

# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

## British Caving Association

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### Final Approved Minutes of Committee Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Hellifield Village Institute

Attendees in order of signature on attendance sheets:

Name	Affiliation	CNCC officer/ co-opted role?	Committee voting?
Matt Ewles	York CC /Northern Pennine Club	Secretary, taking minutes	
Gary Douthwaite	York CC /Northern Pennine Club	Webmaster	
Adrian Turner	York Caving Club		
Tony Brown	Northern Boggarts	Bowland meets	Yes
Pete Bann	Northern Boggarts	Treasurer	
Ian Cross	Bradford Pothole Club		Yes
Mike Hawkshaw	Northern Pennine Club		Yes
Pat Halliwell	Craven Pothole Club		Yes
Ric Halliwell	Craven Pothole Club	Eastern Dales meets	
Alan Speight	Yorkshire Subterranean Society		Yes
Ray Duffy	Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club		
Sam Lieberman	Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club		Yes
Stuart Whitmey	Earby Pothole Club		Yes
Tim Allen	N/A	Access Officer	
Andrew Hinde	Gritstone Club	Chair	
Jane Allen	New To Caving		
Simon Wilson	Bradford Pothole Club	E&T/Anchor coordinator	
Sam Allshorn	ULSA		
John Holloway	ULSA		Yes
Lyndon Easterbrook	ULSA		
Victor Wain	White Rose Pothole Club		Yes
John Young	York Uni Cave and Pothole Club		Yes
Joe Smith	York Uni Cave and Pothole Club		
Andy Gordon	Kendal Caving Club		Yes
Rowan Worsman	N/A		

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

**11 out of 14 Committee clubs present (Absent: SUSS, Burnley Caving Club, Grampian SG).**

The meeting opened at 9:30am with a welcome from the Chair and a round of introductions.

### **(1) Apologies for absence**

Maz Holloway (Former Training Officer)  
Kay Easton (Conservation Officer)  
Alan Jeffreys (Grampian Speleological Group)

### **(2) Acceptance of October 2018 Committee meeting minutes**

No issues raised; proceeded directly to a vote.

Acceptance of minutes:

Proposed: Sam Lieberman

Seconded: Josh Young

Votes: 9 votes for, 1 abstention

Note: Only 10 voting reps at this point; Kendal CC had not yet arrived.

**Action: Matt Ewles to issue the final minutes.**

### **(3) Matters arising from the October Committee meeting**

<b>Individual(s)</b>	<b>Action item</b>
Matt E.	Issue June meeting minutes as final. <b>Action complete.</b>
Matt E.	Format Alan J's Scottish cave descriptions for website. <b>Matt Ewles provided an update that this is complete, and the guide is now on the CNCC website and has already been downloaded over 250 times. Matt thanked Alan Jeffreys for his work.</b>
All	Seek to get more people involved in the CNCC. <b>Andrew Hinde said that he had invited several people and received assurances they would come; but none of these had turned up.</b>
Matt E.	Thank NECAFE donor but explain that this is not something we are able to take forward. <b>Action complete and matter closed.</b>
Matt E.	Present copies of "Caves and Karst in the Northern Dales vol 2" to landowners for Jenga Pot and Excalibur Pot. <b>Jenga Pot copy returned as meeting with landowner unlikely soon; Excalibur copy awaiting presentation. No need to maintain this item on action log.</b>
Kay E./Gary D.	Continue to liaise over GDPR requirements with respect to CNCC conservation volunteers. <b>Action initiated and ongoing.</b>
Matt E./Gary D.	Investigate costs of CNCC display for presentation to the January Committee meeting. <b>Action no longer as relevant, as YSS have volunteered their display boards for use, meaning the total costs of the display are unlikely to exceed the £500 discretionary cap that can be agreed by Treasurer without Committee approval. Matt Ewles thanked the YSS. Gary Douthwaite presented some suggestions for two roll up banners (A4 sheets passed round); he aims to keep it clean and simple. Gary appealed for any suggestions. Matt</b>

