

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting 28th June 2014 Hellifield Institute, Hellifield

Meeting opened 9.30am

Attendees:

Ric Halliwell (RiH, CPC), **Pat Halliwell** (PH, CPC rep.), **Sam Lieberman** (SL, RRCPC rep.), Ray Duffy (RD, RRCPC), **Pete Monk** (PM, Northern Boggarts rep.), Tony Brown (TB, Northern Boggarts), **Bernie Bond** (BB, Burnley CC, rep), **Kay Easton** (KE, BPC rep.), **Les Sykes** (LS, LUG rep./Training Officer), Glenn Jones (GJ, CNCC TG/Treasurer), **Andrew Hinde** (AH, GC rep./Conservation Officer), Roy Holmes (RH, DHSS/Chairman), **Sam Allshorn** (SA, ULSC rep, taking minutes), Gary Douthwaite (GD, YCC/Webmaster), Matt Ewles (ME, YCC/Secretary), Ian Cross (IC, BPC), **Victor Wain** (VW, WRPC rep.), **Simon Wilson** (SW, EPC rep.), Alan Speight (AS, YSS), Tim Allen (TA, NCC), **Fiona Durham** (FD, YSS Rep.), **Jonathan Tompkins** (JT, OUCC Rep.), **Harvey Lomas** (HL, YRC rep.)

Bold names are committee club representatives

Item numbering throughout this document refers to itemised points on agenda

(1) Apologies

Fay Hartley, Ben Blackburn, Jim Sloane, Johnny Latimer

(2) Acceptance of minutes from the January Committee meeting

SW raised two issues with the January minutes stating that he did not wish to get people angry about the issue again:

1. That the digging permit issue was not reflected in the minutes because it was largely omitted, and that those involved were not named as he had requested at the time.

There followed extensive discussion of SW's statement:

PH asked what **SW** would like the minutes to say but **SW** said that he hadn't prepared an amendment.

PM did support **SW** in that the minutes must actually reflect the meeting.

2. Tim Allen reported the meeting on UKcaving, stating that the 14 committee clubs could not be named when the secretary was asked and this was not recorded in the January minutes.

KE said she was surprised since the identity of the committee was known to her and the Officers of the CNCC.

RiH stated he knew who the committee were at this time as well.

PH proposed **AH** seconded the minutes be accepted.

Voting result: 8 votes for, 1 vote against, 3 abstentions

Outcome: Minutes accepted

(3a) Matters arising from the January committee meeting: Digging on SSSIs

AH stated that the working group had produced an initial draft but further information needed to be added. All the information was included in the Shuttleworth Pot book and the Witches Cave conservation plan.

Action

AH, KE: To compile a single document for the next meeting.

(3b) Matters arising from the January committee meeting: Fingerbone dating

TB has submitted an application for funding of dating of a finger bone to the BCRA 3rd March that was supported by John Thorp and Tom Lord but had as yet had no feedback.

AH suggested the CNCC pay for the dating and seek funding back to maintain project momentum, suggested costs £300-500.

SA raised a note of caution that there were a host of geomorphological dating that would be extremely useful to have and it could open flood gates for claims the CNCC could not afford.

TB pointed out it may be the only complete Bronze Age skeleton in the UK with the rest in Leeds Museum.

PH suggested that it be proposed as an application for funding without precedence being set.

AH proposed and **PM** seconded

Voting result: 12 votes for.

Outcome: Funding agreed

Action

TB to follow this up on BCRA application for funding.

AH/TB to confirm costs and get dating completed as soon as possible.

(4) Acceptance of the minutes for the meeting 31st May 2014

GJ questioned whether on page four if a vote had taken place to accept the BCA's position on CRoW as it stood at the meeting.

SA assured him that it had not.

SW proposed **BB** seconded the minutes be accepted

Voting results: 9 votes for, 3 abstentions

(Reps who abstained stated that this was because they were not present at the meeting).

