COUNCIL FOR THE NORTHERN CAVING COMMUNITY

Agenda for Committee Meeting 24th October 2026, Clapham Village Hall, 9:30am

(1) Housekeeping

If you wish to participate online please email secretary@cncc.org.uk no later than 21st October.
In-person attendees are encouraged to speak loud and clear for audibility through the microphones. Online attendees please remain muted while not speaking; Use the 'raise hand' function of Teams to vote (don't forget to lower afterwards) and if you wish to speak feel free to jump in or raise hand; We will be watching out for this, but in a lively discussion it may take a few minutes to get to you.

a. Verification of a quorum (s*ix Committee representatives and one Officer).*
b. Declaration of any other business to discuss (Item 9).
c. Declaration of conflicts of interests.

(2) Acceptance of draft minutes from the June Committee meeting
Available on CNCC website to download.

(3) Matters arising or updates on action items from the January Committee meeting

Individual(s)	**Action item**
Matt E	Finalise January 2026 Committee minutes. **Done**
Representation team	Prepare a draft constitution to implement representation changes for consideration at the October meeting. **Done**
Matt E	Prepare PR piece to appeal to cavers to report old digs. **Done via newsletter, Descent, mailing list and social media**
Andrew H et al.	Visit Leck/Casterton Fell to scope out old digs for remedial work; bearing in mind to consider costs as may require bespoke prior approval as a project via BCA for funding.
Jon B	Investigate permissions for repairs to Starting Handle Hole; advise of any costs/CNCC input required. **Work complete, see newsletter**
Ian W and anchor team	Consider/enact ways to bring in more installers and encourage a greater focus on remedial work moving forwards.
Gary D	Launch CaveMaps. **Done**

(4) Representation review – Draft constitutional changes

Appendix 1 is a draft constitution presented by the representation review team.

The changes are intended to allow groups other than clubs to become CNCC members and more democratically involved in CNCC and have been discussed and presented at several prior meetings. The outcome is based on Committee feedback from these meetings. The aim has been to achieve the aims of the review team with the minimal amount of constitutional complexity. Committee are asked to review this document and provide feedback so that a final document can be approved at the January meeting.

(5) Spending of Tarmac donation

As reported in our recent newsletter (Northern Caving 19), CNCC has received a £1000 donation from Tarmac for Si Cornhill and Di Arthur's excellent efforts to resurvey Keldheads Cave, and John Gunn's geological advice. Our treasurer would like to identify a good use for this money to benefit northern caving rather than it simply adding to our bank balance. Suggestions are welcome.

(6) Exploration grant application – Black Sheep Diggers

We have received an exploration grant request from Tom Thompson on behalf of the Black Sheep Diggers. Please see **Appendix 2** for full details. Committee are requested to consider this and vote on whether to issue a CNCC exploration grant of £134.40 to support their work.

(7) Anchoring approval for Pool Sink

Over the last few months, Dinny Davies has been liaising with CNCC about the anchoring in Pool Sink. He has helped us to produce an updated topo to better reflect the anchor orientations and correct rope lengths (to be updated on our website soon). He has also recommended installation of a few additional anchors. Please see **Appendix 3** for details. A vote will be held on whether to support installation of these additional anchors.

(8) Reports (will be made available approx. one week before meeting)

OFFICERS AND IC REPRESENTATIVE

a.	Chair	Todd Rye	**VOLUNTEER NEEDED IN 2027**
b.	Secretary	Matt Ewles	**VOLUNTEER NEEDED IN 2027**
c.	Treasurer	Jill Bolton	
d.	Conservation Officer	Kay Easton	
e.	Access Officer	Mike Appleton	
f.	Training Officer	Ian Patrick	
g.	Individual Caver Rep	Tim Allen	

CO-OPTED ROLES REPORTS (reports are optional)

a.	Anchor Coordinator	Ian Walker
b.	Archaeology Coordinator	Tony Brown
c.	Assistant Access Officer	James Alderson
d.	Assistant Training Officer	Mark Richards
e.	Inclusivity Coordinator	Josh White
f.	PR & Communications Officer	Matt Ewles
g.	Projects Coordinator	Andrew Hinde
h.	Web Administrator	Gary Douthwaite
i.	Youth Development Coordinator	Christopher Holt
j.	BCA Reps (if not covered above)	Various
k.	Area access coordinators	Various

(9) Any other business?

