

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2014 at Evolution Climbing Wall,  
Plumyfeather Farm, Lye Green at 19:00.

Present:	Tim Skinner	Chair
	Bob Moulton	BMC
	Sarah Cullen	BMC
	Geoff Pearson	BMC
	Rob Dyer	BMC
	Mary Symes	Village Rep (Withyham PC)

### Action

#### 1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Daimon Beail, Emma Harrington, Chris Tullis and Anne Jenkins.

#### 2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (13/01/14)

These were agreed.

#### 3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below

**3a Wealden DC** MS said that she had spoken to William Rutherford of Wealden District Council about attending these meetings but it was hard for him to make them. MS will keep on trying to get someone to attend. **MS**

**3b Approach Road** TS reported that he had spoken on the phone to Mathew Maguire at the Forestry Commission, who had agreed to send someone to survey the approach road but that so far nothing more had happened, except that someone had dumped hardcore into most of the holes which had improved the situation a little. MS reported that Withyham Parish Council had also been in contact with the Forestry Commission to ask for something to be done and that the combined pressure seemed to be working, albeit slowly. **TS**

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

**4a Cement Work** TS reported that no cement work had been done. He and Rob Dyer had met Gawain Theobald at Harrison's and he was still willing to do some of the work. The group discussed the hourly rate that should be paid for this work and eventually agreed on £10. The areas that may need some attention are the top of the boulder on Tame Variant; the top of Baldrick's Boulderdash; the top of Piecemeal Wall; the arête of Sossblitz (although resin may be more appropriate here); Greasy Crack and Giant's Ear. **TS**

- 4b Resin Work** No work has been done so far this year. work is still needed on North Boulder, Bow Window (both high priority), Root Route 3, Panther's Wall, The Flakes, Forester's Wall, The step across from the Isolated Buttress, Southwest Corner, Birchden Wall, Birchden Corner, Forget-Me-Not, Last Chance, ZigZag, Rift (all medium priority), Carrera, Coronation Crack, Moonlight Arete, The Mank, Piecemeal Wall and Isolated Buttress Climb (all low priority). BM reported that at the open meeting the evening before Nigel Gower and Martin Walker had both said they were willing to do some of this work, at the same rate as the cement work. He also said that a thorough survey was required first and that sections of the crag would have to be cordoned off while the work was done. BM also reported the view expressed at the open meeting that some research was needed into the best material to use and said that subsequently he had learned from Mike Vetterlein that Mike Eden had written a report on this subject some years ago and concluded that the shellac furniture polish used is as good as the materials used in restoration work and was much cheaper. BM will arrange the work. **BM**
- 4c Anchors** TS reported that he and Rob Dyer had looked at a lot of these during their site inspection. New swageing is required on Eyelet and Ejector and the rear anchor of the latter should be replaced, new anchors are required above Long Layback now that the tree stump has been removed, the anchors on Bow Window should be removed and a new set placed at the top of the crag, new swageing is needed on What Crisis, a placement is still required above Right Circle, the front set of anchors above Unclimbed Wall still hasn't been removed, the rear anchor needs some more resin and some extra resin is needed around one or two others (detailed in the report). TS will arrange dates with DB to do the work, so that DB can learn how to place and repair the anchors. TS also said that the branch above Two Toed Sloth, that is supported by a wire, should be removed and anchors placed above the climb. **TS, DB**
- 4d Woodland Management & Ground Erosion Work** TS reported that the fencing work should start on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May and that he and BM had contacted Mrs Treptie and the Smiths to let them know and also make sure that access would be possible for the contractor. BM said that we should organise a weekend in September or October to pull up or cut down sycamore saplings throughout the woods – care will be needed in the recently cut compartments not to trample the other saplings that are appearing. Rob Dyer said that he had taken over the work to dedicate the rocks as open access land. TS said that following a conversation with John Stafford of the Forestry Commission he would be putting in an application for grants to treat the bracken and rhododendrons, treat the sycamore stumps and to plant new trees in some places. There is no money left this year so this would be for 2015-16. TS also said that he was in the process of arranging dates with Tony Flint to cut the third compartment this autumn, from the Pigtail Slabs to the Fallen Tree. He also reported that there had been a fire the previous weekend above Moonlight Arete, probably caused by a campfire above Orangutang that had got out of control. A yew tree and other vegetation had been badly singed and the rock had been damaged by the campfire. **BM, TS**