	<p><b>summarised his vision for the display with the CNCC timeline across the top and a map of the area with callouts for all access, anchor and conservation initiatives performed over the last five years.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Matt/Gary to continue work on this; targeting it being ready in time for Hidden Earth 2019 (end September).</b></p>
Tim A.	<p>Finalise MoU with Langcliffe Estate representatives and circulate to CNCC Committee for period of consultation; does not need to wait until next meeting but clubs should be given a reasonable amount of time to feed comments back. <b>Several clubs provided feedback, mostly regarding insurance, all concerns addressed. MoU is now signed, and implementation is complete.</b></p>
Tim A.	<p>Continue Barbondale discussions; keep Lee Paskin involved. <b>To be discussed in Access Officer report. Retain on action log.</b></p>
All	<p>Feed back to Maz H. on any additional training requirements that anyone feels the BCA should fund. <b>Action has expired.</b></p>
Maz H.	<p>Put together a position statement for review by CNCC Committee; push back against any kind of recreational caving qualification. <b>Maz Holloway has resigned as Training Officer and so this action remains unfulfilled. Remove from action log until new Training Officer found.</b></p>
Matt E.	<p>Submit request to the BCA on behalf of CNCC for Tim A. to be co-opted onto the BCA Finance Committee. <b>Matt Ewles summarised the current situation; that the CNCC could not have two representatives on the Finance Committee as this would be considered unfair by other Regional Councils.</b></p> <p><b>Further discussion:</b></p> <p>Sam Allshorn suggested that they can't restrict who attends these meetings; Andrew Hinde clarified that it was at the discretion of the convenor. Tim Allen confirmed that he attended the recent meeting to represent the CNCC in place of Pete Bann. Tim summarised the role of the Finance Committee; their role being to make recommendations to Council and to administer payments. Tim believed that Pete didn't want to get too involved in policy recommendations; a similar situation to the Cambrian Caving Council whose treasurer does not wish to be involved in policymaking. Many treasurers just want to deal with their regional accounts without getting involved in national policymaking. Thus, the meeting had only two active Regional Council treasurers present. Tim believed this emphasised that the Finance Committee is not capable of making democratic decisions for all regions and felt that there was one person who dominated the proceedings and that the CNCC proposals were watered down as a result.</p> <p>Sam believed that policy decisions should surely come from the Council? Pete Bann agreed, saying that this was his issue; he believed that the Council should decide what money can/can't be spent on and</p>

	<p>that the Finance Committee was not the right place to decide on the guidelines for spending.</p> <p>Andrew Hinde confirmed that the CNCC proposals have already been kicked back once. At the BCA meeting last weekend, the decision was made to go through each proposal point by point rather than accepting the recommendations of the Finance Committee en-bloc. Andrew felt that the handling of the CNCC proposals was inappropriate.</p> <p>Pat Halliwell asked if the Finance Committee has five treasurers but only one was opposed to the CNCC proposals, surely that still left a majority in support? Tim Allen emphasised that due to some of the treasurers not wishing to get involved in such decision making, the group was free to be dominated by a small vocal minority.</p> <p>Andrew clarified that one CNCC proposal that was accepted by the Finance Committee was that the Regional Councils should submit their accounts for the BCA Website. This was amended to just having a link to all Regional Council accounts on the BCA website, but even this involved very extensive discussion. John Holloway asked whether the BCA Chair should not act to curtail such extensive discussion; Andrew clarified that yes, ideally this should be the case.</p> <p>Andrew clarified that BCA meetings are not, contrary to how it may sound, slanging matches. They are calm and well-rehearsed. They just go on and on until everyone loses the will to live. We could write an official complaint letter, but he didn't feel this was the right way forward under the circumstances.</p> <p>Sam Allshorn felt that this was a big deal given that the BCA have nearly £250K; Tim Allen ended the discussions by saying that he was dismayed that despite the BCA having ample money, several of our very reasonable and common-sense proposals were either rejected or watered down.</p>
All	<p>Review BCA draft safeguarding policy and feed comments either directly to BCA or to CNCC Secretary; Matt to compile comments that he receives and forward onto BCA for consideration. <b>Matt Ewles confirmed this has not been done yet but would be soon. Retain on action log until complete.</b></p>
Matt E	<p>Contact David B. to see if he is interested in being the CNCC representative for the BCA Youth and Development standing committee. <b>Action complete and David agreed to represent CNCC on the Y&amp;D Standing Committee and report back as appropriate.</b></p>

