

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on May 17th 2015 at Bowles Rocks, Sandhill Road, Eridge at 15:30

Present:	Tim Skinner	Chair
	Bob Moulton	BMC
	Daimon Beail	BMC
	Emma Harrington	BMC
	Adrian Paisey	BMC
	Sarah Cullen	BMC

Action

1 Welcome and Apologies

No apologies were received.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (19/01/15)

These were agreed. TS noted a typo in 6a where 'to balance' should read 'the balance'.

3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below

3a Approach Road

TS asked about the works on the approach road to the car park and SC reported that this work will be done on Tuesday this week, subject to good weather. The top surface cannot be laid in the wet weather.

3b TS reported that he had made a request to the BMC for Liz Holley to join the Forestry Commission's Car Park Advisory group as a representative of the BMC, however this would not be within the remit of her role as regional development officer.

3c TS reported that he had recovered the bolting materials from the cupboard at the car park and is holding them at his house. The resin materials are with Steve Jackson who is now undertaking this work.

4 Harrison's Rocks Work Reports

4a Cement Work

SC reported that a piece of cement had fallen from Spider Wall and hit a boy on the leg whilst climbing under instruction at Harrison's. Although the boy was unharmed apart from a scratch, his father had requested that this was reported. BM followed this up at the LMG meeting last month and reported that Ian Nettleton had been consulted and the conclusion was that we should inspect, photograph and record the condition of all cement along the entire length of the crag and tap with a hammer to identify any further loose cement. This exercise would then

BM/TS

be repeated at intervals (yet to be determined) in future. Rob Dyer and Dan Middleton have been delegated to draw up a method statement along with input from HRMG. We are hoping to set up a project to investigate the bonding between the cement that has been used and the Sandstone, to be undertaken by a geology/engineering university student under guidance of an expert in the field and it will be followed up both at our HRMG and at the BMC's Land Management Group meetings. BM will talk to Ian Nettleton to chase this up. BM also volunteered to help undertake the 'tap' survey, as did TS, and they agreed to do this sometime in July or August. TS said that he has a log of anchors with relevant dates and will continue to keep a record.

4b Resin Work BM

TS reported that Mike Vetterlein met with Steve Jackson and has given him some instruction on how to carry out the resin work. Steve Jackson now holds the materials for this. AP reported that some work has been done on Bow Window already and BM suggested that we should ask Steve to complete a resin survey of the crag. AP suggested setting up a central email mailbox for people to be able to report any broken holds to. BM said that he would ask the BMC if they will take on this role and to forward any relevant information to us.

4c Anchors TS/DB

TS reported that the BMC have bought us a new drill, some resin packs and a new dispenser and that all the anchors on the to-do list have been done. These are, Right Circle, Grants Crack, Long Layback, Giants Staircase, Bow Window, Sashcord Crack and Two Toed Sloth. The anchor on Long Layback is moving on a 'twist' and so is Sashcord Crack (slightly). TS agreed that AP's idea of 'flooding' the drill hole with PVA prior to replacing the anchor is a good plan and may help with the bonding. TS reported that the old anchor on Bow Window needs to come out as do some others, including the old one on Unclimbed Wall and the rear anchor on Ejector. There was some discussion on how to remove the old anchors and the most sensible solution seemed to be to angle-grind them and then cap the remainder with some resin so that there are no sharp edges left. TS also reported that a lot of swaging has been done and AP suggested double ferrules be used to eliminate any sharp frays. It was agreed that no further anchor work would be done until we have some advice from Ian Nettleton following the university project.

4d Woodland Management & Ground Erosion Work SC/BM

New Gate

TS said that a new gate was put in at the bottom of the rocks to allow for emergency service access.

Isolated Buttress

TS reported that there was a site meeting on 9th February with Ian Nettleton to discuss the options for access onto the Isolated Buttress. Ian reported back and the favoured option of the BMC was to build a bridge across the gap. We have done some canvassing and the reports were mixed. More recently we have had some emails where some local climbers have expressed their strong views against building a bridge. These included emails from Chris Boylan, Tim Daniells, Graham Adcock

and Chris Tullis. Options factoring in liability were discussed and the conclusion was to review the situation after the summer as for the moment climbers seem to be accessing the buttress safely and there have been no reports of anyone lowering off.

Woodland Management

TS reported that we are due to work on compartment D this winter and SC will contact Tony to book in the chainsaw work to be done for some time in November or early December. TS said that the FC's grant scheme has changed and that the new one should be available for an application sometime in July. BM suggested that perhaps the BMC or an agent would make this application for us.

BM mentioned the growing problem of the Himalayan Balsam at the bottom of the rocks and suggested that we contact Phil Loasby and pay him to strip it out either by strimming or pulling the roots out. SC will contact him.

4e

Signs

BM/TS

TS suggested that a new sign should be put up by the gate at the bottom of the rocks, (near the beech tree) stating that the gate is for emergency access and should be kept clear. It was agreed that we should also put up a sign (the same as the signs in the car park) by the fence squeeze and BM said that he would speak to the BMC about giving the signs a facelift. TS has been sent 10 'no fires or barbecues' signs from Rob Dyer which will be placed along the top boundary and at the north and south gates.

5

Health and Safety

5a

Reports of any Accidents

There were no accidents to report.

6

Financial Report

BM, TS

6a

HRMG Budget

TS reported that there are several headings that are no longer relevant since the cease of the car park responsibilities and these can be removed from the financial report. He said that he did not know why the JTMF showed in sundry creditors an amount of £352 but will ask Alan Brown.

BM said that Bill Renshaw had raised the question about what to do with the balance of reserve funds (£61,108) and BM asked the group whether we should use it until it runs out or do something else with it. DB suggested making improvements to the paths surrounding the rocks, putting in some drainage around the grants crack area, and perhaps buying some tools although AP said that it would be better to hire tools and suggested using some of the money for the university project. SC suggested investing the money in a high interest account where a lot of our day to day expenses may be covered by the interest gained. BM said that he would take it up with the BMC.

- 7 Stone Farm Rocks**
- 7a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work**
 TS reported that a volunteer day was held in February and that quite a lot was done, mainly tree work carried out by Graham Enwright. Branches were removed from an oak and a yew above the Cat Wall area, many smaller trees were coppiced on the slopes below the rocks and several other trees were crown-lifted near the Inaccessible Boulder.
- 7b Resin Work** **BM**
 There is still some resin work to be done.
- 7c Signs** **BM**
 Signs were discussed and it was agreed that a 'revamp' of all signs is required. (see 4e above).
- 7d Anchors** **TS, DB**
 There are a couple of outstanding anchors to be done. In particular anchors are required on Inside Out, The Face and Stone Farm Crack. Consent will be required from Natural England. This work will be left for now (see 4c).
- 8 AOB** **BM**
Birchden Wood Advisory Group
 BM said that he would ask for volunteers at the Sandstone Open Meeting to fill the place required for the Forestry Commission's Advisory Group on Car Park matters.
- 9 Date of Next Meeting** **SC**
 The next meeting will be held at The Crown in Groombridge – (SC will book a room) on Wednesday October 14th 2015, at 7pm.