Please ensure AOB is declared as much in advance as possible to secretary@cncc.org.uk (ideally at least one week before the meeting). However, on-the-day items can be raised if time allows, but please declared them at the start of the meeting to ensure we leave enough time.

Appendix 1 – Draft constitution for 2027 AGM (shown in full)

~~Grey and Strikethrough~~ = Deletion Highlighted = Addition

1.0 DEFINITION

1.1 The organisation shall be called the "Council for the Northern Caving Community" (abbreviated to CNCC).

1.2 The CNCC is a voluntary association of individuals and groups with an interest in caving.

1.3 The CNCC is an independent autonomous body, and a constituent member of the British Caving Association.

1.4 The CNCC's area of operation is Lancashire, Yorkshire, and all areas north of these in England and Scotland (herein called 'the North').

2.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

2.1 The CNCC will:

- Work to achieve the best possible access to caves.
- Establish beneficial relations with landowners and kindred organisations.
- Promote safe and responsible caving in parallel with cave and countryside conservation.
- Provide services and information to improve the accessibility of caving.

3.0 FINANCE

3.1 The CNCC is funded by the British Caving Association and may also raise funds from other sources.

3.2 The Committee shall decide an expenditure limit which the Treasurer may authorise alone.

3.3 The Committee may decide a higher limit which requires authorisation by at least four Officers.

3.4 Higher amounts will require authorisation by a majority vote of the Committee.

3.5 Approval for urgent payments may be sought outside of a scheduled meeting. All responses should be documented to the next Committee meeting.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

~~4.1 Membership will be granted only to a properly constituted club, which is controlled by its members and is considered by the CNCC to be a responsible club which demonstrates a significant involvement in caving in the North.~~

4.1 Membership may be granted only to groups who have a significant involvement in caving in the North and who wish, and are deemed able, to support CNCC to meet its aims and objectives. The term 'group' includes clubs, but other bodies, organisations, institutions or syndicates may apply, and their suitability evaluated during the application process.

4.2 The request for membership, along with ~~evidence to support compliance with 4.1,~~ a detailed statement to support the application should be provided to the Secretary in advance of a General Meeting and included in the Agenda.

4.3 The first item on the Agenda for any General Meeting should be the consideration of membership applications.

4.4 If the request is supported by two existing Members, a vote will be held.

4.5 If a majority of Members are in favour, membership will take immediate effect.

4.6 Membership may be revoked by a General Meeting if it is considered the member no longer has a significant involvement in caving in the North or no longer supports CNCC's aims and objectives.

5.0 THE COMMITTEE

5.1 The Committee consists of a maximum of ~~fourteen~~ fifteen Members ~~clubs~~ and an Individual Caver Representative.

5.2 Each ~~club~~ Committee Member may send one voting representative to Committee meetings.

5.3 Each Committee Member has one vote.

6.0 INDIVIDUAL CAVER REPRESENTATIVE

6.1 The AGM may elect a specific person to the role of Individual Caver Representative (ICR).

6.2 The role is to represent cavers who undertake trips outside of a club structure but may extend to individuals who do not feel represented by the groups who make up CNCC's membership or Committee.

6.3 The ICR is a Committee Member, with one vote on the Committee.

6.4 An incumbent or outgoing ICR may also vote at General Meetings as if they were a Member.

6.5 The ICR may nominate a substitute if they are unable to attend a meeting.

7.0 OFFICERS

7.1 The Officers of the CNCC are:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Access Officer
- Conservation Officer
- Training Officer

7.2 The Officers will act upon the instructions of the Committee.

7.3 The Committee may choose to co-opt volunteers to perform or assist with specific roles, or to fulfil the duties of vacant elected roles.

7.4 Officers and co-opted volunteers do not have a vote associated to their role.

8.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

8.1 Terms of office

8.1.1 The Committee and Officers shall be elected every year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

8.1.2 The outgoing Committee will stand down at the start of the AGM.

8.1.3 Outgoing Officers will stand down at the end of the AGM.

8.1.4 Co-opted volunteers will continue in their role, pending a review of their position by the new Committee.

8.2 Application procedure

8.2.1 Applications for Officer positions or the ICR must be submitted by the applicant at least eight weeks before the AGM.

8.2.2 Applications for ~~club~~ Committee positions must be submitted by ~~an officer of the club~~ a representative from the member group who is authorised to do so, at least eight weeks before the AGM.

