



Minutes of BCA Council Meeting held on Sunday 14 June 2015  
at The Dean Field Studies Centre, Parkend, Forest of Dean

**Present:**

Andy Eavis (AE)	Chairman / UIS Rep.
Paul Ibberson (PI)	Treasurer
Damian Weare (DW)	Secretary
Les Williams (LW)	Publications & Information Officer / 2016 Co-ordinator
Nick Williams (NW)	Equipment & Techniques Officer / Insurance Manager
Andrew Hinde (AH)	Conservation & Access Officer
David Cooke (DC)	IT Working Party / Cave-Registry / Web Services / Webmaster / Club Rep.
Jenny Potts (JP)	Publication Sales / DCA Rep.
Bob Mehew (BM)	Rope-Testing
Henry Rockliff (HR)	Individual Member Rep.
Boyd Potts (BP)	Club Rep.
Helen Brooke (HB)	Youth & Development
Martell Baines (MB)	CNCC Rep.
Steve Holding (SH)	NAMHO Rep.
Brian Schofield (BS)	CDG Rep.
James Begley (JB)	CSCC Rep.
Matt Wire (MW)	Individual Member Rep.
Faye Litherland (FL)	Club Rep.
Robin Weare (RW)	News Editor
Tim Allen (TA)	<i>observer</i>
Jane Allen (JA)	<i>observer</i>
Rostam Namaghi (RN)	<i>observer</i>
John Hine (JH)	<i>observer</i>

The meeting commenced at 2.50pm

**Chairman's Welcome**

AE welcomed members to this Council Meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: John Gunn, Idris Williams, Ged Campion, David Jean, Alan Finch, Nigel Ball, Stephan Natynczuk, Emma Porter. [*Secretary's note: Retrospective apologies were also received from Dave Tyson*]

**2. Minutes of the last Council Meeting on 28 March 2015 (previously circulated)**

Proposal: *to accept the Minutes from 28 March 2015 as a true record*

Prop: HB, Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

**3. Matters Arising for the Minutes of the last Council Meeting**

None

**Action Log Review**

Action 36 (Manual of Operations): Ongoing

Action 54 (Liaise with SUI): Ongoing

Action 83 (Asset Register): Ongoing

Action 116 (Weil's Disease Card): Ongoing

Action 141 (Video Conferencing): DC: probably needs a budget. WebEx looks pretty good. NW: it all really boils down to having a good internet connection. DC: it is looking like around £250 annual subscription plus about £200 per group camera. HB: Could we then move meeting times for TC? LW: this will save us money, as well as making lives more pleasant NW: we would ideally buy a separate microphone.

Proposal: *that DC be allocated a budget of £250 annually and up to £500 for initial capital costs to set up 1 regional*

*hub for video conferencing and then provide a report to the October 2016 Council Meeting on its effectiveness.*

*Prop: PI Sec: NW agreed unanimously*

Action 142 (Speleology): *superseded by events – action removed.*

Action 144 (UKCaving): Complete – now awaiting further action from UKCaving owners.

Action 148 (Draft Conservation Code): Complete

Action 149 (Financial Implications of 2 anchors): *discussed under AGM – action removed*

Action 150 (Joel C): HB had arranged for a meeting today but NB is not here. Will try again.

Action 151 (Social Media): DW to lead on this

## **5. Appointment of non-elected Positions:**

### **a. Working Group Convenors:**

Proposal: *that Les Williams be appointed as 2016 Working Group Convenor*

Proposal: *that David Cooke be appointed as IT Working Group Convenor*

Proposal: *that David Cooke be appointed as Cave Registry Convenor*

Prop: PI Sec: BP *agreed unanimously*

### **b. Council Appointments**

Proposal: *That the following annual appointments be made for 2015:*

- |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| i. Media-Liaison                | Hellie Brooke  |
| ii. UIS Rep.                    | Andy Eavis     |
| iii. FSE Rep.                   | Ged Champion   |
| iv. British Caving Library Rep. | Jenny Potts    |
| v. Youth & Development          | Rostam Namaghi |
| vi. Assistant Treasurer         | Robin Weare    |

Prop: JB Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

### **c. Committee Appointments**

Proposal: *That the following Committee Appointments be ratified by Council:*

- |                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| i. Child Protection Officer | Damian Weare  |
| ii. Newsletter              | Robin Weare   |
| iii. Webmaster              | David Cooke   |
| iv. Web Services            | David Cooke   |
| v. Rope-Tester              | Bob Mehew     |
| vi. Insurance Manager       | Nick Williams |

Prop: BP Sec: RW *agreed unanimously*

## **6. Dates for BCA Council Meetings for 2015-6**

The following dates and venues were agreed for meetings in 2015-16:

- 9 April 2016 (My Big Meeting Room, Pinvin)
- AGM: to be held at the Mendip Dig Fest – date and location to be confirmed.
- June (to coincide with AGM), 01 October 2016, 07 January 2017, 25 March 2017

