

# COUNCIL FOR THE NORTHERN CAVING COMMUNITY

British Caving Association

## AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE MEETING

17 January 2026 at 9:30am  
Clapham Village Hall (LA2 8DZ)

- 1.0 Apologies for absence, and verification of quorum  
*(Minimum is 6 committee members, plus one officer)*
- 2.0 Fire Safety Policy
- 3.0 Declaration of conflicts of interest
- 4.0 Acceptance of minutes from October Committee Meeting  
*(already reviewed for one month, before publication on website)*
- 5.0 Matters arising (and updates) from October Committee Meeting

OFFICER	ACTION	UPDATE
Jill B	Finalise June committee minutes	Done
Jill B	Prepare and circulate October committee minutes	Done
Todd R	Report progress with Representation Working Group (including CDG and instructed caving community)	
Andrew H	Liaise with SA re Swan Dike Pot fencing work	
Mike A	Finalise wording for access to Skirwith Cave	
Gary D	Update website re Skirwith Cave access arrangements	

## 6.0 OFFICER REPORTS

*(Available one week prior to meeting)*

- 6.1 Chair Todd Rye
- 6.2 Secretary Jill Bolton
- 6.3 Treasurer Kath Davis
- 6.4 Conservation Officer Kay Easton
- 6.5 Access Officers James Alderson/Mike Appleton
- 6.6 Training Officer Ian Patrick
- 6.7 Other reports *(optional)*, including:  
Access Co-ordinators, Web Admin, Anchors, Projects,  
Archaeology, PR, Inclusivity, Y&D, E&T, BCA report

## OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- 7.0 Representation Review ( Appendix 1)
- 8.0 Anchor Projects ( Appendix 2)
- 9.0 Access Agreements ( Appendix 3)
- 10.0 Any other business
- 11.0 Details of next meetings

Annual General Meeting to be held on 21 March at 10:00am  
Venue: Clapham Village Hall (Postcode LA2 8DZ )

Committee Meeting

Provisionally booked for 13 June (to be confirmed at AGM)

*This avoids NAMHO (and a private event in the village hall) on 20 June  
and the BCA AGM weekend on 27-28 June in Derbyshire.*

### **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

The current CNCC Secretary is standing down at the AGM in March,  
and we are looking for a replacement volunteer.

There's an excellent description of the role on the UK Caving Forum:

<https://tinyurl.com/4z67skuk>

This is a very rewarding position, with a chance to have a huge positive  
influence on northern caving. If you think you can help, please get in touch.

Lots of assistance will be available from other officers, including two  
previous secretaries.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**AGENDA ITEM 7.0**

*(for discussion)*

**REPRESENTATION REVIEW**

(Todd)

Verbal report to meeting

**APPENDIX 2**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8.0**

*(for approval)*

**APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL ANCHORS - LOST JOHNS' MONASTERY PITCH** (Matt)

Gary and I have just completed an audit on this superb route in Lost Johns' which really doesn't get the traffic it deserves. The topo was quite wrong in several places and has now been corrected.

However, the take-off for the main drop of Monastery Pitch really does need an additional anchor. For this pitch you descend 3m, swing off into a small side passage which leads to a hang on the far side of the shaft. This is rigged from a single good P-anchor.

However, to create a Y-hang, cavers have historically used either a natural thread which had some in-situ tat through it to use (as getting a rope/sling through it would be really hard, it is very narrow). That in-situ tat has snapped since our last visit (no doubt resulting in a brown undersuit for someone) and is firmly wedged in there.

Alternatively, there is a second, older generation fixed anchor on a spit thread which is now rusty. This may have been deemed suitable when the cave was anchored 30 years ago, but it certainly isn't now. Basically, there is no suitable second belay point for this take-off of a 35m descent, which is not ideal. We would like to install one additional anchor to create a Y-hang, which we will ideally place at the site of the current spit anchor (which will be removed). We will also tidy up the broken tat currently jammed in the hard-to-access natural thread.

Secondly, we would like to create an additional deviation on the final pitch of this route, as currently the route descends into the full force of the waterfall. This will ideally be achieved as a drilled thread. However, we would like permission to install an anchor should a drilled thread not prove to be viable. Currently, you are under the full force of the waterfall even in moderate water levels.

**APPENDIX 3**  
**AGENDA ITEM 9.0**

*(for discussion)*

**ACCESS AGREEMENTS**

(Tim A)

Restrictive, unreasonable access arrangements - should CNCC be publicising them? We should be careful that we are not seen as working on behalf of the landowner by publicising unreasonable access arrangements imposed on cavers by them.

There is a very real danger that other landowners see how accepting we are of this type of arrangement and are encouraged to impose similar. We then do their work for them by spreading it around our media.

The sort of conditions that CNCC might find unreasonable are;

- Restrictions on who can have access (eg excluding non-club cavers)
- Writing for permits
- Providing proof of insurance
- Conditions such as no social media, etc

Is it not better to say that "there is no formal access arrangement for this cave"? Leave the landowner sort out his own access issues and offer to assist only if reasonable conditions are applied. CNCC represent cavers and have earned considerable respect from both the caving community and outside of it.

Our organisation has a value and we can be of use to landowners working in partnership. Rather than accepting any access, we should only promote access that is favourable to those we represent.