Andrew H./ Matt E./ Tim A.	Arrange a meeting to discuss what changes we feel are necessary in the BCA and bring these to January Committee meeting. <b>Dedicated agenda item to discuss this. Remove from action log.</b>
Matt E.	<p>Contact the installer of the KMC steps to inform them that the CNCC wishes for these to be removed and separately discuss with Simon Wilson for advice. <b>Installer contacted however is not able to remove the steps. Andrew Hinde confirmed that he has spoken to Simon and the decision is that Andrew is going to saw the steps off.</b></p> <p><b>Further discussion:</b>  Matt Ewles reminded everyone that the decision to remove them was purely on conservation grounds (to prevent rusting staining the cave walls). Simon Wilson asked whether we knew what the resin used was; Andrew believed it to be standard builder yard sourced ground-anchor resin. Simon believed it would take in excess of 11 tonnes to pull these out; which meant it would be almost impossible. Andrew confirmed that he will saw them off and get some resin colour matched to the cave walls to cover over the remaining anchorage points. Andrew thanked those who had contacted him with advice.</p>

The Kendal Caving Club representative and Rowan Worsman arrived during the above discussions. There are now 11 voting clubs.

#### **(4) Reports**

##### **Chairman's report:**

No comments or questions.

##### **Secretary's report:**

No comments or questions.

##### **Treasurer's report:**

Andrew Hinde raised the matter of a petrol winch to be purchased through Stories in Stone:

- Andrew said that this needed to be paid for in advance, with later reimbursement from Stories in Stone. He has purchased this through Natural England so the CNCC needs to now reimburse Natural England, before we get reimbursed from Stories in Stone. As this exceeds the £500 discretionary cap, Committee approval is needed.
- Andrew emphasised that he is keen that we come out of the Stories in Stone project with some physical assets which can be used for future work.
- The winch in question is a petrol driven capstan winch. It requires dedicated training to use; it will be stored at Colt Park Barn, and the aim is to use it primarily for conservation works (e.g. hauling stuff out of shakeholes).

Proposal to purchase this with CNCC funds pending full reimbursement from Stories in Stone:

Proposed: Alan Speight  
Seconded: Stuart Whitmey  
Votes: 11 votes for (unanimous)

- In response to a question from Pete Bann, Andrew conformed that we would get the money back this year.
- Andrew said that that a training session was being organised for Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February for six people (including Andrew). He will take the first five people who come forward, one per club. This will be done via a certified trainer as per Stories in Stone requirements, at a cost of ~£100/person. This will also be paid for by Stories in Stone but again, will need the CNCC to pay for initially, pending refund from Stories in Stone. This also exceeds the £500 Treasurer's discretionary spending limit so another vote was taken:

Purchase winch training (~£600) pending full reimbursement from Stories in Stone:

Proposed: Stuart Whitmey  
Seconded: Alan Speight  
Votes: 11 votes for (unanimous)

**Action: Andrew Hinde to action the purchase; Matt E to advertise the training.**

- Sam Allshorn asked how heavy the winch was and how is it anchored? Andrew confirmed that it is about 15 kg and is anchored via normal ground anchors.
- Stuart Whitmey asked whether people, once trained, will be able to train others. Andrew confirmed no; but others will be able to help the trained individual on-site. Gary Douthwaite asked whether this remained the case once the winch becomes a CNCC asset after Stories in Stone; is training still needed then? Andrew confirmed yes, however it wouldn't necessarily need to be through a certified trainer.
- Andrew said he was keen to use this himself for clearing out a shakehole full of scrap metal near P5 on Ingleborough (between Gaping Gill and Allotment). Matt Ewles was familiar with this and felt this shakehole was a disgrace and must contain several tonnes of scrap metal; Matt felt that just getting this cleared alone would be a massive achievement and would justify the costs of the equipment and training.
- Alan Speight emphasised that we should be taking advantage of all sources of funding possible; what happens after Stories in Stone?
- Andrew asked about whether we should consider buying drills for anchor installation, citing one individual who was keen to install anchors but did not have the right equipment to do so. Simon Wilson expressed concern that people wouldn't properly look after CNCC kit when installing anchors and he did not have the time to be dealing with this himself. He felt that the cost of a drill is quite low and should no longer be an impediment for installers.

