

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE MEETING

21st October 2023 at 9:30am

- 1.0 Apologies for absence, and verification of quorum.
- 2.0 Declaration of conflicts of interest
- 3.0 Acceptance of minutes from June Committee Meeting
(already reviewed for one month, before publication on website)
- 4.0 Matters arising (and updates) from June Committee Meeting

OFFICER	ACTION	UPDATE
Josh Y	Correct and finalise January committee minutes	Done
Andrew H	Suggest to BCA council that they should take action to try and get caving considered in potential changes to countryside access legislation	Done
Jon B	Research available options for CNCC equipment storage	Done
Matt E	Do a PR push to remind the community that funding is available for conservation projects	Done
Alan S / Anchor Team	Discuss a long-term solution for managing steel ground anchors	Ongoing

5.0 OFFICER REPORTS

(Available one week prior to meeting)

- 5.1 Chair Andrew Hinde
- 5.2 Secretary Jill Bolton
- 5.3 Treasurer Pete Bann
- 5.4 Conservation Officer Kay Easton
- 5.5 Access Officer Adele Ward
- 5.6 Training Officer Ian Patrick
- 5.7 Other reports *(optional)*
inc Web Admin / PR / E&T Rep / Y&D Rep
Anchor Co-ordinator / Access Co-ordinators

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

(for discussion and/or vote)

- 8.0 Exploration Grants (Appendix 1)
- 9.0 Paperless Surveying (Appendix 2)
- 10.0 Equipment Store (Appendix 3)
- 11.0 CNCC Name Change (Appendix 4)
- 12.0 Any other business
- 13.0 Details of next meeting
Committee Meeting to be held on 13 January at 9:30am
Venue: Clapham Village Hall (Postcode LA2 8DZ)

APPENDIX 1

AGENDA ITEM 8.0

CNCC EXPLORATION GRANTS

At the June committee meeting, Matt Ewles offered to draft wording for the new CCNC policy on exploration grants.

The committee is now invited to APPROVE the following:

PROPOSED WORDING

(suggested by Matt Ewles and Aila Taylor)

The CNCC welcomes applications for exploration grants across the areas we represent (northern England and Scotland), as part of an initiative to support those who seek to further our knowledge of northern caves and discover new places that others might enjoy.

Funding is primarily intended to help cover costs associated to procurement of materials and consumable items or equipment hire, but other costs will be considered.

To make an application, we will require a summary of your project including the nature of the work you are seeking funding for (e.g. shaft sinking, stabilisation, underground digging, diving, pitch scaling, conservation, surveying), project timeframes, the amount you need and, as accurately as possible, a costs breakdown of how this is going to be spent.

All applications will be decided by CNCC Committee.

Any project receiving CNCC funding must show that all necessary permissions are in place, including Landowner and/or Natural England consent where appropriate. Applications must include a conservation plan to show that all relevant aspects of conservation have been considered. This includes spoil management, precautions to minimise the impact of your work, preservation of new discoveries, restoration and cleanup of the site once work is completed, and making surface entrances safe for people and livestock.

It is important for CNCC to be transparent and publish details of projects receiving funding. Grant recipients are expected to provide follow-up on how the project has gone (or is going) once some reasonable progress has been made. The exact expectations associated to each grant may vary on a project-by-project basis.

To make an application, use our online form, or email secretary@cncc.org.uk.

APPENDIX 2

AGENDA ITEM 9.0

PAPERLESS SURVEYING

(from Ian Patrick, Training Officer)

The CNCC is looking into facilitating paperless surveying in the region, both the equipment and training workshops.

We have already identified some experienced volunteers to run workshops.

In order to carry out this training, we are looking to purchase the following:

Disto (x310 Model) £280

Disto "cave survey" upgrade PCB £200

Tablet with rugged case £200

We estimate that three sets would be required to run a training event. As well as workshops, this equipment could also be lent out for survey projects in the region, and possibly to expeditions.

Three sets would cost around £2000, a very significant investment, although this may be reimbursed by the BCA.

An important consideration is the delicate nature of these instruments, which could easily be damaged in a cave environment. Furthermore, they need regular maintenance, recharging the battery, and ensuring the devices do not stand too long and discharge naturally. Like any Li-Ion device, if allowed to discharge below a certain point, it can be very tricky to restore the battery.

We welcome any input from committee members and thoughts on these costs.

APPENDIX 3

AGENDA ITEM 10.0

CNCC EQUIPMENT STORE

Verbal update from Jon Beavan (JJ) and the Chair (AH)

(The June committee meeting accepted JJ's offer to look for possible storage options)

APPENDIX 4

AGENDA ITEM 11.0

CNCC NAME CHANGE

The June committee meeting had a brief discussion on a suggestion from JJ to change the name from "Council of Northern Caving Clubs" to "Council of Northern Cavers & Clubs". This would better reflect the inclusive nature of the CNCC, and give a more accurate impression when dealing with other bodies.

This is an opportunity to have a more detailed discussion, and possibly make a recommendation to the next AGM.

For example, would we wish to introduce individual membership (in addition to club membership) as happens with Devon & Cornwall Underground Council (DCUC) and with Derbyshire Caving Association (DCA)?