

Harrison's Rocks Management Group Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on May 17th at The Crown Inn, Groombridge

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

Bolt testing Stone Farm and Harrison's due 2019
Cement Survey due 2018

Action

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Tim Skinner

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (11/01/17)

No corrections were reported to be required.

3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below

Sandstone Open meeting

AP asked if this group are responsible for the Sandstone Open Meeting. Although the Sandstone Open Meeting covers all sandstone crags, RD said that he considers this group (HRMG) a steering group for it.

4a Harrison's Rocks Work Reports

Cement Work

SC

There was a discussion as to whether or not we need to do any cement work and the group said that it is not such a problem as it used to be with the anchors that we now have; a lot of the damage to the top of the crag occurred prior to the anchor placements and that a lot of the rope grooves were caused by rigging from trees. The conclusion was to avoid using cement where it's not needed; perhaps try using resin first to see if that has enough of an effect to not need to use cement. AP said that TS is waiting for the bonding agent to arrive from Portsmouth university.

The group agreed to keep an eye out for anything loose or any urgent areas for cement work.

It was also agreed to discuss with TS how often we should repeat a survey of the cement, which BM said took up most of a day, maybe starting with a trial survey of a small section of the Rocks to assess how much

deterioration if any had taken place. BM made it clear that he did not think that it should be combined with bolt testing. AP suggested that we keep a note of when we need to survey the cement and this will be added to the Agenda – next year survey cement at Harrison's.

4b Resin Work

SC reported that she has met with Steve Jackson at Harrison's Rocks to ascertain where areas need resin work. Steve has recently done a large area on the Isolated Buttress traverse that needed attention, along with some other smaller areas. AP said that the notes that Steve leaves on the rocks to ask people not to climb on the freshly worked on rock look professional. SC

SC asked if we could buy Steve a rope access style harness as a standard climbing harness can be quite painful to hang in for a length of time. RD agreed that the BMC were happy to pay for this under the requirements of Personal Protective Equipment.

AP said that he is waiting for the new bonding agent to arrive before he can carry out the test areas.

4c Anchors

DB,TS,AP/MB

DB said that we are waiting for the bonding agent from Portsmouth before we do any bolting. He said following the BMC bolting workshop that Y-shaped bolts are more likely to stop the twisting that we have seen in some recently placed bolts. RD said that he could add some to his order which he is about to put in. DB said that we need to think about what specifically we want, and that we might want some samples. DB said we can give him a design.

SC asked if we could prioritise fixing the bolts that are currently moving as there have been a lot of complaints. DB said that he and Tim will go and fix the wobbly bolts as a priority before the new bonding agent arrives.

AP reported that he and MB had drilled out the old bolt on Bow Window and repaired the area. The old bolt on Unclimbed Wall still needs to be done.

4d Woodland Management and Ground Erosion Work

SC

The next area of tree work will be done near Unclimbed Wall this autumn. SC to get in touch with tree surgeon.

DB said that he was concerned about trees at the top of the rocks falling off and asked if should we be cutting them down. MB asked RD if we are responsible for the trees given that they are a natural hazard. RD said that it's something we should bear in mind and keep an eye on. The group agreed that if we are aware there are dangerous trees then we need to be dealing with them.

AP asked what we want to do about planting some new trees at the bottom of the rocks where we now have large open areas of bracken. SC to ask Kate at the Forestry commission for advice on what trees might replicate

- 4e** what would found be in a natural woodland like this. All
Signs and Code of Conduct

RD brought with him the newly printed code of practice. EH and DB will take them to local climbing walls and HRMG members will take some to give out at the crag. Remainders will be held at the new information point at Harrison's Car Park. SC to take some to Bowles.

The group agreed that we would not print the Bouldering Sense section separately, rather keep this section within the new Code of Practice leaflet.

RD also brought with him the new information signs for Harrison's. We need to put in two posts for the sign at the south end of the rocks. DB undertook to put the signs up.

- 4f** **Isolated Buttress** All

DB reported that he had a message from Mike Parks regarding his view on access to the Isolated Buttress. The group agreed to continue to monitor the situation and to document feedback until the end of the Summer at which time a decision will be made about whether to install a bridge or not.

5 Health and Safety

5a Reports of any Accidents

There were no accidents reported.

6 Financial Report

HRMG Budget

SC

SC reported that she had not given the finance department at the BMC sufficient notice for them to prepare the accounts in time for the meeting, however she said that she didn't think that it was too much of a problem as our accounts are now fairly static in that we no longer manage the finances of the car park and that our expenses are minimal. She said that she will email the report to the group once it arrives from the BMC.

7 Stone Farm Rocks

7a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work

SC reported that the old broken fence by Inaccessible Boulder has now been replaced with a wooden post and rail fence.

7b Resin Work

Nothing to report

7c Signs

There was a discussion on where a new sign should go and the group agreed to cut back the trees at the entrance to Stone Farm and place a new sign on the edge of the path in a more visible location. The group agreed that new signs are not urgent at Stone Farm and that we will do this and renew the signs once the BMC have worked on their new designs.

7d Anchors AP
Tree stumps on the far wall will at some point need replacing with some bolts. AP undertook to look at them to see whether the stumps could be removed sooner rather than later.

8 Julie Tullis Memorial Fund SC
SC reported that the FC are holding a community café day on 24th June at Harrison's Car Park. The FC have agreed to split the proceeds between the SDST and the JTMF. BM suggested that SC contacts Nick Colton at the BMC to enquire as to how much money is left in the fund and what the future intentions are for this award scheme.

9 AOB

Commercial videos on Facebook

AP reported that a lot of commercial videos are appearing on FB and whether or not we have an issue with this. RD said that if it were a large commercial operation it might be a problem, however didn't think that it was a problem if it was local instructors, which in this case it was.

New Rockfax Guidebook launch

DB reported that his Rockfax guidebook is coming out in September this year. The grading will be French grades for this guidebook with UK tech grades alongside, which he intended to phase out in the next edition and to use only French grades.

Open Meeting

Following low attendance at the recent sandstone open meetings, AP said that he and MB have worked on a new format for the open meeting and they want to restructure it to spend the first ten minutes of the meeting reporting news at the various crags (BM to do this) and then to use the rest of the meeting chaired by AP for questions, answers and discussion. The idea is to limit the meeting to one hour rather than continue with a long agenda similar to the HRMG one. AP suggested that after this year we should have the open meeting just once a year and perhaps to continue to think about the format and to consider combing it with an open day.

AP/MB

Clearance work at Happy Valley

DB reported that Happy Valley has undergone some tree clearance work and that now some of the routes are impossible to rig from trees further back. He suggested that bolts are required here. The group agreed that this would be better placed to be brought up at the Open Meeting on Sunday as it is not a crag that the HRMG are responsible for. RD said that although the bolts at Bulls Hollow and on High Hut Boulder were covered by the BMC's insurance, this would not be the case for any further bolts on crags that were not BMC-owned or managed.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at The Crown on Wednesday 11th October 2017.