- Matt Ewles said he understood the point Andrew raised. He suggested that if a potential installer came forward who was willing to commit to a particular program of work but could only do so if the equipment was provided, we should assess this on a case-by-case, cost vs reward basis. Matt cited Growling Hole; somewhere very much in need of resin anchors but so far with no volunteers. If someone came forward to commit to anchoring this but needed a drill, we should consider purchasing them a drill to do the work; on the proviso that it is given back at the end of the project or if they fail to undertake the work.
- Simon Wilson emphasised that he didn't want additional work associated to passing a drill out, getting it back, maintaining it between jobs etc.
- Sam Lieberman believed that there was already a precedent set for buying kit for specific projects, as historically the CNCC has given surveying equipment out to groups. Sam Allshorn asked where this information and kit was? Alan Speight confirmed that it was some time ago and the kit and its location had been lost to history.
- Alan Speight believed that the CNCC already owned some drills; however, again, their location was unknown (suspected with CNCC Technical Group).
- Pat Halliwell asked whether we need a way to pay for these kinds of things (with reference back to the winch) directly from the CNCC without going via Natural England. Andrew Hinde said that this complex situation was just down to his error and not the norm.
- Pete Bann raised the matter of the first aid training course from 2018. This is now all paid for, but can we claim this back from the BCA? Tim Allen said he had discussed this with the BCA Training Officer (Nige Atkins) and they are reluctant to fund first aid training as there were concerns that they would be using funding intended for recreational caver training towards peoples professional qualifications. Tim felt however that if we highlight this to have been predominantly attended by recreational cavers and/or conservation volunteers, we may have a better chance of it being BCA funded. Ric Halliwell suggested we simply put in a claim and see what happens. All agreed.

**Action: Pete to include 2018 first aid training in BCA claim, perhaps with follow up email to BCA Training Officer to clarify purpose of course being mainly aimed at volunteer/recreational cavers.**

- Pete went on to say that he still has three cheques from the Paperless Surveying course from 2018; we were meant to be contributing to the cost of this course but so far, no money has been requested. Pete wanted to know what to do with the cheques? General agreement was to destroy the cheques if we were not paying anything out.
- Matt Ewles reminded Pete that he has agreed for the CNCC to cover the venue cost of the same course this year (estimate ~£100), however, this will fall into next years' budget. Matt said this course has proved extremely popular and was already fully subscribed with people having to be turned away or lined up for a repeat course in the future.

### Conservation Officer's report:

- Andrew Hinde said that the use of a digger on preparing/repairing the track to Gaping Gill for the winch meets was a revelation; it was booked for seven hours but the work was done in only five. They squashed the ruts down, cut a few drainage channels, and at only £300 was a very reasonable cost spread between the two winch meets. Gary Douthwaite appealed for any photos of the work for publicity.
- Gary emphasised the importance of taking a few good photos of all projects; these are essential for publicity via the newsletter and social media.
- Ray Duffy said he would send through some photos of recent efforts to cover over Slab Pot just off the road to Casterton Fell (already actioned at time of writing minutes up).
- Regarding Crackpot Cave; Rowan Worsman presented her proposal as outlined in the agenda. She confirmed that a risk assessment has already been submitted to the CNCC Conservation Officer and emphasised her sadness to see several of the formations badly splattered with mud. She has contacted the landowner (Summer Lodge) and they are happy with work being undertaken to clean the stal, thus, Rowan would like to know whether the CNCC are happy for a group to undertake this work.
- Rowan agreed to look into some possible dates.
- Alan Speight asked whether any farms take water from the cave? Rowan will investigate; may need to warn them of dirty water during the works.
- Andrew Hinde said that the CNCC will need to cover travel expenses as this is outside of the Stories in Stone region. Matt Ewles asked whether anyone had any concerns about CNCC money being used for this project (estimated ~£250)? No objections.
- Tim Allen felt this project would paint a good picture of the CNCC.
- Sam Allshorn urged caution as not all mud splats on stal are due to human activity. He said that some mud may be vermiculations, which are natural, and care should be taken not to clean these off.
- Lyndon Easterbrook asked whether there were any plans for after the cleanup to stop the issue happening again. Andrew Hinde felt that once you've cleaned a cave up, it often stays that way. If people do not see any precedent for damage in a cave, they do not feel compelled to cause any themselves.

**Action: Rowan to investigate dates for possible works and liaise through CNCC Conservation Officer to gain conservation volunteer resource. Rowan to check on water supply concerns, and to make sure the mud being cleaned are not natural deposits.**

- Andrew Hinde has received an email about the Lost Pot fencing being in a bad state, and believes that the CNCC either funded this or installed this many years ago. Andrew felt we should go and inspect; Tim Allen volunteered and will report back.

**Action: Tim to inspect Lost Pot fencing and report to Andrew if any works needed.**

- Andrew has also had a call from the Trustees of Ingleborough Estate. Philip Farrer was walking over Christmas and found the 'Thyme' dig near Hurnell Moss, which is somewhat of a construction site and not a good example of a safe/tidy dig. Andrew will go and discuss this further with the Trustees and present a dossier of all work we have done to show that covers can actually be the solution to such issues, not just the cause.