Outcome: Minutes accepted

[One representative, HL (YRC) arrived late at this point and so was not present for these initial votes thus a total of 12 votes up to this point in the meeting and 13 votes after this point].

(5a) Matters arising from the AGM: Questions on Treasurer's report

SA questioned if the response from the Treasurer had been sent to all members as proposed at the AGM.

ME said he hadn't done this yet as he wanted to ensure the committee were happy with response first.

GJ asked **TA** if he had seen the response.

TA said he hadn't so couldn't comment on the response. He said that he had sent further questions about the accounts to **ME**.

ME stated these had not yet been forwarded to **GJ** as he had only received them this week, but would forward them as soon as possible.

RiH stated he was happy with the process that was in place.

GJ updated the group on the tax status of the CNCC, following 3 letters to HMRC and 4 meetings with an accountant.

Outcome:

Excess from funding grants was liable to 20% tax and income from the rigging guides and publication was subject to the same tax rate. This year that would be 20% of £1700 thus £340 tax. Cost of the accountant was £300-500.

GJ said that now the CNCC was on HMRC books there was no way back. He had an additional comment he wished to make but asked if it would not be minuted.

SA asked if he was instructed by committee not to record this comment in the minutes.

RiH said he couldn't answer that as we don't know what he is going to say.

AS suggested **GJ** not make the comment. No further comment was made.

PH proposed **HL** seconded the answers be accepted by the Committee and thanked **GJ** for the response

Voting result: 12 votes for, 1 abstention

Outcome: Response to questions accepted for circulation to full member clubs

SA asked if the account in **GJ**'s name was still open, **GJ** confirmed it was but he was in the process of closing it.

Actions

ME to forward further questions from **TA** to **GJ**.

ME to forward **GJ** response to all full members.

(5b) Matters arising from the AGM: Request for funding for Northern Sump Index

It was unclear from the letter as to whether the request was for a grant or a loan as it referred to "funding" (request was for up to £1500 contribution). There followed some discussion as to whether it should be a loan or grant. It was pointed out that it was good for northern caving and that the CNCC should therefore support it.

VW pointed out that as a grant the CDG would keep profit.

AH said that any profit would not be a very large amount.

RH reminded everyone that the application was not for the full cost of print but only part cost.

SA and **RiH** pointed out in the interests of transparency that they are both non-diving members of the CDG.

ME suggested that should we grant the funding, it should be on the condition that the CNCC is recognised appropriately, not just, for example, in small font on the inside front cover.

HL proposed **SL** seconded that the sum be passed to be CDG as a grant, with acknowledgment of the funding source suitably provided.

Voting result: 13 votes for

Outcome: Funding (£1500) to be paid

Action

GJ: Contact CDG with request for acknowledgement and arrange transfer of funds.

(5c) Matters arising from the AGM: CNCC membership

ME updated the committee on the number of clubs who are full members of the CNCC and the recent process to establish contact with as many as possible. 52 full member clubs were contacted, 34 responded, none objected to the publication of their membership to the CNCC. The full list is now on the website. The remaining 18 are defunct. This was confirmed either through direct confirmation from that club or the lack of response from that club, which has led to the assumption that they are defunct, or no longer wish to be CNCC full member clubs.

SW asked if this meant they were no longer members.

ME confirmed they were no longer members. They would have to reapply for membership if they wished to join.

ME stated that the contact details of a club can be updated via the officers of the club.

(6) Officer's reports

RH suggested reports be voted through altogether ('en bloc') rather than individually.

(6a) Chairman's report

No questions

(6b) Secretary's report

No questions

(6c) Treasurer's report

Several topics were discussed, see below.

Treasurer report: Sil Howe Whinstone Mine

SA asked why Sil Howe Whinstone Mine had received funding for restoration when it was not a cave and contained no cave passage and the rhetoric from officers in the past had been it was the Council of Northern Caving Clubs.

