



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

www.csc.org.uk

Minutes of General Meeting - Saturday 16th Sept 2017

Approved

1 Attendance

Voting Attendees

Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts	AD	
Barry Wilkinson	White Rabbit	BW	
Dave Cooke	Cheddar	DC	Treasurer/Webmaster
Graham Price	Cerberus SS	GP	
Keith Batten	SMCC	KB	
Les Williams	WCC	LW	C&A Officer
Linda Wilson	UBSS	LIW	

Non Voting

Alan Butcher	SMCC	AB	Chairman
Frank Tully	WCC	FT	Secretary
Ray Deasy	MNRC	RD	
Aubrey Newport	White Rabbit	AN	
Graham Mullan	UBSS	GM	

2 Apologies for Absence

Hannah Bennet	BEC	HB	
Andrew Atkinson		AA	Equipment officer
Chris Binding	SPCC/ACI	CB	Training officer

3 Approval of minutes from AGM 13th May 2017

Minutes approved with minor amendments.

Proposed AB, Seconded LW, Passed Unanimous

4 Actions from previous minutes

None

5 Other matters arising from previous minutes

None

6 Chairman's report

Alan Butcher

Nothing to report

7 Honorary secretary's report

Frank Tully

Nothing to report

8 Conservation & access officer's report

Les Williams

8.1 Access to caves on land owned by Longleat Estates.

Currently to go caving or digging on land owned by Longleat Estates cavers must sign a copy of the 'Waiver'. This is believed to be an interim document until an agreement for access is agreed. AB, LW, There have been three meetings so far between Longleat Estates and CSCC regarding access to caves. Longleat Estates wish CSCC to control access to caves on their behalf. Longleat estates lawyers have produced a 'Heads of Terms' document which is being looked at. BCA have been contacted regarding issues of insurance and have produced a response.



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The CSCC meeting is happy for LW and AB to continue negotiating with Longleat Estates regarding access on behalf of cavers. Noting that any agreement needs to be circulated to the CSCC member clubs once the text is finalised and voted on before it is ratified.

Vote to proceed with negotiations passed unanimous.

8.2 Stoke Lane Slocker

There have been issues with parking for this cave.

If you are not breaking the law by parking in an unsafe manner there are no issues with access to stoke lane slocker. Parking in an unsafe manner is a police matter.

GP to send details of recommend parking to DC for inclusion on the CSCC website.

8.3 Loxton Cavern

Work stabilizing the shaft has uncovered more issues and the shaft is still unstable. The original budget of £1600 has been exceeded and is currently running at £2200

The meeting agrees that the total budget should be increased to £2700, Passed Unanimous.

The parish council clark has contacted CSCC with a request that we report to their next meeting regarding the status of caves in their parish, however we have now missed the meeting.

GP to sort this when requested again.

8.4 Sludge Pit

The access route has been changed, use the new gate further up the lane.

8.5 Masbury Swallet

Request from Dinder estates to repair the gate. We have an obligation from Dinder Estates to keep the site secure.

Request £600 for repair or replacement of the gate, passed unanimous

8.6 Box Quarries

The landowner has closed the mine. Do not go there.

8.7 Browns Folly quarry

Negotiations between Hobhouse Estates and Natural England are awaiting a bat expert. LW to contact Andrew Hinde regarding previous designs of bat access gates.

8.8 Swan Quarry

The crane in Swan is looking like it is about to collapse. Be Careful.

8.9 Ubley Warren and Nettle

The dangerous boulder in Nettle is still a problem. Both caves are therefore still closed.

Meeting approved a nominal expenditure of £600 for a gate.

8.10 Report on other caves

Viaduct Sink

Gate is awaiting fitting, ongoing

Swildons

Repair of causeway leading to blockhouse, ongoing

Swildons Stile

Repair of stone stile on way to Swildons, awaiting dry weather, ongoing

Hunters lodge inn sink

New gate is waiting to be fabricated. The November 2016 meeting allocated £600 for the materials for a new gate.



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8.11 CSCC Locks

The stock of Papiaz locks is now down to 3. Papiaz has been taken over and the locks are no longer available. It has been decided that the best replacement lock is the ABUS 40mm lock with a stainless hasp.

