

Harrison's Rocks Management Group Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on May 14th at The Crown Inn, Groombridge

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

Action

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

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Tim Skinner and Adrian Paisey

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (17/01/18)

Daimon's surname was spelt incorrectly in the last minutes.

3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below

SC/BM/RD

The Himalayan Balsam is coming up again and this needs to be strimmed every year, ideally before it flowers. The area near north boulder is particularly affected although it will be difficult to eliminate totally because it grows on adjoining land and hedgerows and is easily re-seeded. Ideally we need to pull it out from the roots as much as possible when we see it.

Rob has a list of local instructors and is sending out a letter regarding good practise, along with some free towels (with wording 'BMC – Respect the Rock' for wiping feet).

Crag specifics – Daimon has done some crag specific work on his website and there is also some information on the RAD. Bob has done some more work on this but he was now thinking it might be better just to refer people to the RAD and to Daimon's website and will come back on it. He has some concerns as to some of the wording for Southern Sandstone and would email RD on this.

Daimon has set up a dropbox account so that we can all access information related to HRMG, although not everyone in the group has signed up to it.

Isolated Buttress and Terms of Reference

SC/RD

Following Dave Turnbull's email regarding three complaints about the HRMG's decision to install a bridge on the Isolated Buttress and the LMG's subsequent decision to re-address the issue, there was a discussion on terms of reference, liability, and moving forward with access to the Isolated Buttress.

It was noted that LMG had taken seriously the liability issues associated with building a bridge and we talked about representation of the HRMG and the LMG. The group felt that the decision made by the LMG to reassess the access situation was unnecessary in that the decision to install a bridge had been discussed at length considering every possible aspect and that it had been made fairly. RD said that he genuinely felt that there won't be a liability show-stopper with installing a bridge, but he will look into it.

There will be a 'special' open meeting and site meeting at Harrison's in October with the LMG. At that meeting, HRMG expressed the view that those against having a bridge installed should be invited to offer only new information to be considered by the management group. It was felt that for the purposes of concluding the issue, unless there were compelling reasons why a bridge should not be put in place with any new information coming forward, that this meeting should not focus on opinions or reasons that have already been taken into account. It will be an opportunity for those who have concerns to raise them and for any new information to be considered. SC to send a strongly worded email to LMG chair, Martin Wragg, to express HRMG's view.

RD and Ian Nettleton will continue their research on construction, costs and liability.

4a Harrison's Rocks Work Reports

Cement Work

A cement survey is due to be carried out and RD offered to help BM with this.

BM / RD

4b Resin Work

Issues with insurance and working at height have been raised and RD has discussed this with Martin Wragg, Ian Nettleton and Elfyn at the BMC. Legal feedback is that it that there is no insurance if you're paying someone to work at height as they are classed as a sub-contractor and would require their own insurance. Volunteers cannot work at height unless there are at least two people present and that a site specific methodology is being followed. This would need to be carried out by professionals and some training for the volunteers would be required.

RD

The worst erosion is at ground level and the group agreed to continue to pay Steve to do this work as it is urgently required (particularly at Stone Farm). RD said that he would check that this is o.k. from an insurance point of view.

The group agreed that the best course of action (other than paying rope

access contractors to do the work) would be to have a pool of volunteers that Steve could call upon to carry out the work following a method statement.

It was recognised that Mike Vetterlein had carried out the resin work for many years and not been paid for it. Our gratitude to him is noted.

4c Anchors

DB/SC

DB conformed his decision not to repair anchors on IB due to access issues for the time being. Two Toed Sloth needs to be done and DB will do this when he gets the equipment back from Adrian. There had been a report of slightly moving anchor on Moonlight arete and we will check this. Anchors to go in along Giant's Ear and DB will liaise with SC on a site visit to do this. Crucifix area anchors need looking at as there lots of earth at the top. DB is working on clearance work at the top here. The old anchor on Unclimbed Wall needs to be removed and DB wants to buy an angle grinder to cut it off and tidy it up with resin over the top. RD agreed that the BMC will buy the angle grinder. Some of the old bolts along the crag may need replacing too.

4d Woodland Management and Ground Erosion Work

SC

SC will contact tree surgeon regarding compartment G which is the area for tree cutting this Autumn. SC will ask advice from the tree surgeon with regard to the fallen tree (which now appears to be dead) as to whether or not this needs to be removed for safety purposes and will also ask him to remove the fallen silver birch at the top of The Sewer.

MB agreed to have a look at finding out what might work with regard to replanting some shrubs and / or small trees in the very blank areas.

MB

Risk Assessment – BM hasn't had much of a response to his risk assessment draft. BM will re-send email and group to make comments.

BM

Signs and Code of Practice

4e Nothing to report at present

4f Isolated Buttress

See matters arising above.

5 Health and Safety

5a Reports of any Accidents

There were no accidents reported.

**6 Financial Report
HRMG Budget**

Report not available due to Alan Brown being away from work with urgent family issues.

7

Stone Farm Rocks

SC

Malcolm McPherson has forwarded us report by Michael Phalen on some unauthorised work that he and some other volunteers had done at Stone Farm. The group agreed that they had done a good job, however following negotiations with adjacent landowners with non-BMC representatives regarding repair work to our fence (that had been damaged by the landowner), questions were raised regarding authority of acting on behalf of the BMC without their agreement. Questions were also raised regarding insurance and RD confirmed that non BMC members would not be insured when working voluntarily in this way. The group recognised the enthusiasm of MP to carry out voluntary work and agreed to co-opt him onto the group if he would like to join.

7b Resin Work

SC

SC to organise a site visit with Steve Jackson and Michael Phalen to look at the resin requirements.

7c Signs

Nothing to report at the moment

7d Anchors

Nothing to report at the moment. We are keeping an eye on the tree stumps above Stone Farm Crack as they will need to be removed at some point and replaced with anchors if possible. At the moment the tree stumps are still holding up.

9 AOB

RP asked RD to request that the chair of the HRMG becomes a paper **RD** member of the LMG. RD agreed and will action this.

GDPR – General data protection regulations. Comes in on 25th May. RD brought this up so that the group are aware. Although this probably won't affect the HRMG it may have repercussions with the email list for the SVG.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next HRMG meeting will be held at The Crown on Monday 8th October 2018.