AH pointed out the BCA also supported mine exploration and interests relating to them.

PM added that there are numerous mine supporting organisation as well that could provide funds.

GJ said that he was authorised to approve funding of up to £500 so long as they fitted the interests of the BCA and CNCC. This could include restoration works and training courses.

Treasurer report: Paperless surveying course

SA asked what the £681 was spent on for the paperless surveying course, as members of his club had witnessed the course and wanted to know what was so expensive.

GJ said it would have been easier if **SA** had sent the questions before the meeting to allow him to prepare a response. After some digging through paperwork **GJ** provided the following figures: Petrol for trainers for 1770 miles at 30p per mile which came to £531, rent of Bull Pot Farm and the hut fees for the trainers. 50% of these costs were planned to be claimed back from the BCA training committee in the 2014 funding round. Andy Chapman while having provided a written report had not yet sent **GJ** photos of the training course.

Treasurer report: Shuttleworth Pot book publication date

SA said that there is no publication date in the Shuttleworth Pot book and this made referencing difficult.

PM said there were numerous small typos had been corrected but they hadn't gone for an ISBN number as it was thought it may be expensive and not needed. He wasn't sure if the revision of the publication had included a publication date.

RiH said a publication date is important and should be included in all publications from the CNCC.

Treasurer report: GJ standing down as Treasurer

GJ stated he would not be re-standing at the 2015 AGM. He said that the CNCC has received considerable criticism on UK Caving on the run up to the 2014 AGM. He went on to say that people on UK Caving talk bollocks most of the time, as despite all this criticism there were still very few new faces in the CNCC to show for it. He said that he was making a stand to get new blood involved and will complete the accounts to year end. He suggested the CNCC advertise the post.

AH asked if GJ was 'grooming' anyone for the role, GJ said he was not.

ME asked if he'd train a replacement. GJ stated he'd rather train someone now in readiness.

PH along with several others pointed out that it was not possible to elect a treasurer as this had to be done at AGM, and proposed that anyone coming forward could be co-opted into an assistant treasurer role.

SL suggested advertising the role on website.

TA suggested member clubs to put it into their newsletters.

Action

GD to place advert on the website

ALL to advertise the role in their newsletters.

(6d) Conservation Officer's report

KE raised two issues: Homeshaw Cave and Daimler Hole

AH said they are on the job list and thanked KE for reminding him. He said that nothing will be done before the 15th July. Homeshaw is very large hole filled with wire and he is apprehensive about taking on such a large job and not being able to finish it. It may be a more suitable job for contractors but that is expensive, it's on private land, so why should it be funded? There is another site near P5 (Gaping Gill) that has been the dumping ground for the estate wire for years. Landowners are not forced to clear it up although it is now not permitted to add to it. A further report will follow in the January meeting.

Action

AH prepare a further report for the January meeting.

(6f) Access Officer's report

Several aspects of this were touched upon:

Access Officer report - Lancaster Hole entrance work

RD said that work on Lancaster Hole has now finished but there is a temporary lid on the shaft.

A comment was made from the floor about bat access.

RD said the bats are known to exit via Cow Pot.

SL proposed **AH** seconded a vote of thanks to Mike Cooper for funding the work via funds raised from 'Not for the Faint Hearted' (caving guide book).

Voting result: 13 votes for

Outcome/Action: **ME** to send letter of thanks to Mike Cooper.

LS asked weren't the CNCC originally going to pay for that work?

RD confirmed, but said it has already been paid for by Mike Cooper.

Access Officer report - Skirwith Cave

KE raised the matter that Skirwith Cave contact details on the website are out of date.

AH has tried to contact the land owner with little success as last time he saw him he got into his land-rover and drove away from him.

SW questioned if the CNCC should take a positive assumption about access relating to Skirwith Cave if details are not updated.

LS said that contact details are provided by land owners and they should update their details with the CNCC.

