

Minutes of the 72nd MCG AGM – 18th April 2026 @ 10.00am

(Virtual and Cottage meeting)

Members present and apologies:

Present at the cottage: Tim Francis, Bill Chadwick, Brian Snell, Matty Dredge, Martin Rowe, Yvonne Rowe, Pete Bennett, Keith Knight, Martin Cross, Jason Kirby, Daniel Matthews, Kay Matthews, Russ Porter, Mike Ormond, Mark Edwards, Ben Cooper, Nicole Hedberg, Fiona Kempston, Roy Kempston, Bryan Pittman, Steve Porter, Pat Walsh, Mike Moxon,

(20 voting members. those not entitled to vote: Fiona Kempston, Bryan Pittman, Nicole Hedberg.)

Signed record of those present – see **APPENDIX 1**

Present virtually on MS Teams: - Denise Knibbs, Jonathan Roberts, Hayley Clarke, Becky Vials (4 voting members)

24 voting members in total

Apologies for absence received from: Charlie Alison, Doug Harris, Joan Goddard, Julie Hesketh, Dave Cook, Patrick Newman, Tom Harrison

2026 MCG AGM (CIO 1197325)

The meeting began at 10.00am.

1. Welcome, appointment of Chair – Tim Francis

2. Record of those present, indicating physical or virtual presence, as well as those sending their apologies. see **APPENDIX 1** and the list at the start of these minutes.

3. The 2025 AGM minutes were reviewed

Bill talked through the 2025 minutes and it was noted that the action in 6.1 to re-assess the totals for Building rebuild costs and Contents value has not been completed.

Action on the Trustees to progress this and complete it.

4. Proposal: that the Minutes of the 2025 AGM for both charities are a correct record.

A vote was taken to accept the 2025 AGM minutes as a true record of the meeting.

For 17

Against 0

Abstentions 7

Tim stated that there were no outstanding actions with respect to the old charity 270088. It was recorded that a request has been submitted to the charity commission to close the old charity.

5. Presentation of officer's reports

Secretary's report

Bill went through his report. The Land registry change is now complete, with the new MCG CIO charity (1197325) now the owner of the cottage. An outstanding hurdle which has finally been overcome. He said that the bank account connected to the old charity was now empty with its contents transferred over to the new Nat West account relating to the CIO charity. The old account will be closed.

The telephone/internet connection have been ported to a 4G connection with the phone using voice over IP protocol (VoIP) and a resulting faster internet performance. The old landline was now not required.

Bill went on to talk about exclusive use bookings mid-week. There had been some potential bookings from groups who wished to book the cottage for exclusive use but had been relatively small parties and who not progressed the booking due to the cost of booking 30 beds. This represented a loss of income for the group. He asked for views from the floor. There was some discussion on this with differing views. A suggestion of a minimum payment for 20 beds midweek attracted some consensus. Ultimately it will be down to the committee/trustees to decide where we go with this issue (**Action** trustees).

Treasurer's report

As the Treasurer wasn't present, Bill talked through his report. He mentioned that a degree of automation had been introduced into the accounting system and thanked Tom for his efforts. It was noted that there was a small error in line 12, relating to Investment Income of his report. The word below had been used instead of above. This would be corrected for the records.

There had been work on the cottage electrics to make them fire safety compliant. Tom had also transferred membership personal data to a higher security database.

Ben asked what the income was from guest bookings as it wasn't very clear if this included individual guests or group bookings. Martin Rowe suggested that in future, guest group and exclusive use group bookings are accounted for separately, and this was accepted.

Action Treasurer to introduce separate income summations for guest group and exclusive use group bookings.

In all, total expenditure was down.

The chair asked if there were any other questions on the Treasurer's report, but the floor was satisfied.

Investments funds report

Ben went through the investment figures, and they were looking very healthy. He stated he had investigated an additional way of presenting growth values in percentage form which had revealed a remarkable growth on Total funds and Total investments with values of 19.1% and 17.5% respectively.