8.2.3 Applications do not need to be proposed and seconded.

8.2.4 The list of applicants and any supporting statements must be included in the agenda for the AGM.

8.2.5 If there are insufficient eligible applicants for any Officer role or the ICR role, applications for vacant posts may be accepted on the day from those attending the meeting.

8.3 Election procedure

8.3.1 Each Member may vote by selecting one applicant per Officer position.

8.3.2 Each Member may vote by selecting a maximum of ~~fourteen~~ fifteen ~~club~~ applicants to form the Committee.

8.3.3 All persons who are attending the meeting may vote by selecting one ICR applicant.

8.3.4 An applicant must receive a minimum of three selections to be considered eligible.

8.3.5 Eligible applicants with the most selections will be elected.

8.3.6 If between ten and ~~fourteen~~ fifteen ~~clubs~~ Members are so elected, a Committee with this number ~~of clubs~~ will be formed.

8.3.7 If fewer than ten ~~clubs~~ Members are elected to the Committee, voting will be repeated with any previously ineligible applicants, and any on-the-day applicants to reach a total of ten.

8.3.8 In the event of any tie, the chair will hold a casting vote.

9.0 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

9.1 The Committee and Officers shall meet at least three times per year as convened by the Secretary.

9.2 The Secretary shall call a Committee meeting if requested in writing or other recorded means by three or more Committee Members.

9.3 An agenda should be made available at least six weeks ahead of each Committee meeting. This should provide a summary of the anticipated topics. Additional topics may be added to the agenda (and notification given) or discussed under 'Any Other Business'.

9.4 Any Committee Member may propose a motion at the meeting. The motion may proceed to a vote only if seconded by another Committee Member.

9.5 ~~Club~~ Committee votes may only be delivered by the representatives attending the meeting.

9.6 Representatives may be required by the Chair or Secretary to provide proof that they are the selected representative.

9.7 Outcomes will be decided by majority of all votes. In the event of a tie, the Chair will have a casting vote.

9.8 For a meeting to be quorate, at least half of the Committee Members (rounded down) and at least one Officer must be present.
9.9 Minutes of Committee meetings shall be taken, and should include, as a minimum:

- The date, time and place of the meeting
- The names of all individuals present
- ~~Club~~ Committee Member representatives and ICR should be indicated
- Any proposals put to the meeting, including the identity of the proposer and seconder
- The number of votes for, against and abstentions for each proposal

9.10 The draft minutes should be made available in the public domain, and these should be confirmed at the next Committee meeting and subsequently finalised.

10.0 GENERAL MEETINGS

10.1 A General Meeting is a meeting at which all Members have a vote.
10.2 There are two types: an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and a Special General Meeting (SGM).
10.3 All Members and Officers must be notified of a General Meeting.
10.4 Ten Members shall constitute a quorum at a General Meeting.
10.5 Member representatives must provide evidence before the opening of a General Meeting to confirm they have authority to deliver a vote for that ~~club~~ group.
10.6 Each Member shall have one vote which may be delivered by their representative at the meeting.
10.7 Outcomes will be decided by majority vote of all voting ~~club~~ representatives present.
10.8 In the event of a tie, the Chair will have a casting vote.
10.9 Minutes of a General meeting shall be taken, and should include, as a minimum:

- The date, time and place of the meeting
- The names of all individuals present
- ~~Club~~ Member representatives and ICR should be indicated
- Any proposals put to the meeting, including the name of the proposer and seconder
- The number of votes for, against and abstentions for each proposal

10.10 The draft minutes should be made available in the public domain, and these should be confirmed at the next General Meeting and subsequently finalised.

11.0 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

11.1 There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in February or March every year.
11.2 The Constitution may be amended only at an AGM.
11.3 Notification of any motion affecting the Constitution must be received by the Secretary eight weeks before the meeting and the proposed wording must be included in the agenda.
11.4 An agenda and supporting papers must be made available at least six weeks before the meeting.
11.5 Additional items (excluding Officer or Committee applicants and matters affecting the Constitution) may be added to the agenda (with notice given to all Members) or raised on the day under 'Any Other Business'.
11.6 Minutes should also include the outcome of elections to the Committee and to Officer roles.

12.0 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

12.1 A Special General Meeting (SGM) may be requested if there is firm evidence that it would be detrimental to the CNCC to leave the intended agenda item(s) until the next AGM.
12.2 The request must be made in writing or other recorded means to the Secretary, by an authorised representative from each of ten Members.
12.3 The request must contain details of the proposed motion(s).
12.4 The SGM must be held within one calendar month of the receipt of the tenth request.
12.5 An agenda must be made available ten days ahead of the meeting.