AH pointed out that updating the CNCC was unlikely to be high on the farmers list of priorities as DEFRA had not been updated about the change of address to make the single farm payment.

LS said that the CNCC must accurately reflect information provided by the landowners and not make assumptions about their wishes.

Action

BB to see if he can get up-to-date contact details for Alan Smith (re: Skirwith Cave) for next meeting.

Access Officer report - Wording of report

SA questioned the wording of the report "Closed through their selfish actions." He said that he felt this wording is unhelpful as it labels all walkers in the same way.

LS explained that those in question had approached the cave in a 4x4 and these actions were selfish.

SA suggested the wording be changed.

LS declined to change the wording.

PH proposed **AH** seconded a vote of thanks for **LS** for efforts as Access Officer for a long time

Voting results: 11 votes for, 2 abstentions

Outcome: The CNCC thanks **LS** for his work as Access Officer

Access Officer report - Other matters

GJ said Gatekirk had been a problem because of the photo on the cover of Northern Caves volume 2. He suggested that **SA** may wish to consider this when considering photographs for inclusion in the new Northern Caves.

AH commented on access to Joint Hole, Nick Williams has been authorised to act on behalf of the CNCC/CDG to speak to Mr Hudson. Nick Williams now has a list of requirements, which is further than anyone else has managed to get. It is most likely that the CDG will take control of any management system for access put in place.

(6e) Training officer's report

VW asked what was planned for advertisement of the upcoming first aid courses.

LS said he is planning a flyer to be sent to members, and that the dates were fixed.

VW suggested also advertising it on the CNCC website.

Action

LS to produce flyer.

ME to circulate flyer to members.

GD to add advert to website.

(6g) CNCC technical group report

SA asked the CNCC TG members present whether it was a club or sub-committee of the CNCC.

GJ and **LS** explained that the CNCC TG was set up in the 1990s as a club to test and install anchors. Many clubs got involved with placing bolts but then realised it was hard work and so only did one cave and didn't come back. It is based on work of volunteers.

SA asked why it didn't report to the BCA Equipment and Techniques (E&T) committee.

LS explained that it was not obliged to report to the BCA E&T committee but that it did volunteer all the test results to them and the DCA all the data was available on the website.

AH enquired as to the anchors in the wall in Yordas main chamber.

LS said the anchors would be removed as soon as they had the BCA test rig as they had broken the Hilti rig.

PH proposed and **SL** seconded the acceptance of the Officer's reports

Voting result: 13 votes for.

Outcome: All officer's reports accepted

(7) Meets reports

(7a) Leck Fell

Nothing further added to report.

(7b) Casterton Fell

RD reported that Thomas Bowering had retired, and he was waiting for new contact details. There is a temporary lid on Lancaster Hole but no hole for the bats.

LS said he would phone the estate on Monday morning.

SA reminded **LS** that he was no longer Access Officer.

LS said that he would therefore not make a phone call.

RH Said that not being Access Officer doesn't stop **LS** making phone calls.

Action

RD to forward contact details to **JL** as Access Officer and **AS** as Meets Secretary for Casterton Fell.

(7c) Stump Cross and Fairy Holes

Nothing further added to report

(7d) Penyghent and Fountains Fell

TA raised question about how access to Fountains Fell was originally granted. He suggested that as part of an agreement with HMRC relating to death duties the public had been granted access to Fountains Fell.

AS stated this may have been the case but that this was extremely unlikely to be related to the current land owners.

LS stated he knew nothing about this.

Action

JL to look into this.

(7e) Excalibur Pot and Bowland

Nothing further added to reports.

HL proposed and **BB** seconded acceptance of meets secretary's reports.

Voting results: 13 votes for

Outcome: Meets secretary's reports all accepted.

(8) Application for membership of CNCC from Th'Owd Skool Caving Club

ME had brought to the meeting the club's application letter and constitution.

