

GOODLUCK MINE PRESERVATION CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 7.45 pm on Thursday 9th September 2010
at "The Bell Inn", Cromford.

Minutes

Present:

David Barrie (Secretary)
Brian Spencer
Ken Bennett
Mark Taylor
Kay Barrie

Richard Halford (Chairman)
Paul Chandler (Mine Manager)
Malcolm Scothon
David Baines

1. Opening remarks by Chairman.

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting. RH stated that a grant had been received from Toyota and that there had also been an increase in the number of visitors to the mine, He also reported that there had been an attempted break-in to the mine entrance, with one bar on the entrance gate bent. It had still been possible, however, to gain entry. RH brought members up to date on the Toyota grant bid – stating that £1,000 had been obtained; which would enable the club to purchase ten lamps.

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from John Kitchener.

3. Approval of minutes of last meeting,

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Mine Managers Report.

PC said that since the last meeting seven mine inspections had been carried out. Shaft excavation work had continued and a stemple inserted to ensure the safety of the hanging wall. Progress, however, remained slow. There had been an accident in the mine with MT injured. A rule had now been put in place that safety footwear be used at all times work was in progress. An accident book was now kept in the mine, within the mine information pack held inside the entrance. Signs had been fitted on the visitor route in accordance with the mines inspector's requirements as had one restricting access beyond the escape shaft to twelve persons. The fixed open day was working well, posters were attracting visitors. The Peak Walking Festival had also attracted visitors and helped us raise £81 plus the sale of three mugs.

6. Secretary/Treasurer's Report.

David Barrie said there was a steady stream of interest from the website, generating a constant and welcome stream of visitors, including small groups. The website was also continuing to attract a large number of hits. Links had been exchanged with both Corris Mine and the Llynwernog Silver Lead Mine. The benefit of attending the Cromford Weekend had been proven, as this generated the contact with Toyota. As a return favour it had been undertaken to give their staff a free trip (as they were raising funds for charity). RC and DB have said they would lead. The landlord of the 'Rising Sun' was also offering a free buffet. This trip is scheduled for Saturday 25th September 2010, meeting at the Rising

Sun at 10.00 am then to the Goodluck Mine. Twelve visitors were anticipated. (*Secretary's note – now re-arranged, with two trips in view of likely numbers, for 9th and 16th October*).

It was also said that some of the money was hoped to be used for having schools visit the mine at a later date. There followed brief discussions with members present as to the practical difficulties of carrying out these trips.

David Baines mentioned that teachers would have to be on the trip, and care would have to be taken to comply with law on Adventure Centres. *Guidance has been obtained – under the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 'caving' as a licensable activity excludes those places 'principally used as show-places open to the public.'* Clearly we fall into this category. *We may be liable to license if we provided services for a fee to schools. The intention at present would only be to provide taster trips for teachers to establish demand for school trips, and the costs of operating school trips including licence (if required) would form part of a Heritage Lottery bid (already discussed in principle).*

David Barrie said that a banner could be made and this would be put on his Land Rover on Open Days to advertise the mine. The meeting approved expenditure on this – *eventual total was £69.80 including delivery and other charges.*

The secretary stated that the next Council Meeting of NAMHO was to be on the 13th November at Middleton Stone Centre. Members were invited to attend.

7. Treasurer's Report:-

Brian Spencer said that the new account was up and running with the Co-op and that there was £100.00 in the account. The cheque for Toyota grant was to be paid in.

DB stated that there was a total of £2382.75 (including grant) for funds, stock of £989.50, with a debt of £603.75, which is payment for mugs. It was proposed that the £603.75 would be paid back to David Barrie, this being agreed by everyone present; cheque duly countersigned by PC.

There had been a steady income from people visiting the mine. DB stated that additional income had been gained from the new booklet, costs being saved by printing on a colour laser, rather than a commercial printer. Consumables were paid for by the secretary. It was noted that John Kitchener had given a kind donation of £20, and that other members continued to provide services and materials free of charge.

It was essential that we maintained contingency funds for any emergency work required at the mine (the recent attempted break in was cited as an example).

8. Open and Working Days

RH said mid-week visits to mine were possible, but 2 – 3 days notice was needed.

It was stated that the Manchester Geological Society trip had been very successful, with a walk also being organised in the afternoon. It was felt that there may well be a return trip to the mine.

Discussions then took place regarding opening up Guph Gate to visitors with the desirability of clearing the barrier of debris in the passage. Access to this would be for clubs and not the public in the first instance. PC stated that he would want this route checked by the mines inspector. It was agreed that when the annual visit by the mines inspector took place his advice would be sought in checking this area and seeing what work would be necessary to enable public access.

RH and DB gave members present the news of a new exploration of a 22m shaft in the mine. After abseiling to the bottom a series of mud tallies had been found on the wall to one

side with fingerprints still visible. Photographs had been taken – this being something that was very rare to find. RH expressed his view that the mine had been worked from the 1600s in view of the extent of the workings.

BS suggested that his contact details be included in signs at the mine, as emergency contact, as he was both a keyholder and lived relatively locally. This was agreed.

Secretary's note – signs have now been altered and installed by the Chairman.

Mark Calladine is going to get some decking to do upper decking in the near future.

Also said there would be interest in the mine later because the Cave of the Peak District should be out soon. RH expressed an interest in ordering a copy – *secretary has sent off the form accordingly.*

The question of organising trips for members to other mines and caves was discussed, and received general approval. DB mentioned the possibility of reciprocal trips to Corris Mine and Llynwernog. The possibility of trips to Spinney level and others was raised. It appeared that there was a possibility of PDMHS members joining the group if such trips were arranged.

9. Publicity

David Webb, caving film maker, has sent Simon Alsop a copy of his trip to Goodluck Mine, and also footage of Bonsall Moor.

10. Any Other Business

PC raised the matter of an outdoor centre (Stanley Head OBC) wishing to access the mine for trips, and the possibility of their becoming members. The general consensus of the meeting, however, was that this would only be to gain a key and a cheap exclusive venue for adventure trips. It was generally felt that this was not in line with the objects of mine preservation and that it would be too difficult to monitor these trips and ensure that no damage was done. The suggestion was rejected.

It was suggested that the inner door and older tub were painted on a future working day. It was also suggested that we place a sign inside the entrance with contact details, where it could not be vandalised.

PC suggested the purchase of helmets at £5.00 each from Screwfix. It was felt, however, by the meeting that the existing stock would suffice for the time being. In passing DB mentioned that KSE had a new helmet out, but that the cost would be close to £50. A cheap solution was felt to be perfectly acceptable.

Meeting was closed at 9.16 pm.

Time, date and location of next meeting.

No date set at time of meeting; this to be decided by Chairman and Secretary.