**Action: Andrew to present dossier of conservation works performed to date to Ingleborough Estate trustees.**

- Pat Halliwell asked if the dig was still ongoing; Andrew confirmed that it is, and that something is going to have to be done about it. Pat asked whether permission was in place; Andrew explained that this was covered by general consent.
- Andrew believed that to close this dig and make it safe would be serious work, needing steel lintels. He wanted to get it done this year while Stories in Stone funding was still available.
- Tim Allen asked what the digger had to say about this; Andrew confirmed that he is aware that it doesn't meet the criteria required of a good-practice dig.
- Andrew estimated that there was insufficient spoil to backfill all the shafts and said that much of the spoil is scattered some distance from the dig. Sam Allshorn questioned whether we needed to fill them in; there are lots of open shafts on Ingleborough and this one was natural but has been enlarged by excavation; when does a shaft become man-made? Tim Allen said that the Estate have raised the legal position of this dig. It is essentially considered a man-made structure and the Estate are therefore concerned that their liability, as it would not be covered by the Countryside Rights of Way Act.

**Action: Andrew Hinde to investigate ways forward for this.**

- Tim Allen raised the matter of Snatcher Pot in Penyghent Gill. The lid on the entrance has gone missing and the entrance slope has been reported to be unstable. Tim emphasised that the new Memorandum of Understanding with Langcliffe Estate says the CNCC will try, where possible, to maintain the entrances, and he felt that as this is a new arrangement, we should act swiftly to address this. Tim agreed to go and investigate.

**Action: Tim Allen to investigate Snatcher Pot and see what work might be possible.**

- Tim also raised Rift Pot on Masongill, where the planks over the entrance have been removed as they were rotten, and the dig at the bottom is collapsing. He asked whether we should be replacing the timbers or leaving it as an open hole? Andrew Hinde believed it would be easy enough to fence it and agreed to action this.

**Action: Andrew Hinde to investigate fencing at Rift Pot (Masongill).**

### **Training officer's report:**

- No report as no Training Officer. Matt Ewles confirmed that nobody had come forward for the position, so it is up for election on the day at the AGM if anyone was interested.
- Andrew Hinde said that once we get the winch, we will own a few pieces of equipment (including a 12-inch petrol angle grinder). He suggested we need to put together some rules and guidelines for how to use it (e.g. for use only by BCA members for insurance purposes, only for use on caving projects etc).
- Sam Lieberman asked whether risk assessments are in place for the equipment? Andrew felt that the CNCC could produce generic risk assessments for each piece of kit, but it was up to the end user to make a more site-specific risk assessment.

### **Action: Andrew Hinde to action/consult on guidelines and generic risk assessments for kit.**

- Gary Douthwaite felt that once this was all in place we should actively publicise that this kit is available for use.

### **Access Officer's report:**

- Tim Allen confirmed that he has had replies from Henry Bowring and the Shuttleworth Estate (for Casterton and Leck Fells respectively) and will be meeting them next week. A site meeting is also planned next week in Barbondale to discuss access matters there.
- Alan Speight has been up to High Birkwith; He said that despite the gate being shut, people were still driving up there to visit the caves. He has been up there to present chocolates and got a friendly reception.
- Alan also confirmed that Richard Caton has bought Neals Ing Farm from the Estate. Magnetometer Pot etc, access no problem to continue as before. A copy of Caves and Karst has been passed onto him. Alan said that some farmers are even offering to buy this book despite it being presented as a gift; they seem very happy indeed. Lots of other land belonging to the Langcliffe Estate is being sold off too.
- Tim said that lots of copies of the book had been distributed:

Braida Garth Farm, Kingsdale  
Lord Shuttleworth, Leck  
Henry Bowring, Casterton  
Ingleborough Estate  
Langcliffe Estate  
National Park, Bainbridge office  
National Park, Grassington office  
Robert Lambert, Mile House (Black Keld)  
Appleton family, West Gate, Kettlewell (Oddmire Pot)  
John Hanley, Thornton Hall, Kingsdale

Alan Middleton, Leck Fell House  
Jonathon Coates, Leck  
High Birkwith Farm

- Andrew Hinde raised Tim Allen's suggestion to procure more Cave and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales books for presentation to landowners. This was proposed by Alan Speight, seconded by Stuart Whitmey and unanimously accepted. This purchase will come from the same money as used for the previous purchase (donated to the CNCC by anonymous donor). Tim Allen felt that initiatives such as this generate such good will that they will help avoid issues from occurring in the future.
- Stuart Whitmey asked whether we should put an inscription into the front of the books detailing what the CNCC is and who to contact? There was general agreement to this idea. Matt Ewles suggested a sticker could be printed with this information which could be stuck into the books. Pat Halliwell suggested a real address (postal) and phone number, however, Matt explained the issues with this (i.e. that such details change as Officers change). Gary Douthwaite suggested setting up a simple webpage aimed specifically at landowners and we could simply include reference to this. There was general agreement.