ME stating that Th'Owd Skool Caving Club have a website that indicates they go caving in the north.

RH asked for a proposer and seconder of their membership application.

PH asked who was proposing the club.

RH confirmed that was what he was asking.

RiH said that **RH** was asking for a proposer and seconder for a vote for membership.

SW asked who Geoff Whitaker was, as he is a meet sec for the CNCC and who knew him?

PM asked if anyone had met him.

There followed a discussion where it was identified that some felt it would be desirable for applicants to attend the meeting but it was not required and in fact if a club was proposed and seconded by committee clubs then it would not be necessary. Some felt that the application should have been proposed and seconded ahead of the meeting by full member clubs. The general view was that more information on the applicant club would have been preferred.

RiH said that the current procedure had been followed in that the paperwork was received (i.e. a letter and confirmation that they were a properly constituted club) but there was no proposing and seconding club.

There followed further discussion of who the club was and if anyone knew anything about them.

ME: said he knew Geoff Whitaker as the Aygill meets sec and commented that he personally has expressed considerable desire to make a positive contribution to the CNCC.

AS stated that he had issued the club several permits for Casterton Fell.

SW asked why no one had met Geoff if he was a CNCC meet secretary for Aygill.

LS stated that Geoff had applied to the estate office for permits to Aygill as a responsible caving wishing to do the right thing. But the estate office was too busy to deal with his requests so he contacted **LS** who was also not able to take on these permits as well. **LS** arranged for Geoff to become the meets secretary for Aygill.

GJ said they [the club] had been BCA members for several years.

The conclusion was that although some felt that more information on the club would be desirable, they had fulfilled all the constitutional requirements for an application for full membership, other than being proposed and seconded. Therefore the meeting moved onto identifying whether anyone wished to propose and second their application.

PM proposed **BB** seconded the club's application to join.

FD proposed **HL** seconded the vote for them to become full members of the CNCC

Voting result: 11 votes for, 2 abstentions.

Outcome: Th'Owd Skool Caving Club are accepted as a full member club of the CNCC.

PM stated that whilst SW may not have made his point well it was important the CNCC discuss such things.

(9) Proposal for the enhancement of the CNCC website

A statement detailing the proposal was read out by ME to all present. The proposal suggested the creation of a member's area for the website to which all full member clubs could log in. The only functionality of this initially would be to allow them to update their own details; however, other functionalities could be added, ultimately including electronic permit applications.

SA congratulated **GD** and **ME** on the efforts already made in improving the website.

PH said that online permit system will not work for all areas.

GJ noted a technical point that there are two systems that would need to be integrated: a paper one and an electronic one, and thus this would mean an increase in workload for meet secretaries.

GD has been in touch with a few of the meets secretaries to discuss this and they are happy with this idea but there were many intricacies to iron out first.

AS stated he had not received a postal application for a permit in 2 years, they all came via email.

Rapid discussion followed with concern about passwords and security of a proposed online permit system, that the system should not be able to be abused and needed to ensure that the membership of clubs was up to date.

GD aligned concerns that the system would be secure and that an annual renewal/change of passwords would happen once BCA memberships was confirmed.

SA raised concern that there not be seen to be two permit systems in use and the CNCC should be completely open about what it was doing.

GD said all permits issued during testing would not be real permits and the testing would be done openly and with committee clubs initially, to enable snags to be ironed out first.

A reminder was made that the proposal on the table was simply to develop the website towards creating a login for full member clubs, which was only a precursor to electronic permits at some point in the future. The aim of today was to authorise this, and a discussion of electronic permits should be deferred to a later meeting.

GD proposed **HL** seconded that **GD** be permitted to build a members area for the CNCC website as set out.

Voting results: 13 votes for

Outcome: Authorisation granted to proceed with this proposal.

(10a) Minutes Secretary

RH suggested SA continue as he had volunteered to do the minutes today.
SA said “no way I’m already on page 6” (he was frantically scribbling notes).