Meeting proposes that GP to purchases 21 locks and distributes keys to the member clubs.

9 Honorary treasurer's report

Dave Cooke

Draft accounts for 2016 have been submitted to this meeting, copy published on website.

DigFest made £130 surplus after donation of £50 to Children in Action Charity.

AN to check accounts and the next meeting will vote on them.

10 Training officer's report

Chris Binding

No report Submitted to meeting

11 Equipment officer's report

Andrew Atkinson

Documentation:

I have not received any documentation from the previous post holder or the Secretary. I would hope that CSCC have an online Document repository (Version controlled of course) but my feeling is that no such thing exists. Granted I have only asked for the documents once, so will ask again. I would expect documentation to include the following and would be grateful if their existence could be confirmed
(pdf from web are very little use as very tedious to edit)

CSCC Equipment Policy

CSCC Anchor Policy: pdf Anchor Management Placement seems to be well out of date and does not include guidance on when anchors are to be replaced or who can do it

CSCC Anchor Placement Procedure (pdf on web is out of date and needs correction)

To do list (The list I have says Eastwater Anchors, web has things from 2009, mainly saying no trained places, which has not been true for some time)

Record of reported faulty equipment and action taken

Anything I may have missed?

Anchor Testing

Within the past year I tested the 100mm 8mm rod rock anchors, after placing some in Reservoir Hole. As reported previously the tests were not satisfactory. The suspected reason was either cleaning the smaller holes with the technique used for the large Eco Anchor holes was not as effective or maybe the water based degreaser was not as good. The plan had been to repeat, however the anchor tester load cell was found to be faulty/damaged so the planned pick up of the kit from Wales did not happen. The load cell is now under testing, and should be available for use soon.

It is hoped it will be available for use before Christmas, however there is a backlog, so I do not know when I will be able to use it.

Eastwater Anchors

The anchors that most need replacement are the ones on the 35ft Pitch (Dolphin Pitch.) It is the intention to replace the two 10mm expansion anchors, one of which is loose, so no new holes needed. Although better placements may be available, the current placement is acceptable and for conservation reasons best used. The other 8mm anchors would be removed if possible (this is all subject to what is found when the team gets there)



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As an aside, you have me down as requesting them, this is not correct. I was requested by the CSCC to look at them, and was reporting back that it would be best to replace them. Until testing of the 8mm rod anchors has been repeated, it would not be wise to place any more until we are confident they can be installed correctly, so this will have to be postponed for yet longer.

Andrew Atkinson 16th September 2017

The meeting requests clarification on who can place anchors for CSCC and if someone's training has lapsed, how this can be renewed.

12 BCA rep report

AB attended the last BCA AGM. See BCA AGM minutes for details.

BCA constitutional change Ballot, CSCC vote

Item 1 Changing of wording 4.6	Against Nem Con	Against Passed
Item 2 Election of officers	For Nem Con	For Passed
Item 3 Balancing section	Against 3 votes For 1	Against Passed
Item 4 Postal Votes	Against 3 votes For 1	Against Passed

13 Webmasters report

Dave Cooke

It is in the process of being updated

14 Regional registry officer's report

Alan Gray

No report submitted

15 Changes to CSCC Constitution

16 Forthcoming events

Hidden Earth - Churchill 29th September to 1st October 2017

17 Date of next meetings:

Note Time has been changed to 10:30

Saturday 25th November 2017 (GM) 10:30 Hunters

Saturday 17th February 2018 (GM) 10:30 Hunters

Saturday 19th May 2018 (AGM) 10:30 Hunters

18 Any other business

LIW David Rose appears to be pushing for access controlling bodies and regional councils to reduce their minimum age restrictions to 13years. Will the CSCC representative raise this at the next BCA meeting.

DC Would it be possible to combine DigFest and CaveFest into the same event next year. LW to make an initial contact regarding this.

AB The Next BCA meeting is the 7th October and AB cannot make it for family reasons. LIW to be the CSCC representative at this meeting.

Meeting duration 1h30m