## **7. Any Other Business**

**a) Bank Mandates:** We need to change the bank mandates in light of RW's appointment as Assistant Treasurer.

Proposal: *That the signatories to the (HSBC) Main and No1 accounts be Andy Eavis, Paul Ibberson, Robin Weare and Nick Williams. That the signatories to the (HSBC) Training account be Andy Eavis, Paul Ibberson, Robin Weare and Nigel Ball. That Robin Weare be added to the HSBC BIB online service and Damian Weare removed. That the signatories to the NatWest current account be Paul Ibberson, Robin Weare and Nick Williams. That Robin Weare be added to the NatWest online service.*

Prop: PI Sec: HB *agreed unanimously*

**b) Cliffhanger:** PI: DCA is requesting financial support for Cliffhanger again.

Proposal: *that up to £400 be allocated to Cliffhanger.*

Prop: BP Sec: PI *agreed unanimously*

**c) CSCC:** PI – there were two previous claims from CSCC spending that were approved pending receipt of appropriate supporting paperwork. This has now been provided and PI is now in a position to pay this. Overall, net expenditure of about £1k has thus resulted from the tidying up of previous accounting.

**d) CRoW:**

AH: Needs to declare a conflict of interest between his employer and his BCA role should he ever need to campaign against DEFRA policy on BCA's behalf.

DW: We must remember that we are not yet in a position to campaign for a change in the law.

TA: AH will almost certainly find it difficult to even ask questions of DEFRA, let alone actively campaigning for change.

DW: There are several ways of potentially dealing with this. We might decide it is not currently an issue, because we are not currently campaigning against the law simply DEFRA's interpretation of it. If we feel even this is a problem, then we could decide to separate CRoW from AH's remit – and in fact it has already been delegated to Executive to lead on – or to separate the whole of Access from Conservation. The argument against the latter has always been that there is a fundamental conflict between 'Conservation' and 'Access' and that the best way to bridge this conflict is to put one person in overall charge of both.

TA: TA is probably the main instigator of the current approach on CRoW. TA is happy to continue doing these things as an independent caver, but is also happy to act officially, working on BCA's behalf. However in so doing TA would not wish to be seen as an 'assistant' when representing BCA at various levels. Therefore the appropriate title would be necessary. Notes that we now have a prominent MP who is willing to champion our cause.

JP: Could we have a Conservation & Access team with a Conservation Officer, an Access Officer and a Projects Officer under the general heading of a C&A Officer.

AH: BCA's membership needs to be represented by the Chairman.

DC: We really need to avoid the word 'campaign'. It is clear that TA seems to be in conflict with this.

BM: We agreed in January that we can campaign for a clarification of the existing interpretation.

AE: The key is that we can push for clarification of the law, but not for the law to be changed.

HB: We have to do something and keep moving forward. It is the will of our membership.

LW: Is not opposed to TA doing the job, but is concerned that working under BCA's remit will tie TA's hands as an individual. Would TA be willing to accept this?

AE: AE is Chairman and would anticipate being involved in any substantive meeting with external Agencies.

FL: We are all talking about 'clarification'. However this is a smokescreen – we know full well what they are saying.

AE: We have the opinion of a couple of people from DEFRA and we are seeking to go above them through MPs. TA has a much better chance of being successful under our auspices.

AH: Suggests we co-opt TA as Access Officer.

HR: Would it be better as CRoW-Liaison Officer?

NW: When representing people, the important bit is that you have a good case when through the door, rather than a title.

AH: Personally does not object to TA being given the title of Access Officer, but wonders whether the rest of the C&A Committee would agree.

DW: As a matter of principle we would generally consider the C&A Committee to be the ones who should decide how the Committee should operate. CRoW has already been delegated to Executive and, therefore, we can legitimately appoint a CRoW-Liaison Officer, but we should be uncomfortable about dictating to C&A that it should split itself in two halves. If TA is to be appointed to work on BCA's behalf, he needs to confirm that he will not seek a change in the existing law, either on our behalf or personally.

TA: Is happy to agree to this.

Proposal: *that TA be appointed CRoW-Liaison Officer, working within the constraints of the BCA Constitution.*

Prop: PL, Sec: HB *agreed with 1 vote against.*

*The meeting closed at 16:00*

## **Action Log (as at June 2015)**

**No. Action by ... Details of Action**

36 **DW** Put together a Manual of Operations

54 **NW & DJu** Liaise with SUI with a view to helping them streamline their insurance situation.

**October 2011**

83      **PI**      Produce an Asset Register and liaise with NW/EP over the total replacement value of our insured equipment.

**June 2014**

116      **HB**      HB to liaise with interested parties and Executive and arrange for a new Weil's disease card to be produced, as well as advertise it via social media. BM to review the existing website documentation and decide if it needs updating. **Updated Mar 15:** HB to investigate card printing and distribution.

**January 2015**

144      **DW**      To liaise with UKCaving owners to agree a system for BCA's use of UKCaving and then implement it.

**March 2015**

150      **HB, NB**      To liaise with Joel Corrigan to find a way to support future events financially.

151      **HB, DW, DC**      To investigate using social media more effectively.

**June 2015**

152      **AE**      To visit Richard Johnson to thank him for acting as Independent Examiner over the last few years.

153      **Council**      To consider paper communication with the membership.

154      **LW**      To report to the October Council Meeting on a proposed roadmap for publications.

155      **PI**      To amend signatories on BCA's accounts.

156      **DC**      To set up a regional hub for video conferencing based on the allocated budget and report to the October 2016 meeting on its effectiveness.