

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on October 5th 2010 at Evolution Climbing Wall, Plumyfeather Farm, Lye Green at 19:00.

Present:	Tim Skinner	Chair
	Bob Moulton	BMC
	Geoff Pearson	BMC
	Chris Tullis	Site Warden
	Martin Brice	BMC
	Sarah Cullen	BMC

Action

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Jim Clarkson, Johanna Howells, Nigel Head and Tim Daniells.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (18/05/10)

These were agreed.

3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below

3a Filming at Harrisons Rocks TS said that the BBC's Countryfile had filmed at the rocks. He said another organisation had paid £500 for a half day's filming but not actually filmed.

4 Harrison's Rocks Work and Site Manager's Report

4a Cement Work Work is still needed on Wailing Wall, Blackeye Wall, The Flakes, Archers Wall and Right Circle. SC said that she would speak to Laurence Reading again to see if he would be willing to do the work. **SC**

4b Resin Work Work is still needed on North Boulder, Bow Window (both high priority), The Flakes, Foresters Wall, Birchden Wall, Southwest Corner, ZigZag, Rift (all medium priority), Carrera, Coronation Crack, Moonlight Arete, The Mank, Piecemeal Wall, Isolated Buttress Climb and Birchden Corner (all low priority). TS said that Steve Reed had not been able to do any work this year. GP said he was trying to arrange resin training for Matthew Tullis, Barnaby Bentham and Chris Searle. **GP**

4c Bolts TS said that the scheduled testing had been done. The testing had highlighted the fact that there were still a number of bolts to be placed and one (on The Vice) that needed to be removed. A temporary tag had been placed on the bolt telling people not to use it and TS had instructed CT to remove it but this had not yet been done. TS re-iterated the importance of this work to CT who agreed to get it done. TS reported that Dan Middleton, technical officer from the BMC, wanted to come down to advise on testing and placement of bolts. A visit will be arranged for the spring – it needs to coincide with the availability of CT. **TS**

- 4d Woodland Management & Ground Erosion Work** TS said Malcolm McPherson had phoned following a meeting with the forestry consultant who is advising on the woodland management plan. The consultant said the plan was good and didn't need too many changes but had made some suggestions. Malcolm will work on these and get it re-checked, but hoped to have it ready for submission to the Forestry Commission within 10 days. Malcolm said that the consultant was optimistic about grant aid for the cutting, controlling the bracken and in due course for fencing. TS said there had been an SVG day on June 5th to brash some areas at risk of erosion following the 'corridor clearance', mostly under Unclimbed Wall and Isolated Buttress.
- 4e Car Park and Toilet** TS reported that Sport England had completed all the necessary repairs to the buildings etc.
- 4f Signs** TS said that CT had sent a guidebook to East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. TS reported that the wording for the small signs needed in the carpark, campsite and toilet block had now been agreed and he had asked CT to get quotes. He will check with CT to see how this is going. BM said there had been no real progress on signs except Elfyn Jones of the BMC had appeared to agree with HRMG that the signs should be done by Steve Jackson. Rob Dyer of the BMC was coming down on Friday and the matter could be brought up then. TS said that Steve McCarthy had been in touch regarding the Forestry Commission's plans to erect interpretation boards along the new paths in Birchden Wood. Steve had suggested that HRMG and the FC collaborate on new signs and a new noticeboard in the carpark. BM will contact Steve to arrange a meeting. **TS/CT/BM**
- 5 Health and Safety**
- 5a Notes of any Accidents in the Accident Book** There were no accidents to report. TS has still to contact the BMC and also consult with Graham Adcock about getting hold of a first aid kit for SVG days. **TS**
- 6 Financial Report**
- 6a HRMG Budget** BM said the balance in the Harrisons Repair Fund was looking reasonably healthy. He also queried why the campsite money was showing as 'money in' to the budget when in fact it should go to the Julie Tullis Memorial Fund. The group agreed that the campsite money needed to be accounted for as payment in and then straight out to the fund. SC queried the amount against this year's Cesspit Expenses as it seemed very large. TS will contact Alan Brown to ask him about these points. **TS**
- 7 Stone Farm Rocks**
- 7a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** TS reported that he had now received consent from Natural England for the proposed tree cutting and erosion control work. He had booked November 20th/21st with CT to do the work and would get quotes from two tree surgeons. Some volunteers will be needed and he will contact the SVG. **TS/CT**
- 7b Resin Work** See 4b above. **TS**
- 7c Signs** BM had spoken to Don Sargeant about producing a map of the site similar to the one of Harrison's. **BM**

8 Charitable Trust

SC said that all the paperwork had been completed and the trust would be created very soon. She also said that it would be named the Steve Durkin Sandstone Trust. Steve Durkin, who had set up the trust, had donated £1,000 to it in his will. SC said methods of publicity were being sought, and possibly a Justgiving website. GP asked about the original money that had been donated some years ago from one Henry Buist who had left a sum to Harrisons several years ago. BM said the BMC should be asked to transfer the money to the new Trust, and that TD had been in touch with Dave Turnbull about this, who had agreed in principle. GP proposed this meeting formally request the money be moved to the 'Buzzard Trust', as it will surely become known. This was agreed. **TS**

9 AOB

9a Visit by Elfyn Jones Elfyn Jones, the BMC access & conservation officer, visited the rocks on July 28th and subsequently produced a set of recommendations for management of the site. BM said he had made a detailed response to the report, and there had in turn been a very constructive response to that. The group discussed fencing and TS said there should be a clearly-marked boundary to our land. TD, in an email to TS, had said he did not think it was necessary for the BMC officials to make quarterly visits. BM read an email from Elfyn that said the rocks were the BMC's most managed and complex crag and said he thought the proposed frequency was reasonable. The group noted the recommendations in Elfyn's report and discussed his comment about feedback from an HRMG member about works being completed, as it was felt that it was unrealistic to ask HRMG to check all of Soft Rock's work. TS reminded CT of the outstanding task – Quotes for signs and bolt placement/removal and reminded him that Soft Rock was paid an annual fee to do such work. CT agreed to complete the outstanding tasks. TS also asked CT to send copies of his timesheets and invoices to him from now on. TS and CT both reported that they were waiting for Elfyn to send them templates of (respectively) risk assessments and timesheets/invoices.

9b Martin Brice TS reported that Martin had decided to step down from HRMG, and thanked him for all his work and contributions over the last few years. TS will consider a replacement. **TS**

9c Harrison's SNCI TS reported that he had been contacted by Tim Smith, assistant county ecologist at East Sussex County Council, regarding the designation of Harrison's as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. No-one on the group had been aware of the designation, it carries no legal weight, and the last survey was done in 1995. It was agreed that TS would ask ESCC to do a new survey so that the current state of the rare bryophyte and fern colonies could be established.

10 Date of Next Meeting The next meeting will be held at Evolution climbing wall on Monday January 17th 2011, at 19.00.