No one came forward for the role.

SA suggested that the role be rotated around the committee.
BB said he wasn’t keen on rotating the role as he was not good at spelling.
AH suggested that we move on for now,

The meeting moved on with no appointment of a Minutes Secretary. Several other comments were:

Someone suggested rotating the role would cut attendance at meetings again.
FD said that she’d be prepared to do it but felt that SW’s questioning of the minutes was off putting and that she didn’t know everyone’s name.
ME said he’d do it if he really had to but would prefer to focus of other aspects of the meeting.

(10b) Proposal for co-opted Assistant Conservation Officer

AH read out his proposal and explained the need for the role.
PH seconded that the role be created

Voting result: 13 votes for

Outcome: The co-opted position of Assistant Conservation Officer was created.

AH proposed **HL** seconded **KE** to the role on the grounds that she has been performing this role in an unofficial capacity already

Voting result: 10 votes for, 3 abstentions

Outcome: **KE** appointed as Assistant Conservation Officer for the CNCC.

PM suggested that there should be greater advertising prior to works carried out and publicity of the work that has been completed for conservation.

Action

KE and **AH** advertise completed and forthcoming conservation work more widely through CNCC website.

(11) Constitutional review

Discussion was intended to give the review committee an idea as to how it should proceed and not to provide absolute instruction. Therefore no voting was performed.

Those undertaking the constitutional review are **KE**, **RiH**, **PH**, **ME** and **GD**.

(Appendix B1) Discussion of Access Officer becoming a full officer role

There was unanimous and rapid support for this change.

(Appendix B2) Proposed geographic boundary of the CNCC on where a club is based

There was lengthy debate. A range of points are presented:

PM suggested regular CNCC supporting clubs should be members.

ME suggested case by case basis for membership be considered.

It was pointed out that there were no restrictions on the number of regional councils a club could join: The YSS and Wessex being members of several councils was raised.

LS suggested any BCA member club could become a CNCC full member, but that the DCA was slightly different as they still charged a membership fee.

ME suggested maybe it should be anyone who was prepared to take an active involvement.

SA suggested caution in allowing anyone to join as the politics of the north and south of the country are quite different.

SL stated that the CNCC was a regional body and membership should be open to those who act to benefit the region.

TA suggested caution in allowing all to become members and suggested flexibility.

LS stated LUPC was a club he had received an enquiry about membership from but as they were a borderline case (close to the nominal boundary), and as they were closer to the Peak District, the DCA may be more suitable.

TA suggested that this response from the previous secretary had been off putting in the LUPC and SUSS case.

LS stated that the communications ended with a statement that they could apply for CNCC membership and this would be voted upon but no applications for membership had been received from either.

ME mentioned that had these clubs gone ahead and submitted a formal application they would probably have been accepted at the AGM.

GJ summarised suggesting the review committee come up with proposals for the committee to consider.

RD suggested it was more important to attend and be dedicated.

HL suggested we move on.

(Appendix B3) CHECC involvement with the CNCC

RH Suggested a problem might be that CHECC was a transient group that changed every three years.

AH pointed out it is important to get involved with university clubs and CHECC as there was need for education in terms of conservation.

It was decided that the review committee needed to look at how to get a CHECC representative into the CNCC.

AH pointed out that CHECC is not a club so wouldn't work in the current structure, but that new young cavers from any club should be encouraged to be involved.

Action

ME was instructed to invite CHECC to send a representative to attend a CNCC meeting.

(Appendix B4) Changes for current situation (only committee can vote, officers cannot)

LS proposed that it was unfair that GJ didn't have a vote as an officer.

ME confirmed that the officers voting was not being considered at this point in the review, but that it was useful to get people's feelings on the matter regardless.

SA stated that officers (Treasurer, Training Officer etc) were not elected to represent cavers but to carry out a specific role. Club representatives were elected to the CNCC to represent caver's views.

