



# Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

[www.csccl.org.uk](http://www.csccl.org.uk)

## Minutes of General Meeting – 19:00 Monday 11 Nov 2024

### Zoom Meeting **Approved**

Please note, the meeting has been recorded for note taking purposes.

## 1 Attendance

### Voting Attendees 9 Voting reps

Adam Fletcher	AF	GSS	
Alan Dempster	AD	Avon Scouts	
Alan Grey	AG	ACG	
Barry Wilkinson	BW	WRCG	
Dave King	DLK	MNRC	
David Cooke	DC	ChCC	Chair
Frank Tully	FT	WCC	Secretary
James Hallihan	JH	UBSS	
Judi Durber	JD	EECC	
Oli Dawson	OD	BEC	
Peter Burgess	PB	Wealden CMS	Communications
Tom Harrison	TH	MCG	Treasurer
Tony Radmall (Badger)	TR	NASAU	

### Non Voting Attendees (Observers)

Andrea			
Andrew Atkinson	AA		Equipment
Bill Chadwick	BC	MCG	
Dave Keegan	DK		Training Officer
Graham Mullan	GM		CCC Ltd
Linda Wilson	LW	UBSS	BCA Rep
Wayne Starsmore	WS	WCC	C&A

### Apologies for Absence

None

## 2 Approval of minutes from AGM 19 Aug 2024

Corrections suggested by DC incorporated

Proposal that the minutes are a true record. Proposed DC  
Vote passed Nem Con

### 2.1 Actions from the previous minutes

None

## 3 New Members

Tom Harrison

None



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#### 4 Chair report Dave Cooke

DC Report is published on the website

DC **Assistant officers** shadowing the main officers to facilitate continuity in the roles.

DLK The difficult will be getting younger members involved, perhaps the current officers could persuade some younger members to attend so they can see what is involved?

DC in the past **CSCC had annual events**, Cave Fest took over this role but this has waned over the last few years. DK has suggested a race the sun caving event.

DC to decide a date and get the village hall booked, I will bring dates to the next meeting.

DK I believe we should include caves and mines all the areas CSCC represents.

DLK It would be useful including other areas in the plan because we often forget that CSCC represents the whole of the south of England.

#### 5 Secretary's report Frank Tully

Nothing significant to report.

#### 6 Treasurer's report Tom Harrison

See 'officer reports' published on website.

DC BCA treasurer is changing the way regional councils are funded. See Chair's report published on website.

LW We need a constructive discussion with the new BCA treasurer and council, there is a risk of the BCA going bankrupt if we don't change the way we spend money or increase our membership fees.

DC The report is primarily to bring everyone up to speed with what is happening. We are still discussing everything with BCA treasurer and BCA council.

DC In terms of taking this forward this will likely be the remit of TH and the finance committee.

TH Is it reasonable that the maximum that can be claimed without going to the committee has increased from £750 to £3000? In my opinion any project that costs over £1000 should require approval of the committees.

DC I think we should be in favour of lowering this to £1000, Vote for TH and LW take this to the meetings, passed Nem Con.

#### 6.1 Approval of the 2023 accounts

DC This was missed at the last meeting, I believe everyone was happy with them but the formal vote was missed.

Proposal that this meeting accepts the 2023 accounts presented at the AGM 10 May 2023.

Vote Passed Unanimous



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#### 7 C&A Report

Wayne Starsmore

See 'officer reports' published on website

**Longleat Estates** We are making steady progress with Longleat but there is lot of paperwork to complete.

**Bethel Quarry** I have spoken to the Landowner, he does now want to engage with us, as is his right.

**Hunters Lodge in Sink** The gate has been fettled making it much easier to close.

**Singing River Mine** The access agreement is going week with no complaints.

**Wookey Hole** This is running well with lots of trips taking place.

**Pressure Washers** We have spent a lot of time getting these ready, could people get using them.

#### 7.1 Harridge woods

WS There are two proper caves in the area, both Cerberus digs and a number of potential dig sites. We now have an access agreement with them which is along the same lines as we have with charterhouse. They want a permit system similar to the charterhouse system, this is in progress .

DC It is proposed that CSCC adopt the Harridge Woods Nature Reserve License Agreement with Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Vote passed Unanimous

The wording of the permit was not ready for this meeting and it will be proposed to the next meeting.

