



Snowdonia Mines Access and Conservation Group

Inaugural Public Meeting 29th February 2012
Memorial Hall, Betws-y-coed, North Wales.

The Minutes

Attendees Present (45 total)

Gethin Thomas (*Interim Chairman*)
Miles Moulding (*Interim Secretary*)
Dena Proctor (*Interim Treasurer*)
Carey Davies (*Great Orme Exploration Society*)
Richard Flethon (*Great Orme Exploration Society*)
Dave Linton (*Welsh Mines Society*)
Dave Wrennall (*Great Orme Exploration Society and Towers Outdoor Education Centre*)
Leo Scheltinga
Joel Colk (*United Cavers Exploration Team*)
Simon Lowe (*ANMHS/ Welsh Mines Society / Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society*)
Graham Derbyshire (*Glaramara Centre*)
Chris Radford (*Ogwen Cottage OPC*)
Steve Holding (*Shropshire Caving Club*)
Mike Moore (*SMTL*)
Amanda Burnham (*Towers Outdoor Education Centre and Nant BH Outdoor Education Centre*)
Mark Waite (*Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society*)
Melfyn Jones (*Friends of Cwmorthin*)
Jan Timmer (*Friends of Cwmorthin*)
Don Westley (*South Snowdonia SAR Team*)
Myfyr Tomos
John Nicholson (*United Cavers Exploration Team*)
Bella Nicholson (*United Cavers Exploration Team*)
Ed Jones (*RYG Outdoor Education Centre*)
Dave Tyson (*Wirral Caving Group*)
Mark Richards (*Blue Peris Outdoor Education Centre*)
Brian Edwards (*Great Orme Exploration Society*)
Shon Scheltinga (*North Wales Cave Rescue Organisation*)
Llion Meredydd (*Aditnow and Mine-Explorer*)
Sharon Rosser (*Tyn Dwr Peris Outdoor Education Centre*)
Bob Field (*Caerblaidd Country House*)
Jim Cole (*Grosvenor Caving Club*)
John Hopbason (*Grosvenor Caving Club*)
Tom Marshall (*Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre*)
Martin Chesmer (*Marlehall Outdoor Education Centre*)
Ian Adams (*United Cavers Exploration Team*)
Martin Poole (*United Cavers Exploration Team*)
Nick Hughes (*United Cavers Exploration Team*)
Cath Bourke (*Plas Dol-y-moch Outdoor Education Centre*)
Meirion Thomas
Pete Rigby (*Ty'n y berth Mountain Centre*)
Steve Lea (*Great Orme Exploration Society*)
Debbie Wareham (*Great Orme Exploration Society*)
Neal Rushton (*SCMC*)
Andy Harris (*SCMC*)

Apologies

John Hine
Elsie Little
Llion Derbyshire
Dan Jackson
Olly Burrows
Rupert Jones
Roy Starkey

Meeting Called to Order at 7:10PM

Business

- Chairman welcomes the assembled. Each person present requested to introduce themselves.
- Chairman reads Apologies and introduces present committee.
- Chairman presents to the assembled on a range of subjects roughly encompassing:
 - The chain of events leading to the formation of the group
 - The historic situation of the Forestry and Rhiwbach Slate Quarry
 - Dena Proctors involvement with Forestry access negotiations
 - The interest to local OEC's in some of the venues in Forestry
 - The BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATIONACB Scheme
 - The Cambrian Caving Council
 - Update on negotiations between the Cambrian Caving Council and the Forestry Commission Wales
 - The present legal situation with access including relevant Forestry Bylaws
 - The benefits the group could bring if formalised
 - The draft constitution of the group
- Chairman and Committee take questions and give answers.

Motions

It is agreed to suggest and vote on changes to the draft constitution first, then to vote on whether to actually formalise the group or dissolve it.

- Motion: to limit the geographical boundary of the groups access arrangements with the Forestry Commission to the Gwydyr Forest.
Vote: Motion Carried by show of hands.
Resolve: The group will only seek to administer access within the CCC agreement with the Forestry Commission to those mines located within the Gwydyr Forest Estate, including Rhiwbach.
- Motion: To change constitution wording "Equivalent Insurance" to "Appropriate Insurance".
Vote: Motion Carried with no objections.
Resolve: The constitution wording to change as requested.
- Motion: To add a post for Conservation Officer to the committee.
Vote: Motion Carried with no objections.
Resolve: Post for Conservation Officer to be created.
- Motion: To change running term of all committee posts to three years.
Vote: Motion Carried with no objections.
Resolve: All terms to change to three years.
- Motion: To amend constitution to allow removal of Chairperson via EGM or AGM motion.
Vote: Motion Carried with no objections.
Resolve: Constitution wording to be amended accordingly.
- Motion: Vote to amend constitution wording to allow further constitution changes by simple 2/3rds majority of ordinary members, rather than requiring unanimous agreement of committee.
Vote: Motion Carried with no objections.
Resolve: Constitution wording to be amended accordingly.

- Motion: To scrap clause 12b from Constitution.
Vote: Motion Carried with no objections.
Resolve: Clause to be scrapped.
- Motion: To ensure that mine inspections remain paid for by professional users who need them.
Vote: Motion Carried with no objections.
Resolve: Committee agrees to this term.
- Motion: To investigate any legal obligations or liabilities that might be bestowed upon committee or group members not covered by the BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATIONACB or 3rd party insurance scheme
Vote: Motion Carried with no objections.
Resolve: The committee agrees to investigate this issue.
- Motion: To allow a Caving Club to become a group member (whilst allowing that clubs members to also join individually if required).
Vote: Motion carried with no objections.
Resolve: Caving Clubs will be permitted to join as a member.
- **Motion: Based on the constitutional changes suggested by the attendees and agreed in the above motions, the following and most important motion is to decide whether or not this access group should be formulated and brought into existence or not.**
Vote: By show of hands - 30 in favour, 1 against. The remaining members abstaining from voting.
Resolve: The group shall be formulated.
- Motion: To change the name of the group from "Snowdonia Mines Access and Conservation Group" to "Gwydyr Mines Access and Conservation Group".
Vote: Motion carried with no objections.
Resolve: The new name for the group shall be "Gwydyr Mines Access and Conservation Group".

Committee Posts and Nominations

- Post for Chairperson: Gethin Thomas nominated, seconded, and agrees to stand for the post.
Vote: Motion carried by majority vote.
Resolve: Gethin Thomas elected to Chairman.
- Post for Secretary: Miles Moulding nominated, seconded, and agrees to stand for the post.
Vote: Motion carried by majority vote.
Resolve: Miles Moulding elected to Secretary.
- Post for Treasurer: Dena Proctor nominated, seconded, and agrees to stand for the post.
Vote: Motion carried by majority vote.
Resolve: Dena Proctor elected to Treasurer.
- Post for Conservation Officer: Thomas Marshall nominated, seconded, and agrees to stand for the post.
Vote: Motion carried by majority vote.
Resolve: Tom Marshall elected to Conservation Officer.
- Post for Representative to Outdoor Education Centres: Mark Richards nominated, seconded, and agrees to stand for the post.
Vote: Motion carried by majority vote.

Resolve: Mark Richards elected to represent the interests of OECs.

- Post for Representative to Recreational Explorers: Simon Lowe nominated, seconded, and agrees to stand for the post.

Vote: Motion carried by majority vote.

Resolve: Simon Lowe elected to represent the interests of recreational explorers.

- Post for Ordinary Committee Member: Ed Jones nominated, seconded, and agrees to stand for the post.

Vote: Motion carried by majority vote.

Resolve: Ed Jones elected as ordinary Committee Member.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50pm.