

## HRMG Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on January 11th 2016 at The Crown Inn, Groombridge

Present:	Sarah Cullen	Chair
	Adrian Paisey	BMC
	Bob Moulton	BMC
	Daimon Beail	BMC
	Emma Harrington	BMC
	Mark Brewster	BMC
	Rob Dyer	BMC

Bolt testing Stone Farm and Harrison's due 2019

### Action

#### 1 **Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies from Tim Skinner and Rina Quinlan (FC)

#### 2 **Minutes of the Last Meeting (19/10/2016)**

No comments

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

None to report

#### 4 **Harrison's Rocks Work Reports**

##### 4a **Cement Work**

Nothing to report on cement work, we will review this at next meeting

##### 4b **Resin Work**

SC/AP

No resin work has been done (or can be done) over the winter period however there will be areas to be done in the spring. Steve Jackson is aware of these and SC will talk to him further.

Fairly urgent areas are:-

Isolated Buttress  
The Vice Area

AP will do a test area of resin on the boulders near the Isolated Buttress, using a template to try out different resins.

#### **4c Anchors**

**DB/AP**

Two Toed Sloth bolt needs sorting out so that anyone using the easy start to the climb does not set their ropes up from the bolt for the usual route, which causes rope drag damage. SC said that it would be nice to do this before the spring and that she and Daimon/Tim will get together to have a look at where the best placement would be.

AP is liaising with Loz from Bowles about anchors and what the best methods and bolts are.

SC mentioned the bolt workshops that the BMC will be running soon. DB, EH, TS are going and Adrian and MB are also keen to go.

DB said that the bolts they placed recently don't move greatly, however would like to do some more testing.

DB started a discussion on what we should do with 'stubs' of the remainder of anchors we've hack-sawed off. RD suggested coring out the old bolt. MB may have a tool to do this. DB will talk to Dan Middleton at the bolt workshops.

DB said that he'd like to buy some equipment for bolting and RD said that the BMC are happy to fund it, although we should keep an inventory of equipment we have that is owned by the BMC.

DB said that he will place a test bolt in the spring, using liquid cement to seal the bore-hole in the rock, followed by resin to secure the bolt in place. He said that the bolt should be placed very soon after (on the same day) as the liquid cement, once it had set.

The group agreed to revisit discussions on anchor placement at the next meeting after bolting workshops.

#### **4d Woodland Management and Ground Erosion Work**

**SC**

SC reported that the damaged steps (farthest easy way down at Unclimbed Wall end) had been replaced and that they blended in well.

Tree work. SC reported that there had been a good turn out on the SVG days and that the clearance had gone well. The tree surgeon was new and SC said that next time she will ask him to cut the trees into smaller pieces so that they can be manoeuvred. BM noted that perhaps the tree surgeon may have cut down more trees than we would have liked, for example, too many cherries. SC will talk to him about this when we carry out the next tree cutting in November 2017.

Volunteers also cleared a large section of brambles and undergrowth along the top and bottom of the smaller rocks near to North Boulder. The overhanging, large, and rotten stump near to Slab Direct was removed, drainage work was done in the Vice area and work was also done on the steps by the Root Routes.

4e

The group also talked about the Himalyan Balsam, which will be an on-going job. The Balsam is prevalent along the railway track and on the lane beyond it; it's unlikely we can eliminate this completely however we will continue to keep strimming it every spring before it flowers.

### **Signs and Code of Conduct**

BM/RD/  
SC

RD reported that Steve Jackson has emailed the files (of the new signs) to him but he is unable to read them in the current format. BM will ring him. SC said that we will have future options for putting more information in the car park as the FC are hoping to turn the cleaning cupboard in the toilet block into an information point. We will also put a new sign at the bottom of the south end of the rocks near the 'squeeze' in the fence.

SC will talk to the new residents in the cottage below the rocks to introduce herself to them.

