule for further discussion at January meeting when guidance is issued.

(8) Date and time of next meeting

Committee meeting Saturday 14th January 2017, Hellifield Village Institute, 9:30am

(9) Any Other Business

Tim Allen summarised the request for funding towards the information boards as detailed in the agenda. He said that these could also include the six-point conservation message and information such as what to do in an emergency. Matt Ewles asked who these were aimed at; cavers, or non-cavers, as he thought this would determine the content and the nature of the conservation message (i.e. surface only or surface and cave). Tim said they would be aimed at both. Andrew Hinde said the six-point code should be used. Lyndon Easterbrook suggested these could be used more to encourage future cavers

Vote to agree funding of up to approximately £500 for these:

Proposed: Andrew Hinde

Seconded: Gary Douthwaite

Votes: 9 votes for (unanimous)

Meeting closed at 12:25.

Summary of action items dictated or inferred from this meeting:

Individual(s)	Action item
Matt E.	Issue July meeting minutes as final.
Johnny L./Tim A.	Keep CNCC Officer/Committee informed of progress regarding combined access agreement for Leck/Casterton/Ingleborough (and if completed, make efforts to get Langcliffe Hall Estate to join the agreement).
Johnny L./Tim A./ Andrew H.	Prepare suggested CNCC access agreement for Fairy Holes for presentation to Savills in York before Christmas.
Matt E./Gary D.	Matt Ewles to convene discussions with all relevant parties to ensure our current scheme meets modern standards and if necessary make recommendations for improvement. Create mechanism to list known hazards/loose anchors etc on CNCC website to bring these to attention of caving community, and to include updated statement on other fixed aids to clarify that we have no responsibility for these.
Matt E./Gary D.	Make cave descriptions available on CNCC website and examine means to introduce appropriate disclaimers for these.
Matt E.	Schedule guidance to Access Controlling Bodies for further discussion at January meeting when guidance should have been issued by BCA.

Appendix 1: Report on the 5th June 2016 BCA Council meeting

Meeting attended by Martell Baines, representing the CNCC

These are abbreviated notes taken for the benefit of updating the CNCC on matters within the BCA. More detailed information can be found in the official BCA minutes.

Reported to me to convey to CNCC from Graham Mollard (Professional Cavers): The big slab in Ibbeth Peril up to the roof passage has moved outwards and downwards. Graham used to be able to step off this slab and he no longer can.

Demographics of the caving membership. BCA will add a column to the membership spreadsheet requesting members' years of birth so that a profile of the caving population can be gained.

An **Access Controlling Bodies advice statement** on the impact of CROW will be circulated and what ACBs might do to understand access permissions. Should be circulated in the next week.

There will be a **club subscription increase** to the BCA membership. 41+ member club subscriptions will increase from £50 to £70. Clubs with huts from £50 to £60 in December 2016. Individual members' subscriptions may increase in December 2017. A rise in Insurance Tax Premiums is expected but not yet announced.

Conservation and Access: Andrew Hinde has produced an educational strategy for the conservation of caves. It has been approved by the BCA. It is a road map for cavers, clubs and councils to demonstrate that they are embracing conservation. Encouraged to publicise on websites and newsletters. Clubs to recruit a conservation officer suggested.

The **Training Committee** no longer exists since split of professional from recreational training committee (this may not be constitutional). Graham Mollard said after the meeting there is £2000 grant for training largely not taken up by clubs or regional councils.

BCA Membership: Nick Williams is meeting with insurance brokers in December. If clubs or councils have any issues or questions to ask on insurance cover, please raise these with Nick.

Participation Statements: The BCA Participation statement is tucked away on membership forms. However there needs to be much more prominence. Modelling on the BMC example. To cover all liabilities. BCA are insured by the same people as BMC. Clubs and Councils are encouraged to make a participation statement prominent on websites and membership forms to cover all liabilities in the event of a claim.

Risk Assessments. Will need to be produced for all caves. Serious implications for CNCC region. Caves can be grouped together, with exceptional caves done individually. Cave categories were not explained. I requested exemplars of a template. Bob Mehew and Nick Williams to report more at January meeting. Graham Mollard offered CNCC assistance with RA's for caves as the professional cavers already have RA's in place. Bob Mehew will have more information on this matter.

BCA Constitutional Amendments: suggestions will be presented at the January meeting of the BCA which is before the CNCC New Year meeting.