13.0 DISSOLUTION

13.1 The CNCC may be dissolved only by a two-thirds majority vote of all Members at a General Meeting (rounded down).
13.2 If the CNCC is dissolved, all assets should be sold, the income from which, together with whatever funds are held in the accounts, should be transferred to organisation(s) of the membership's choosing where they will be used to benefit cave conservation, access or rescue.

Appendix 2 – Black Sheep Diggers (BSD) exploration grant request

Summary of the project and it's potential:
BSD have spent the dry summer exploring potential entrances in the small limestone inlier at Lofthouse village, centred on the River Nidd just above the road bridge near the fire station. This has opened up Lower Canal Cave, Perrier Pot and Lofthouse Pot. The latter has now been followed in new passages which approach potential connection to Low Eglins Cave. The former two are connected, with Perrier Pot opened up to access to a common sump which might allow access to downstream areas of the underground river Nidd.

Nature of your proposed work:
BSD have resourced and created a new permanent horizontal entrance portal to Lofthouse Pot which will prevent ingress of river debris. This is in the river bed. Lower Canal and Perrier Pot are in the vertical rock outcrop on the riverside at and below typical water levels. We propose to purchase robust stainless welded 20mm mesh, create panels of this shaped to the entrance portals, and fix them via maillons to expanding ringbolts placed in the walls of the portals. This would prevent river debris blocking the passages, portals and sump but allow water to continue to pass through. Some maintenance will be required to clear debris occasionally in the winter and spring. Cavers will be able to access the passages by simply removing the maillons.

Costed breakdown:
1 x 8' x 4' ft sheet 304 SS grade inch square weld mesh sheet 3mm gauge wire. £108 Delivery £26.40 total £134.40
BSD have all the required fixings as surplus from previous projects.

Conservation considerations:
The river bed is left in its natural state with any debris distributed as randomly as possible just as the winter floods naturally disperse it. Annual floods further distribute and naturalise both clastic and boulder debris, all of which is native material of the river environment. BSD members remove any non- native litter they encounter during exploration, which has entered the river upstream, from whatever source.

Permissions required:
The riparian owner has granted permission; BSD have excellent relationships with landowners throughout the Nidderdale inliers.

Estimated timeframe:
By year end.

Appendix 3 – Additional anchors in Pool Sink (Dinny Davies)

I've known for a while that the bolting on P2, in Pool Sink was less than ideal. This was reinforced when I rigged the cave for Easegill Openhouse the last two years.

I'm not in favour of overbolting caves, but the traverse on P2 is lacking in easily clippable bolts. On two separate occasions, decent cavers that I have been with have stopped rigging the traverse over the first drop on P2, as the position of the bolts doesn't really instil confidence.

The initial belay is a natural around a rock column, which is great, but it is 4m away from the actual drop. The first bolt over the drop can't be reached from the ground, it is necessary to traverse up and out over the drop to clip it. If there was another bolt placed, before the drop, which could be clipped from the ground, that would be much safer for shorter and less confident riggers. It would also mean that it would be possible to ab-through P2 from that point, (down a 7m sloping ramp), rather than having to rig a 25m fixed traverse, to reach the existing P2 ab through point, Forcing ab through teams to rig the fixed traverse seems pointless to me, as P3 and P4 are far wetter to ab down than the 7m ramp, so the extra traverse doesn't even keep you drier.

The next bolt over the first drop is an awkward step, but that's life. The problem then, is that there is no bolt to clip, when you get to the other side of the first drop. You have to walk 14m horizontally, till the next bolt is found, and before you can clip it, you have to cross over the top of another drop. The second drop is not difficult to cross, but you would not want to slip with 14m of relatively slack rope back to the last bolt, above the first drop.

What I would suggest is: A second additional bolt at the end of the first drop, meaning that the first drop can be rigged as a short traverse, with one short rope. Then a short walk along the horizontal passage with no rope required. Then a third additional bolt before the second drop, allowing you to safely step over the drop, to then clip the first bolt at the head of P2.

I have spoken to several experienced cavers, and they all agreed that it was pointless having to hard rig the traverse to the current P2 ab through point, when it would be far more straightforward just to ab down the first 7m drop, if an additional bolt could be placed.

Redrawn Pool Sink topo showing additional suggested anchors in red