



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association
www.csc.org.uk

General Meeting 03/11/12 Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Graham Price (Chair/Cerberus Rep) GP Hayley Clark (Secretary/MCG Rep) HC David G Cooke (Webmaster/ WCC Rep) DGC Alan Gray (ACG Rep) AG	Dave Cundy (Treasurer) DC Faye Litherland (Equipment Officer/BEC Rep) FL

Meeting started at 10.10 am.

1) **Minutes of the previous meeting (28/07/12)**

Proposed DGC seconded AG accepted nem com

2) **Actions from previous meetings: -**

- Update to CSCC handbook LW and DGC **Ongoing**
- FL to write promotional text for CSCC **Ongoing**
- Situation in Rhino Rift **Ongoing**

05/11/11

7.4 Update on situation regarding caves on Portland/with Ove Arup. LW to contact Weymouth and Portland Borough Council to let them know that CSCC need to be consulted on any applications for quarrying or that may affect caves. **Ongoing**

04/02/12

7.3 Update on repair/replacement of gates (Priddy Green Sink, Compton Martin Ochre Mine, Viaduct Sink, White Pit and Thrupe Lane). **Ongoing**

12/05/12

6.3 DC to look into funding for the MCRA website **Ongoing**

6.4 DC to look into what expenses can be claimed for from BCA **Ongoing**

6.7 DC to look into claiming for mileage for the Officers to go to CSCC meetings **Ongoing** and to create spreadsheet to record mileage. **Done**

7.1 LW to put note on website saying Loxton Cavern is closed until work can be done to secure entrance, **Done**

15.3 DC to go back through finances to work out how much the funds have been going down over the years and what percentage is not claimed back from BCA. **Ongoing**

28/07/12

1.1 Update on Heale Farm Cave GP **Take under item 6**

1.2 Loxton Cavern update GP **Take under item 6**

6.1 DC to chase claims from BCA **Ongoing**

7.6 Update on Nine Barrows and Sludge pit **Take under item 9**

10.1 GP to find out more about the definitive map of rights of way **Ongoing**



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3) Other Matters arising from the previous meeting

None

4) Chairman's Report

4.1 GP has been in contact with the owners but has not yet been able to speak to the right person with regards to access to Heale Farm Cave

4.2 Loxton Cavern – GP has had no luck getting the pipes donated so has obtained quotes for supply. There are only two manufacturers of 750mm pipe and the quotes varied between £1449 and £1650 depending on the strength and make. These figures included approx. £300 delivery charge. With other materials the total cost of the job will be £2000 plus. DC is awaiting confirmation from BCA whether or not this amount could be funded, DC had contacted Paul Ibbetson but no reply yet.

The situation at Loxton Cavern is difficult due to the unstable nature and awkwardness of the shaft.

The historical significance of the site needs to be highlighted to BCA, need to contact Elsie Little as Conservation Officer for advice/support

AG suggested we should look at opening the original Catcott entrance and would contact the 2 Nicks to ask for advice and any information about the site to see if it could be a viable alternative to stabilising the other shaft. He would liaise with GP on this.

4.3 Dry stone walling event was a great success but some people could not attend due to other commitments. The Mendip Society is running another 13th and 14th April and anyone who missed out will be able to attend this. Mendip Society is also running a 'Try your hand at hedge laying' weekend on 19th and 20th January if anyone is interested.

5) Secretary's Report.

5.1 HC expressed her disappointment at such a low turnout for the meeting and that some Officers had not made their apologies and had not submitted reports. The meeting agreed that people need to make an effort to go to the meetings as there are only 4 a year and the dates are advertised well in advance and at the very least reports should be submitted. For those that do make the time it is wasted when most actions have to be postponed because either not enough people or the right people are there to discuss matters.

6) Treasurer's Report.

6.1 Peter Burgess contacted regarding outstanding information for works at Bedlam Bank but no response yet

6.2 Expenses claim form updated.

6.3 DC to look back through records to see when CSCC Officers last claimed for mileage. DGC reminded the meeting that when Jon Roberts was Treasurer he filled out the forms for the officers to sign.



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7) Conservation & Access Officer's Report

No report received, meeting requested that HC contact LW to ask for a report to be circulated with the minutes. **POST MEETING NOTE LW SENT THROUGH REPORT SEE ATTACHED**

8) Training Officer's Report

8.1 Still no Officer in post, GP requested that if any individual or group are organising a training event whether they would be happy to open it up as a CSCC event it would be appreciated

09) Equipment Officer's Report.

9.1 There is now a new anchor placement policy which is basically the old National one with umbrella documents under this to allow variations to be implemented for the different regions to encompass the wide variety of rock types and local requirements; this was agreed at the E&T meeting on 27 October 2012 by a unanimous vote in favour. As a result the CSCC anchor placement scheme is now the official policy for our region; this is available to view on the CSCC website

9.2 The anchor placing training that was scheduled for end of September didn't happen but due of the new policy CSCC now has their own regional trainer who is Tom Chapman. Due to the long list of anchors that need placing at various sites in our region, training will take place at these so anchors can be installed and progress made

9.3 A large number of anchors were ordered however there is concern that they may not be the right metal so testing needs to be carried out before they can be used to ensure they are 316 stainless steel. CSCC wants to express their disappointment in this outcome; it is unknown how the issue has come about. The meeting also commented that a time frame is needed to be disclosed as to when the testing will be finished and these anchors if ok will be available to use or when a new batch will be delivered that are safe and usable

10) BCA Rep's Report

10.1 BCA insurance premium is to remain the same for 2013

10.2 BCA have introduced a new student membership rate

10.3 In BCA draft minutes section on expenses highlights CSCC with regards to late submissions, need to get this up-to-date

10.4 Radon book has been published and is available as download only from BCA website

11) Webmaster's Report

11.1 the CSCC Anchor Placement Scheme page has been resurrected. See start of <http://csc.org.uk/wiki/doku.php?id=equipment:start>

11.2 On the Officers page Training now shows as vacant and the emails forwarded to HC

11.3 Note the expenses form is also available as a spreadsheet at the foot of the Documents page.

12) Regional Registry Officer's report

Nothing to report



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13) Forthcoming Events.