- 4e**      **Car Park and Toilet** TS reported that the toilet block and campsite were open again and that although Sport England felt that all the ‘snagging’ issues had been resolved, he and Chris Tullis didn’t think this was the case. The water pressure problem has been sorted out, but the PIR lighting isn’t working properly, the skylight in the Ladies’ is leaking and there is a strange reddish-brown liquid leaking from the lining of the skylight in the Gents’. TS will contact Kevin Burton about these issues. Sport England have sent through copies of the manual for the boiler and the electrical installation certificate. Someone had smashed their way into the lock-up and a new door had now been fitted. Chris Tullis has re-seeded some of the campsite pitches and cordoned them off, Rob Dyer said we should put up some temporary signs to let people know about this. Sport England had done some patching of the carpark surface but had not repaired the track between the campsite and the toilet block as they felt it was too expensive to justify. TS reported that Chris Tullis has decided to step down as site contractor from the end of June which leaves the group with a five month gap before the end of the lease. MS suggested that we talk to one of the local Parish Councils about employing their cleaners but TS said that SC had already offered to take on the work. Rob Dyer suggested that the decision be made by the BMC’s Land Management Group so that no-one could accuse the group of giving the work to one of its own. TS said that would be OK as long as the decision was made quickly as we only have six weeks before the end of June. He suggested that a better solution might be for SC to resign from HRMG while she is doing the work. BM offered to go over the old softrock contract and put something together for the current situation. Rob Dyer said that as far as the future of the toilet block was concerned, the BMC’s position hasn’t changed. **BM, TS**
- 4f**      **Signs** BM said that there was still a sign on the reverse of the noticeboard saying that the facilities were closed and that this should be removed by Chris Tullis. Chris has put up a number of new signs directing traffic to exit past the money box, which has resulted in better takings. He has put up new signs in the campsite and a new noticeboard is on order. **CT**
- 5**      **Health and Safety**
- 5a**      **Notes of any Accidents in the Accident Book** There were no accidents to report.
- 6**      **Financial Report**
- 6a**      **HRMG Budget** this was noted by the group. BM pointed out that the amounts paid to softrock for the rocks and the facilities were still the wrong way round in the report – TS will contact Alan Brown to get this corrected. **TS**

## **7 Stone Farm Rocks**

**7a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** TS reported that the erosion control work done in March was looking good and that the old footpath wasn't being used because the new one was a better, more direct option. It was suggested at the open meeting that some coppicing of hazel and other suitable trees should be done in our woodland and the group agreed, TS will contact the SVG to arrange a weekend in the winter and BM offered to contact Natural England to seek permission for the work. **BM, TS.**

**7b Resin Work** see 4b above. Work is still needed on the right arete of Inaccessible Boulder where there are a number of boulder problems, at the bottom of Key Wall, Bare Essentials, Pinnacle Buttress, Pinnacle Buttress Arete, Overlapping Wall, Front Face, Chipperydoodah, Thin and Remote. **BM**

**7c Signs** nothing to report.

**7d Anchors** These are still required above Inside Or Out, and new swageing is still required on one set of anchors. During their site visit TS and Rob Dyer checked the state of the stumps above The Face and Stone Farm Crack and agreed that the former should be removed, with new anchors being placed above both routes. Permission will be required from Natural England. **BM, TS, DB.**

## **8 AOB**

**9 Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held at Evolution climbing wall on Monday October 13<sup>th</sup> 2014, at 19.00.