**Action: Matt Ewles, Gary Douthwaite, Tim Allen to collaborate on actioning stickers for the books and a landowner webpage.**

**Webmaster report:**

Nothing to add.

**Anchor Coordinator report:**

- Andrew Hinde noted Simon Wilson's request for approval of the new resin he has been investigating. Ray Duffy felt that the additional working time that this offered made a lot of sense. Sam Allshorn emphasised that he does want us to approve this resin; but not to disprove of the former resin yet as projects were ongoing with this.
- Simon Wilson said that he was initially concerned about the runniness of the resin, but it looks OK and doesn't run out of holes. However, he is keen that the installers try it out and provide feedback.
- Simon also commented that epoxy resin softens with heat; he has tried heating this resin up and it doesn't soften, but this may still be a viable way for anchor removal in the future.
- Matt Ewles asked whether the BCA Equipment and Techniques group also needed to approve the resin. It was confirmed that this was not necessary; the CNCC can approve this for use in our region.

Proposal to accept the new resin for use as part of the CNCC anchor scheme:

Proposed: Sam Lieberman  
Seconded: Stuart Whitmey  
Votes: 11 for (unanimous)

### **Meets Secretaries reports:**

- Ric Halliwell appealed for more permit requests for the caves he covers (Birks Fell, Robinson's Pot, Fairy Holes, Stump Cross). Matt Ewles asked about whether the May Fairy Holes date was still available, as KCC had been in touch to say they believed they had it, but Ric had suggested it was still free. Ric confirmed he has had no application from KCC. Andrew Hinde confirmed that he had requested two additional Fairy Holes permits for the BCA Field Meeting at Nenthead on maze caves. Fairy Holes is going to be on the agenda for this meeting; they wish to know whether the cave was formed in the same way as maze caves but have since captured a stream.
- Regarding Birks Fell, Alan Speight noted that no Caves and Karst books had been presented to the National Trust. Tim Allen felt that unfortunately a book would be lost within such a large organisation. Ric Halliwell said he could not understand why there is any need to restrict the access to Birks Fell Cave.

### **BCA representative report**

- Tim Allen felt we should send a letter of dissatisfaction on how our finance proposals have been dealt with by the BCA. He also believes that something has to change in the BCA to keep younger participants engaged, or they will drift away.
- Tim said that as part of Jane Allen's role (she resigned as P&I Officer at the recent BCA meeting) she was producing a leaflet from the BCA to support people looking to get into caving (e.g. to accompany 'New to Caving' website). Tim and Jane wish to push ahead with this as an independent measure, and could possibly have it as a CNCC, rather than a BCA supported initiative. Matt Ewles urged Tim and Jane to hold off on this pending some private discussions after the meeting about alternative ways forward.
- Jane Allen commented on how she was enthused by the proactivity of the CNCC meeting so far and is keen to support us in various ways.
- Pat Halliwell offered an apology to Jane on behalf of all cavers for what happened at the BCA meeting; Pat felt it was unacceptable that Jane was made to feel bad despite her hard work. Jane said that one person at the BCA meeting has since apologised.
- Sam Allshorn felt that as Jane was offering help, we should take advantage of her energy. Alan Speight agreed, suggesting we push ahead with the leaflets under the CNCC name. Jane felt that it should ideally be a National Council initiative but suggested that perhaps they could produce ones for each region, with a different Regional Council logo on.
- Jane Allen and Gary Douthwaite had an informal discussion about the BCA website; Gary said he now had issues in working with the BCA in a professional capacity; he will no longer do this but is looking at alternative possibilities.
- Sam Lieberman asked what the CNCC could do to help with the situation? Sam Allshorn asked whether the CNCC should even consider 'going it alone'. Matt Ewles said that would

be a bit extreme at the moment, and for now, nothing specifically to do, but he felt that there may be some need for action in the near future.

- Matt Ewles advised that he felt change was afoot and to watch for more news.

#### **(5) CNCC Mission Statement**

The intention of this agenda item was to discuss a possible mission statement for the CNCC.