19/20 January 2013 Hedge laying
13/14 April 2013 Dry Stone walling

14) AOB

14.1 New Mendip Underground hopes to be published in April 2013, it will be hardback approx 450 pages, colour photos and new surveys

14.2 DGC and LW to get CSCC access database updated ASAP and detail on website by mid December 2012 to help authors of new Mendip Underground so they have the latest information for the new edition

14.3 DGC to update the CSCC anchor database software so that the C&A Officer can also update the cave access details to the website

Meeting Closed: 12:00

C&A REPORT SUBMITTED TO HC AFTER THE MEETING

I am liaising with the MCRA over the new Mendip Underground to ensure we are all "singing from the same hymn sheet".

There is no change on the advice for Rhino Rift

Loxton Cavern - Website has been updated.

Priddy Green Sink gate has been replaced. We still need to inspect the rock below the entrance to check if any work is needed there.

Thrupe Lane Swallet gate has been replaced.

Viaduct Sink Gate is on Mendip awaiting a date to install it. Other works need carrying out such as shuttering and concreting here at the same time so a working party needs to be organised and materials acquired. I will need a budget for materials, say £100 for shuttering, aggregate, cement and reinforcing. Access to the site is across fields and soft ground, will require a 4x4, a cement mixer, a generator. Probably best to wait until the ground dries out a bit.

Next gate scheduled to be done is White Pit.

Other gates still awaiting works are Compton Martin Ochre Mine and Longwood Swallet (not CSCC)

Conservation tape stocks have been seriously depleted by the new chamber in Reservoir Hole, The Frozen Deep. I need to order more, I presume I can go ahead and order it.

BCA has authorised a batch of 316 grade stainless steel pigtail conservation tape risers. These will be distributed to the regions for their use. I have already been asked for about 100 for Reservoir Hole.

I have a local supplier that I have been working with to develop a jig for making these. I



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have some samples that we can look at. Do we want a stock of our own as well?

Sludge Pit and Nine Barrows.

Discussions with the owner via his agents in the UK have resulted in the following access arrangements: Sludge Pit is to be opened and gated. Access will be via a key from Wessex, BEC and DSS (The new owner used to be a BEC and DSS member). We have a defacto committee composed of a Wessex rep, BEC rep DSS rep and CSCC rep. I am representing WCC and CSCC in the negotiations. It has been agreed by us all that the best access system will be to put a CSCC key on the cave but it is felt that no further progress will be made in this direction until the owner comes to the UK next year and sees exactly what he has brought. Until then, one gated, Sludge Pit will be open to cavers. There is a pitch of about 8m inside the entrance of Sludge Pit that needs bolting for ladder and line as part of the access agreement. I will submit a form to Faye for this, but this needs to be progressed before any access will be allowed. I believe Council need to approve this.

The Land owner is keeping Nine Barrows closed at present until he is happy that the Sludge Pit access is working ok. Nine Barrows is to be gated and hopefully access will be the same as Sludge. Negotiations are ongoing on this at the moment. As part of the access arrangements I have visited Crystal Chamber in Nine Barrows and taped the pretties with conservation tape and pigtail risers.

Access to these caves will be over the wall into the field, and as such CSCC has been asked if they will provide a stile for this purpose. Also Sludge Pit gate works need some concrete and also a gate constructed. CSCC has been asked to fund this. Do we approve this expenditure?

It was reported to me that the causeway to the entrance of Swildons has eroded to the point that the stone work around the grill is breaking up. I have met with Robin Maine and suggested we might carry out repairs. The works will require some sand, aggregate and cement. Do we approve expenditure for these works? I will organise a date when we can go and do this.

I have been asked to speak with the owner of Manor Farm Swallet concerning the safety of the entrance. Apparently his kids are now big enough that he is worried about them climbing over the wall and falling down the shaft. So far we have failed to communicate (despite several visits by me and leaving my details so he can ring me, but it is likely that we will need to do something with the entrance, perhaps a grill or cap on the top and a CSCC key on the gate. I will report this once I know what he requires from us.

Loxton Cavern - I believe Graham is still in negotiations with a plastic tube supplier in an attempt to obtain a 750mm twin walled 6m long structural tube. If he is unsuccessful then we will need to buy one. We will also need cement and aggregate to fill around the tube, and a gate will need constructing. I we have already agreed to do these works, although we haven't costed them firmly yet.

All the projects above should be funded by BCA from central funds, however, we need to apply in advance to ensure they approve them.

At the recent BCA meeting I spoke with the BCA Treasurer and appraised him of the works that he was withholding funding for, namely, Bedlams Bank and the walling at Swildons. He was satisfied that they qualified and he said would pay the claim. We should see the payment soon (if not already).



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So, to summarise:

Council decisions needed for the following:

Works and expenditure at Sludge Pit

Works and expenditure at Swildon's Entrance

Acquisition of further stocks of conservation tape

Apart from our share of the BCA C&A funded conservation pins, do we want to buy our own stock as well?

I will advise BCA of our project list and check it will get funded.