Tim asked where we were with surplus funds. Ben said that we should put £4000 each into the Henderson and Rathbone funds. Ben stated that the process of getting a double signed cheque was difficult. A request was made for Tom to be contacted to bring a cheque when he attended the evening dinner. (It later transpired that he had received the message too late and was already travelling.)

Tackle Master's report

As Ed Ford wasn't present due to personal issues.

The question of the life of the ropes was asked but Jason said we still had 5 years left in them. The usual issue of degrading tackle bags was raised and it was agreed to ask Ed to purchase some more bags - **Action** Tackle Master.

Cottage Warden's report

Jason talked about the new log burning stove which had been fitted and was performing very well. He thanked Russ Porter for his help in the installation and lining of the chimney. He stated that in general expenses had been low for this year.

There were no questions.

Social Secretary's report

Dan said that there had been some good social events in the year and the Xmas dinner had been a success with a chef cooking the meal. He said that she was happy to return again to cook the 2026 Xmas dinner. Roy Kempston said that it was a shame that we don't get new members attending the AGM and wondered how this might affect future AGMs with core members aging.

Dan said that a lot of the new members tend to be mid-week cavers.

Caving Secretary's report

Mark had nothing to add to the report and he was thanked for his continued work in introducing potential new members to the club. As a result of his efforts 29 newbies had experienced caving and 11 new members had joined the club.

Editor's report

Kay stated that there was not a lot to add to her report. She asked for more trip reports or write-ups. She said that she was keen to only put out a newsletter, when there was sufficient information to put into it. There was a vote of thanks to Kay for her excellent newsletter publications.

Librarian's report

Mike Ormond said he owed a big debt of thanks to Joan Goddard for her sterling work in the library along with Mike Moxon's help. He had noted that there were several books out on loan which were well over-due and had not been returned. He asked that those who have borrowed books to please return them. He said he was planning to create a shared (to all members) on line folder for electronic journals received.

6. Election of trustees 2026-2027

Bill explained that a third of trustees need to resign under the new CIO but can be re-elected.

There was some discussion about the date when trustees were elected.

Ben said we need to show the last election date not when first elected. Tim stated that for the new charity (CIO) the election dates should start from the date of creation of the CIO which was the 4th January 2022.

Action Secretary to rectify that for future AGMs.

The table from the agenda has been updated for these minutes to show initial election and re-election dates.

Tim suggested that vote on block to accept the trustees' posts.

Proposed Matty, Seconded Mike Moxon

Vote:

For 23

Against 0

Abstentions 1

Vote to elect trustees as presented in the table below

Role	Candidate	First Elected as CIO trustee	Last Resigned & Re-elected	Resigned 2025-2026	Proposed By	Seconded By
Custodian	Brian Snell	4/2/2022	5/4/2025	No		
Custodian	Tim Francis	4/2/2022	6/4/2024	Yes	Tom Harrison	Kay Matthews
Custodian	Jonathan Roberts	4/2/2022	5/4/2025	No		
Investment Administrator	Ben Cooper	4/2/2022	5/4/2025	No		
Secretary	Bill Chadwick	4/2/2022	6/4/2024	No		
Treasurer	Tom Harrison	4/2/2022		Yes	Kay Matthews	Jason Kirby
Cottage Warden	Jason Kirby	4/2/2022	6/4/2024	Yes	Tom Harrison	Kay Mathews
Caving Secretary	Mark Edwards	4/2/2022	6/4/2024	No		
Tackle Master	Ed Ford	21/8/2025		No		
Social Secretary	Dan Matthews	4/2/2022	1/4/2024	No		
Editor	Kay Matthews	5/4/2024		Yes	Jason Kirby	Tim Francis
Librarian / Recorder	Mike Ormond	5/4/2025		No		

Vote:
For 24
Against 0
Abstentions 0

Election of non-committee posts for 2026-2027

6a Conservation and Access Officer.

Matty Dredge said he was happy to continue in the post. Matty is also proposed as one of MCG’s Charterhouse leaders.

Vote:
For 24
Against 0
Abstentions 0

6b Rescue Warden

This post is no longer active.

Ben asked what had happened to the rescue kit bags and box.

Jason said that the karabiners and pulleys were now in the Tackle store for use.