#### 7.2 Loxton Caves

DC The Cerberus' reply to our letter was circulated last Friday. I feel that this is a reasonable way forward. In 18 months time Loxton parish council will have a review with the Cerberus and if everything is going well the Cerberus will propose handing the management of the caves over to CSCC. The caves will remain with CSCC locks fitted except for Loxton Cavern which will have a lock accessible cave leader system.

DC Currently the cave is controlled by the Cerberus and will be choosing the leaders.

### 8 Equipment Officer

See 'officer reports' published on website

#### 8.1 Proposal for bolting Mangle Hole

WS I was down there last weekend, using the left hand route, the anchors are stainless steel and fairly ideally placed. One was stained with rust but this was part of a Y hang, so backed up. Otherwise they looked good. I had a look at the bolts on the right hand route and these looked to be in good condition. I cannot see any reason to change them. In my opinion replacing them with P bolts is not urgent.



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AA I attended a rescue practise in Mangle hole last year and did not notice any issues with the anchors. They are stainless through bolts and it is generally impossible to get these out and re-use the holes, so new anchors will generally have to be in second choice locations. From a cave conservation perspective if the existing bolts look fine it is not worth adding new ones.

AA I will go back to the person who requesting re-bolding of Mangle hole and discuss further the reasoning for the request.

### 8.2 Exploratory Anchor Guidelines

AA I have produced the Exploratory Anchor Guidelines document and circulated it to CSCC members. Comments forwarded to myself have been incorporated into the latest version.

Proposal to adopt the Exploratory Anchor Guidelines document.

Passed Against, 0 Abstention 1, Vote Passed Nem Con.

## 9 Communications Officer

See 'officer reports' published on website

PB Before August this year I have been trying to get the newsletter out before the meetings. Following a conversation with the officers it was decided that it may be better to get the newsletter out as soon as possible after the meetings. That way it will contain reasonable up to to date and relevant information.

GM I think it is important that we still send out the reports a reasonable period before the meeting.

DC The zoom details need to go out with the agenda.

## 10 Training Officer

DK A short report because I have not provided any training. If people want training or support to provide their own training, please contact me and I will make things happen.

WS CSCC have just adopted the anchor placing guidelines, would it be any benefit running an anchor placing training course?

AA If people want this contact myself or DK and we can deliver this sort of course.

### 10.1 Summer caving event

DK I am planning a 2025 CSCC summer caving event. Could people at this meeting take this back to their clubs and think about what dates are best.

## 11 BCA Rep

**Linda Wilson**

LW The changes to financing was discussed earlier in the meeting, BCA now has a new youth and development officer, Isaac Neale has taken over the role. Rostam appears to be settling in and I think we should invite him to one of our future meetings just to make him welcome.



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#### 12 Webmasters Report

DC I have been trying to move the website away from the BCA server, however I have encountered issues with the mailing list software, the added issues is taking time. In addition I am setting up the new website for Harridge Wood.

#### 13 Forthcoming events

JRat digging awards 25 November Hunters Lodge Inn

#### 14 CSCC Significant dates

Note. This is a list of important dates around the current CSCC year, which runs AGM to AGM. The dates of the AGM, notifications and associated deadlines are defined in the constitution, this is a reminder. Dates of meetings are initially decided at the AGM however they can be changed. Please consult the latest copy of the minutes or the agenda on the website.

Please note Meetings have been spaced evenly throughout the year, following the AGM which is fixed in the constitution and is traditionally the second Saturday in May.

Friday	10 May 2024	19:00	AGM	Zoom
Monday	19 August 2024	19:00	GM	Zoom
Monday	11 Nov 2024	19:00	GM	Zoom
Monday	03 Feb 2025	23:59	<b>Notification to of upcoming AGM, This is the notification for the AGM.</b>	
Monday	10 Feb 2025	19:00	GM	Zoom
Friday	14 March 2025	23:59	Deadline for AGM nominations	
Friday	14 March 2025	19:00	Deadline for AGM constitutional amendments	
Tuesday	1 April 2025	23:59	Notification to members of AGM nominations	
Friday	9 May 2025	19:00	AGM	Zoom

#### 15 AOB

None

Meeting duration 1h05mmin