Matt Ewles said that he had asked in the agenda for clubs to give their thoughts a week ahead of the meeting, but unfortunately none had. The general consensus of everyone at the meeting was that a statement similar to the format of the BMC statement would be best (i.e. with bullet points), and it was agreed that Tim Allen and Matt Ewles would work together outside the meeting to come up with something to put to the AGM.

**Action: Matt and Tim come up with suggested CNCC mission statement for AGM agenda.**

#### **(6) CNCC suggestions/motions on BCA reform**

Tim Allen provided some background; the BCA Vision group has come about following a proposal from him. He and Jane Allen have stood down from the group, but Matt Ewles and Ric Halliwell remain involved to represent the CNCC and northern perspective.

- Andrew Hinde asked if anyone else had brought any additional ideas/comments? Matt Ewles felt that one additional concern was the inappropriate use of separate Committees or Working Groups to delay progress.
- Sam Lieberman asked whether we felt we could achieve reform through this BCA group? Andrew Hinde felt that it was going to help, however the BCA also needed to have the will to change. The BCA Chair has said he wishes the Council to exist only to rubber stamp Working Group and Standing Committee recommendations, so in theory the Vision group has a good chance of being able to make a difference. Sam asked whether these matters needed to be addressed via constitutional changes? Andrew felt yes; in part; but more importantly it needed an attitude change.
- Andrew suggested that if all are happy, he, Matt, Tim and Gary Douthwaite should continue their efforts as set out in the meeting agenda. No objections were raised.
- Matt emphasised the importance of having club backing for these ideas. He said he was very concerned that we risk pushing ahead with this as a personal agenda of several of the CNCC officers, but under the CNCC name. He urged clubs to discuss these matters very carefully so that we can discuss further at the AGM and be absolutely sure that we are moving forward with the backing of the majority. Matt said that if any clubs feel concerned about the CNCC pushing this agenda for change it was very important to express these concerns.

- Alan Speight asked why one of the suggestions was to abolish group voting, when we are a Council of clubs. Andrew Hinde clarified that all members of each club would still be able to vote but the club itself wouldn't. The emphasis would be on clubs to lobby their members. Furthermore, this measure would greatly simplify the voting system.
- Andrew Hinde said he didn't want to make a regular point of bringing BCA matters to the CNCC meetings, but this was an exceptional situation.
- Andy Gordon suggested a survey of opinions from clubs to help back up a CNCC position. Matt Ewles agreed that this was a good idea. Tim Allen mentioned that a separate survey from Hellie Adams on behalf of the BCA Vision Group will be coming out in the next few months which may prove suitable.

**Action: Matt Ewles to encourage member clubs to participate in the survey and to feed back their ideas on how the CNCC could be pushing for reform.**

- Tim Allen asked whether the CNCC wanted to put anything in the upcoming BCA newsletter; contented was needed in the next few days. Matt Ewles agreed to put something together.

**Action: Matt Ewles to write a bespoke article for the upcoming BCA newsletter.**

### **(7) High Birkwith area access**

This had already been covered earlier. Alan Speight appealed for anyone going up to High Birkwith to feed their experience back to himself and Tim Allen.

### **(8) Date and time of next meeting**

Annual General Meeting Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Hellifield Village Institute, 10am.

### **(9) Any Other Business**

- Tim and Jane Allen have been approached by CaveFest. This is an initiative developed on Mendip and is a non-political caving event. They've now progressed to South Wales and held a very successful event last August bank holiday. They are keen to come to the north, but the organisers have very little knowledge of Dales caving. Tim has offered to help on a personal level but felt the support and goodwill of the CNCC is very desirable. Tim asked whether the CNCC would be willing to support this, and maybe even get involved?
- Andrew Hinde asked if we should just leave this to be a club matter?
- Sam Lieberman asked if it was a commercial event; Jane Allen confirmed no; essentially it is just people wanting to have fun. She believed it would appeal more to younger cavers than events such as Hidden Earth, and is almost like a mini-EuroSpeleo.
- Tim suggested he should invite the organisers to come up to the Dales on one of our meeting weekends. This was met with general agreement. Stuart Whitmey felt it would be

good to get some young enthusiasm for caving into the region. Alan Speight concurred and felt we should support this event.

- Matt Ewles asked whether in principle we are keen to support CaveFest, with the exact way and means being decided closer to the time. General agreement, no objections.