### **Code of Conduct – Bouldering Sense**

Brushing – SC said that the wording that had previously been agreed ('Don't use toothbrushes or boulder brushes') could be open to interpretation and that we may have issues with boulderers using alternative brushes which are also damaging to the rock. DB said that sometimes he, and other climbers like to use a very soft (car wash, or similar) brush to gently brush of sand and debris and didn't want to eliminate this type of brushing, so a discussion was had, and the group concluded that we would keep the wording, but to also add 'Repetitive brushing will damage the rock'.

RD suggested that the BMC could add video to their collection on good practise for cleaning sandstone.

RD said that he will talk to art department at the BMC to create draft leaflet in line with their style for 'Bouldering Sense'.

### **Code of Practice**

Consideration to changing the style of the Code of Practise, to bring it in line with the same style of the Bouldering Sense leaflet, was given, and RD said that he would ask the design team to send us a draft. SC and DB may be able to provide some photographs for the new leaflet.

4f

## Isolated Buttress

MB/AP

MB will draft wording for the new sign to go up by the Isolated Buttress before the spring.

AP suggested that we set criteria for what we are monitoring this year. The main points were:-

1. lowering off
2. abseiling
3. using bolts not for top roping
4. leaving ropes up
5. AP and MB agreed to prepare a document to spell how this would be done and to explain to others the process,

## 5 Health and Safety

### a) Reports of any Accidents

There were no accidents to report.

## 6 Financial Report HRMG Budget

The accountant has now removed all the obsolete sections on the accounts that referred to the car park and soft rock.

## 7 Stone Farm Rocks

### 7a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work

SC/RD

SC to get quotes to replace the damaged fence.

BM said that a discussion was held at the Open Meeting regarding whether or not it would be a good idea to have an in-situ BBQ at Stone farm to discourage people having disposable BBQ's. The group felt that because the site is not managed in the same way as the Car Park and in-situ BBQ is at Harrison's it may encourage more people to create litter there. RD offered to put a 'no fires metal sign' up.

There was discussion about the location of the sign at the entrance to the Rocks from the bridleway, DB said that most people didn't walk past the sign in its current location and that a better location for this and a No Fires sign would be further along the bridleway. SC to look at this and get new posts put in as necessary at the same time as the repairs to the fence, If moving the main signs, it would be worth getting new signs made up to incorporate the changes being made to the Harrison's signs.

## **7b Resin Work**

See 4b.

## **7c Signs**

As above

## **7d Anchors**

As above

## **8 AOB**

SC noted that some lads had been Lead climbing near Long Layback over the Xmas period. Something to watch out for.

SC said that a couple of film companies had enquired about using the rocks for filming, and that we'd previously agreed that film crews should be chaperoned by a member of the group whilst they are on site. SC has made arrangements to do this. This is a paid role and a negative response was given to SC asking if anyone else on the group was keen to participate.

DB said that he is keen to 'modernise' the HRMG name and for it to become the Harrison's Rocks Management 'Team' rather than 'Group'. After a short discussion the group decided that they were happy to remain the HRMG.

RD said that the BMC would like to provide members of the Group with BMC logoed clothing and these should be available soon. It was agreed that this should also apply to other local volunteer activists including Graham Adcock, Steve Jackson, Robin Mazinke and Martin Walker. **RD**

SC brought up a query that the Forestry Commission have had from a local history group. They were keen to have someone along to talk to them about the history of Harrison's. As a result of the work that had had done on the historicals for the CC guidebooks, BM was 'targeted' for this, and he said that he was happy to talk to them on the phone about it.

There was discussion about the Open Meeting following the low attendance at the meeting in October and the discussion on the subject that had taken place at the end of that meeting. RD described the sort of initiatives being used in other areas, talks from BMC ambassadors/others, quizzes etc. and recommended what Rick and Liza had done for L&SEAC, who he thought could help. It was agreed that AP and MB would look into these ideas and plan a new format for the 21st May open meeting **AP/MB**

## **9 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be in the Crown at 7pm on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017