It was agreed that due to the Mendip Cave Rescue group now playing the leading role in practise rescues the post of **Rescue Warden** was now defunct and would now be removed as a non-committee post.

Vote to remove the post:

For 12

Against 0

Abstentions 12

7. Election of examiners 2026-2027

Steve Porter said that in general he had been happy with the accounts and was happy to continue as an examiner. It was agreed to re-elect Linda Milne as the second examiner pending her agreement (which was received after the meeting).

Proposed Jason K, Seconded Pete Bennett

Vote:

For 24

Against 0

Abstentions 0

8. Matters for discussion

Bill talked about the new fire regulations having a big impact on the MCG and it meant that the MCG would fail an inspection currently. There hadn't been a fire safety inspection for some time and that a recent appraisal from an MCG member who was retired fire chief had revealed a number of major failures. We will need to replace all the Bedroom doors, as well as the Lounge, Library and Changing room doors. For the new fire doors to comply they must be fitted by a certified fitter, who can then issue a certificate of compliance acceptable for fire regulations.

The over estimated cost for this £1500 per door but it was potentially more likely to be £700 to £800 per door. A considerable cost. For the accounts it was agreed that the MCG would be looking at an estimated cost of between £5000 and £9000.

Martin Rowe questioned the requirement and said that the current doors were fitted with intumescent strips. Jason pointed out that these had been painted over and now, unless a door is fitted by a certified fitter, the doors were not valid.

This fait accompli was accepted by the floor, and the cost would be taken out of Covid grant money received in the past.

Keith Knight asked what was the time scale to get the doors fitted. Jason said we need to do it ASAP.

Jason also stated that candles use is now banned.

Any other business

Mike Ormond said that it might be worth setting up a first aid course for cavers. Matty said he knew someone he could get in to do this. It was agreed that this would be a useful thing to do.

Date and venue of the next AGM

10.00 am on 10th April 2027 at the cottage

Vote:

For 24

Against 0

Abstentions 0


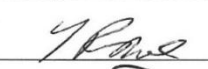





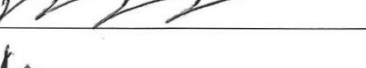



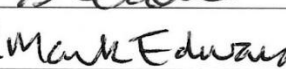
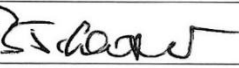
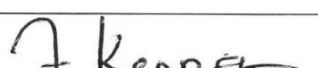
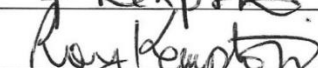
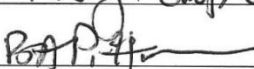
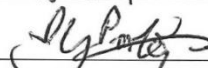
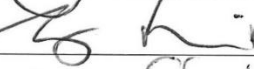
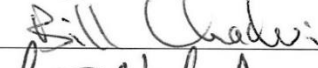
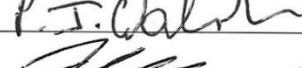

The chairman closed the meeting at 11.30am.

Minutes taken and written by Brian Snell (Custodian Trustee)

APPENDIX 1.

Mendip Caving Group (CIO 1197325) 2026 AGM

Attendance Sheet for those present at Nordrach

Name	Signature	Full Member?
Matty Dralge		✓
YVONNE ROWE		✓
MARTIN ROWE		✓
Paul Bennett		✓
Kurt Knight		✓
MARTIN CROSS		✓
Jason Kirby		✓
Daniel Matthews		✓
KAY MATTHEWS		✓
Brian Snell		✓
Russ Porter.		✓
Mike Edwards		✓
MARK EDWARDS	RMarkEdwards	✓
BEN COOPER		✓
NICOLE HEDBERG		No.
Fiona Kempston		No
Roy Kempston		✓
BRYAN PITTMAN		No ASSOCIATE
STEVE PORTER		✓
Tim Francis		✓
Bill Chadwick		✓
Pat Wahl		✓
MIKE MUXON		✓

Those present on-line

Name	Full Member?
Dorice Kniss	✓
Becky Vias	✓
Sondra	✓
Harley Clark	✓