ME restated that this was not something that was being considered.

LS agreed with SA.

(Appendix B5) Suggested timeframe for standing for committee/officer posts

ME suggested that the intention to stand for committee or officer roles should be made 6 weeks before AGM: 6 weeks before to give the secretary time to send this notice to clubs 4 weeks before the meeting.
RiH said that less than 6 weeks' notice to clubs risked missing the typical monthly club committee meeting cycle and that 8 weeks' notice to the secretary and 6 weeks' notice to clubs would be better.
SA stated that restricting applications to prior notice risked people filling roles without them having been elected.
RiH pointed out the AGM still had to take place and you could choose not to vote for them.
VW restated the issue of timings for committee meeting being important so not less than 6 weeks.
ME suggested that a caveat may be required that would allow others to stand if no one else had come forward.
SA suggested that the November deadline for constitutional changes be scrapped and 6 or 8 weeks be used instead.

(Appendix B6) Membership structure

RiH Said honorary membership could be removed as there was no fee to join but he had issued several permits to UWFRA.

There followed discussion of associate membership category and whether it was needed.

ME believed it should be amended to just have one category of membership for simplicity.
LS pointed out that the access agreements stated CNCC membership rather than BCA membership.
RiH said that removal of associate membership would mean we have to give all BCA-registered clubs full membership for them to get permits. This was problematic (see discussion above about geographic boundary).
TA questioned if BCA insurance was required to get permits?
LS stated that CNCC had landowner's indemnity insurance that covered CNCC clubs that weren't insured through BCA.
AH stated that GC is a member of the BCA but its members were DIMs rather than the whole club as many were not cavers thus not required to be insured.
HL stated that the YRC is a member club of the BCA.

GJ provided a summary of the BCA insurance and membership structure.

GJ pointed out the BCA was moving towards a much flatter membership structure and so this would likely impact the CNCC membership system in the future but this was not going to be implemented immediately.
ME thanked everyone, saying the discussion has been useful.

The outcome is that associate membership cannot be abolished, without changing the wording in the access agreements to state 'BCA membership' rather than 'CNCC membership'.

(12) International Caving Symposium

Nothing to report.

GJ said the venue was not yet guaranteed.

Action

ME to include this item on the agenda at the next meeting.

(13) Dates for next meetings

13th September 9.30am Committee meeting

17th January 9.30am Committee meeting

7th March 10am AGM

(14) Any other business

Constitutional review:

SA suggested that the constitutional review was not far reaching enough and should include DIMs.

RH stated there was only so much that could be done in a year.

ME said that only so much that could be done and that matters such as representation of DIMS was something that would need much longer and more thorough consultation with full member clubs.

Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act:

TA expressed surprise that CRoW had not been included in the agenda.

(Note the agenda for this meeting was distributed before the CNCC meeting to discuss CRoW on 31st May)

TA gave a breakdown of activities that occurred since the last meeting:

TA and **Bob Mehew (BM)** shortly after the last meeting were informed of a slot where a prominent QC had time to look at the proposal for CRoW application to caving. **TA** and **BM** had put together a 750 page document that has been sent to this QC for consideration. The outcome is expected in the near future (2 weeks from date of this meeting). He suggested that someone else who was present at the BCA AGM should provide a summary.

AH summarised the BCA AGM:

The BCA chair was forced into an awkward position given the timing and that application for an opinion from a QC had already been submitted. The proposal that the CNCC had voted to support was not allowed to be presented to the meeting. The south were broadly against it and the north broadly supported it. After about 1.5hr a new motion was proposed that the Conservation and Access Committee (CAC) of the BCA be tasked with continuing the work of the CRoW Working Group. CAC will be meeting 16th August, where the Conservation and Access officer and BCA rep from each region have been invited. The meeting will be subject to change if there are any delays to the QC's reporting back.

Meeting closed 12.35pm