**Action: Matt Ewles and Tim Allen to communicate to CaveFest our wish to support them in some way and to suggest they come up for a weekend to a CNCC meeting.**

- Tim Allen said he wished to get under-18s into caving, having been inspired by a few youngsters that he'd been interacting with. They are very high ability due to having caving parents. Tim felt however that it could be difficult for younger cavers to get involved without parental background. He is looking into ways to create some kind of 'youth caving group'. This is just a concept at the moment, but he is looking for partners. Tim said he was willing to do this personally or on behalf of the CNCC. Pat Halliwell said that Upper Wharfedale have established a youth group. This was because many kids do come along with their parents, but they want to keep them enthused and interested beyond what their parents are able to support or their parent abilities.
- Sam Allshorn reminded everyone about the Northern Explorers' Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> April in Clapham Village Hall; he is particularly keen to get young explorers involved.
- Sam also raised the matter of a tacklesack which got trashed in his recent work to install IC anchors in Quaking Pot. Matt Ewles said he had already discussed this with Sam by email in advance of the meeting. Matt explained that in general the CNCC doesn't fund personal kit for those doing anchor installation, as this would open a can of worms for claims. However, Matt felt that given the huge amount of work Sam had put into anchor installation in our region, the CNCC should consider presenting a new tacklesack as a gift to say thank you. Proposed by Alan Speight, seconded by Ian Cross, 11 votes in favour (unanimous).

**Action: Matt Ewles/Pete Bann arrange tacklesack gift.**

- Sam also raised the CNCC policy of not listing anchors not installed under the BCA scheme and not publishing topos for them. Sam said he has been in touch with the BCA insurance manager and believes there should be no reason why we cannot at least mention non-BCA scheme installed anchors with an appropriate disclaimer or warning. Simon Wilson said that there are many excellent anchors in the Dales but was concerned that we might set a precedent if we start approving any old anchor. Andrew Hinde clarified that we are not necessarily talking about approving the anchors here; just acknowledging that they exist. Matt Ewles suggested that as this could contravene current policy, this is something that would need further discussion and suggested Sam gets further clarification on this from the BCA Insurance Manager for discussion at a future meeting.

**Action: Sam Allshorn to discuss further with BCA Insurance manager and bring results to a future CNCC meeting for discussion.**

Meeting closed at 12.26pm

**Summary of specific action items:**

<b>Individual(s)</b>	<b>Action item</b>
Matt E.	Issue October meeting minutes as final.
Kay E./Gary D.	Continue to liaise over GDPR requirements with respect to CNCC conservation volunteers.
Matt E./Gary D.	Continue work on a CNCC display to have ready ideally in time for Hidden Earth 2019.
Tim A.	Continue Barbondale discussions; keep Lee Paskin involved.
Matt E.	Compile comments that he received on BCA draft safeguarding policy and forward onto BCA for consideration.
Andrew H.	Action the removal of the KMC metal steps.
Andrew H./Matt E.	Complete winch purchase/arrange training (Andrew). Matt to advertise.
Pete B.	Attempt to claim for 2018 first aid training from BCA.
Rowan W.	Investigate dates for Crackpot Cave works and liaise through CNCC Conservation Officer to gain conservation volunteer resource. Rowan to check on water supply and mud formation concerns before proceeding.
Tim A.	Inspect Lost Pot fencing and report to Andrew H. if any works needed.
Andrew H.	Present dossier of conservation works to Ingleborough Estate trustees.
Andrew H.	Investigate ways forward for the 'Thyme' dig issue.
Tim A.	Investigate what might be able to be done at Snatcher Pot regarding missing lid and loose rock inside entrance.
Andrew H.	Look into fencing options for Rift Pot at Masongill.
Andrew H.	Action/consult on guidelines and generic risk assessments for CNCC owned equipment.
Matt E./Gary D./Tim A	Collaborate on actioning stickers for the new batch of Caves and Karst books and a landowner webpage.
Matt E./Tim A.	Come up with suggested CNCC mission statement for AGM agenda.
Matt E	Encourage member clubs to participate in the BCA survey and also to feed back their ideas on how the CNCC could be pushing for reform.
Matt E.	Write a bespoke article on CNCC news for the upcoming BCA newsletter.
Matt E./Tim A.	Communicate to CaveFest our wish to support them in some way and to suggest they come up for a weekend to a CNCC meeting.
Matt E./Pete B.	Arrange tacklesack for Sam Allshorn.
Sam A.	Discuss non-BCA approved anchors further with BCA Insurance manager and bring results to a future CNCC meeting for discussion.