

**Minutes of BMC Cymru South Wales Area Meeting
Llangattock bolting proposals**

8.00pm, Wednesday 17 September 2014 at The Old Rectory Hotel, Llangattock.

Chair: Gareth Tucker

Number Present: not recorded

BMC Officer: Elfyn Jones

Elfyn introduced the section and the background.

Land is CROW, management agreement with BBNP expired, looking to renew but not for free.

Site is a SSSI

Queries re web fora for bolting proposals, is SWMC Wiki sufficiently independent?

Discussions around communication/notification of meetings, and which area/sub groups should be involved.

Elfyn confirmed the details of the meeting were emailed to every BMC member in Wales for whom an email address is held, via the newsletter.

TP - Query re first ascensionist's implied power of veto and when this changed for South Wales. National position statement is clear.

Proposal from Matt Woodfield is the only one as the table as Roy Thomas not available to propose his ideas.

Gareth – going around in circles, the views in past have given merit to this meeting.

Elfyn – clarity that voting is an expression of the view of people present/the area, it's not an authority to proceed or denial of permission.

Martin – climbed at L since 74, new routes since 85, quite a few new routes. Did some work for BMC around 2000 and re-energised views of the crag.

Supplement.

Some routes contain pegs, some are in good nick. Some existing routes re-cleaned. Guidebook text re-written. Much better crag than perceived. Many safe trad routes despite the reputation for loose rubble – try the routes out you may enjoy them. Some routes will need further basic cleaning of loose holds via abseil – particularly bold trad routes that haven't been climbed for years. There, accessible, beautiful.

Gwent MC – case to be made for lower offs?

Will – long term – trad climbing for future generations – largest inland trad climbing venue in South Wales.

Gwent MC consensus – would support first ascensionist's wish to retro bolt. Would also support bolting un-usable routes, and bolted lower-offs where necessary for awful top-outs. Wouldn't want to affect the quality of the crag by increasing traffic too much.

Agreement with BBNP nearly reached on belay stakes.

Around 25% of routes need a lower-off as cliff is overlain by rubble, whether pre-placed rope or stakes.

General agreement that drilled equipment lower-offs be allowed, where necessary for safety to mitigate an unreasonable degree of risk; with landowner and FA permission. Martin Crocker and Tony Penning happy for their routes to have lower-offs.

Vote:

No new drilled equipment on the routes (excludes lower-offs see above) – 10 for

Pegs replaced with pegs on point for point basis – no objections

Wonderlands – bolts appear to have been stolen and peg will be rotten. Clean up and leave for a new FA.

Proposal for crag clean-up day at the crag in April 2015.

No further business and the meeting was finished