

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Agenda for Committee Meeting 11th June 2022, 09:30 am

- 1) Apologies for absence.
- 2) Acceptance of minutes from the January Committee meeting (these have already been through the one-month review process before being made public on the website).
- 3) Any matters arising or updates on action items from the January Committee meeting?

Reminder of action items from January meeting (with update in red where status known):

Individual(s)	Action item
Josh Y	Finalise October Committee Minutes Done
Officers	Work towards securing access at High Birkwith. Updates on the slow progress at this site continue to be provided at meetings. As this looks to be a long-term project it is suggested that this action can be dropped.
Ian P	Discuss policy wording for adding non-CNCC resin anchors to topos.
Matt E	Continue pursuing an improvement to access at Birks Fell.
Josh Y	Organise the adoption of a conflict of interest policy. Ongoing, see agenda item 6.
Gary D	Add winch meet info pages to the CNCC website.
Matt E	Do some publicity for the Glover Report and the government's response.
Access Officer	Arrange an access agreement for Fairy Holes.
Access Officer	Renegotiate access arrangements with the Langcliffe Hall Estate following BCA insurance changes.
Matt E	Change the access arrangements at Excalibur following BCA insurance changes.

4) Reports (will be made available approx. one week before meeting)

- i. Chairman's report - Andrew Hinde
- ii. Secretary's report- Josh Young
- iii. Treasurer's report - Pete Bann
- iv. Conservation Officer's report- Kay Easton
- v. Access Officer's report - Adele Ward
- vi. Training Officer's report - Ian Patrick
- vii. Other reports (optional): Webmaster/PR & Comms/BCA reps/Anchor Coordinator
- viii. Access Coordinator's reports (optional)

5) Confirmation of co-opted positions and representatives

This agenda item is a discussion and vote on whether to endorse the continuation of each of these co-opted positions, and an opportunity for anyone else interested in performing one of these roles to come forward.

- Stump Cross / Robinson's / Fairy Holes Access Co-ordinator - Ric Halliwell
- Excalibur Access Co-ordinator - Matt Ewles
- Bowland Access Co-ordinator - Tony Brown
- Webmaster - Gary Douthwaite
- Anchor Co-ordinator - Alan Speight
- PR & Communications Officer - Matt Ewles
- Representative to the BCA Training & Equipment Working Group - Mark Richards
- Representative to the BCA Access and Conservation Committee - Kay Easton
- Representative to the BCA Youth & Development Committee - Liv Golby-Kirk
- Representative to the BCA Training Committee - Ian Patrick

6) Conflict of Interest Policy

Item submitted by Matt Ewles:

At the October CNCC meeting, the Committee accepted a Conflicts of Interests proposal. This included both a policy and an annual declaration form.

I am concerned that this may be a knee-jerk reaction to specific situations within CNCC at present, rather than something that is to the wider benefit of our organisation. The CNCC is a friendly and open organisation where any concerns about conflicts of interests should be openly discussed before more drastic measures such as declaration forms are considered.

I feel the declaration will create extra bureaucracy and make Officers feel mistrusted or uncomfortable at a time when we already struggle to recruit volunteers. I would therefore like to ask ULSA to reconsider their request for the declaration, and instead to raise whatever concerns have led to this as an open and honest discussion item at the June meeting.

Officers already have the opportunity each year to declare relevant conflicts of interest via their application statements and throughout the year via their reports.

Furthermore, although I don't personally feel a policy is needed either, if CNCC Committee felt this was necessary I would suggest the following rather more friendly wording which does not discourage those with conflicts of interests from working on behalf of CNCC, nor make them feel like their contribution is not welcomed:

"The CNCC expects our volunteers to carry out their duties purely for the benefit of northern caving. We recognise that most of our volunteers are cavers, and thus benefit from the work of CNCC to some extent. However, if a an Officer, Representative or Committee member expects to derive personal gain from any decision or activity of CNCC (including material, financial or business benefits), they should declare such conflict of interest as part of their statement when standing for the role. Furthermore, they should abstain from any vote where they, their family, or their business stand to benefit from the outcome. We recognise that to deliver benefits to northern cavers, the CNCC may incur situations where conflicts of interests exist. For this reason we would like to clarify that having a conflict of interest is not prohibited, providing it is clearly declared, appropriately accepted, and provides wider benefits to northern cavers."

7) Vote of Confidence in CNCC Training

Item submitted by Matt Ewles:

I would like to propose a vote of confidence in the way CNCC Training has been administered over the past year.

I believe the CNCC now has the best training offerings of any regional body for many years, and possibly the best we have ever offered. Probably over 100 people have benefitted from the various workshops in the last year, feedback has been fantastic, and take-up is high. These workshops are exactly what northern cavers want from their regional council, and other regions are now mirroring this approach.

There has been some recent negativity towards our workshops from what I believe is a very small minority; yet this risks undermining the goodwill of our very hard-to-find volunteers.

This vote of confidence would support the current approach (by which trainers are paid a flat daily fee, with our Training Officer being one of the trainers currently involved) and encourage continuation of the workshops in the same general format that they have operated over the last year.

8) Approval of Anchor Installation at Fing Hopeless Pot on Leck Fell

Item submitted by Matt Ewles:

Anyone who follows UKCaving will have read about the excellent discovery of Fing Hopeless Pot on Leck Fell. This is currently a standalone system, with several short pitches and some excellent formations. The diggers have asked if CNCC would approve installation of IC anchors. I would like to propose CNCC Committee authorise installation of IC anchors in this cave, with work to be performed over summer by an Approved Installer.

9) Date and time of next meeting

Committee Meeting Saturday 29th October 2022, Hellifield Institute, 09:30 am.

10) Any other business?