

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on January 19th 2014 at Evolution Climbing Wall, Plumyfeather Farm, Lye Green at 19:00.

Present:	Tim Skinner	Chair
	Bob Moulton	BMC
	Geoff Pearson	BMC
	Nigel Head	BMC
	Daimon Beail	BMC
	Emma Harrington	BMC
	Adrian Paisey	BMC
	Sarah Cullen	BMC
	Kate Harris	Forestry Commission

Action

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Anne Jenkins and Mary Symes.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (06/10/14)

These were agreed.

3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below

3a Approach Road TS let the group know that the Forestry Commission were going to close the approach road to the car park on the 21st & 22nd and the 28th & 29th of January to carry out preparatory work ready for the resurfacing. KH said that this was mainly to prune back the large trees overhanging the road and also to fell the large conifers next to the toilet block as they were damaging the drains.

4 Harrison's Rocks Work Reports

4a Cement Work TS reported that no cement work had been done. 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.

4b Resin Work No work was done last year. Work is needed on North Boulder, Bow Window, The Vice (high priority), Root Route 3, Panther's Wall, The Flakes, Forester's Wall, 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 Steve Jackson and Mike Vetterlein had not managed to meet due to the bad weather and so no briefing had taken place. BM reported that Oliver Hill was still looking into the merits of the various surface hardening treatments used but as yet had reached no conclusions. **BM**

4c Anchors New swageing is still 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, above Two Toed Sloth and above Grant's Groove following the bolt failure. 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 still needs to arrange dates with DB to do the work, so that DB can learn how to place and repair the anchors. **TS, DB**

4d Woodland Management & Ground Erosion Work TS reported that **BM, TS**

Tony Flint had cut compartment C of the woodland plan in the week commencing November 24th and that SVG volunteers had come in on the following weekend (29th/30th) to clear the arisings and do some ground erosion work – this had all been a great success. One of the other things done was to remove the branch supported by a wire above Two Toed Sloth. KH asked whether a survey of the trees had been done and TS said that a volunteer from the BMC had agreed to do it last year but then pulled out at the last minute. He also said that on the SVG weekend Kevin Rogers had offered to map and survey the trees along the top of the crag. TS had sent him maps of the site but had not had a reply yet. KH suggested pollarding the large beeches above the crag to stop them falling and AP asked whether they could be scanned for rot and weaknesses. KH said this was possible but usually very expensive. There was then a lot of discussion about how to access the Isolated Buttress in the future. In the short term ropes have been placed to aid access. All the suggestions that have been made: a bridge; a wooden half-bridge ('springboard/launchpad'); ropes; ladders and an artificial replacement boulder were considered. TS said that perhaps some kind of oak frame could be constructed to fit into the chimney/crack on the buttress where the fixed rope currently hangs, as that would not involve having to drill any more holes in the rock. NH said that metal rungs were a feasible option, provided they were very long, so that they weren't liable to be levered out by the heavy usage they would receive. GP said that most climbing wall builders could create a replacement boulder but the problem was fixing it securely to the mainland side of the gap. The group still felt this would be out of keeping with the rest of the crag, disproportionately expensive to construct and then to maintain, and so was not really viable. BM reported that he had contacted Ian Nettleton, a member of the BMC Land & Property Group and an engineer and asked him to come to a site meeting at Harrison's to look at the various options. AP suggested that a special meeting should be called after this visit (provisionally set for the 9th of February) so that a vote could be taken by the group and a written proposal created to present to the Open Meeting in May. TS said that he would contact Richard Maslen to ask about materials and plans for a bridge, in the event that this became the favoured option.

4e Signs SC said that she had met the carpenter who was meant to have built a new campsite sign but that he hadn't done anything. We haven't paid him any money so now, as the management responsibility is no longer with the BMC, it was felt that there was no need to pursue this. KH said that the Forestry Commission plan to put up new signs soon.

5 Health and Safety

- 5a Reports of any Accidents** There were no accidents to report. AP **BM, TS** asked if there was a recommended way to report accidents and who they would be reported to, now that there is no site contractor. GP said that as all the signs show that the BMC owns the land, they were the logical body to contact. TS said this was better than members of HRMG because the contact details for the BMC rarely change. BM said that new information could be incorporated into the signs the next time they were redesigned. SC asked whether Ian Nettleton could take a look at some of the perched boulders on his visit, as she was concerned that they could shift and injure or trap someone, BM said he would ask. TS reported that he had telephoned the South East Coast Ambulance Service regarding the issue of the 'squeeze' access points and they had advised him to write in. He had done this and was waiting for a reply.

6 Financial Report

- 6a HRMG Budget** this was noted by the group. GP asked why the money set aside for the ground rent included a sum to allow for inflation when this sort of charge was not subject to it. TS said he didn't know but that it didn't really matter because if the amount held back was more than the sum required, we would just keep to balance in our account.

7 Stone Farm Rocks

- 7a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** BM reported that **BM** Malcolm McPherson had written a plan for tree and ground erosion work and that the two of them had met with Jane Roberston of Natural England at the rocks on the 16th of January. Jane had given verbal consent and would write to us in due course. She also mentioned that she thought the site was well managed. Graham Enwright has volunteered to do the tree work and BM will also contact the SVG to arrange some work days between now and the end of March. BM said that he had also discussed the surface condition of the rocks with Jane and she had said that Natural England might conduct a geological survey.
- 7b Resin Work** see 4b above. Work is still needed on the right arete of **BM** 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.
- 7c Signs** nothing to report.
- 7d Anchors** These are required above Inside Or Out, The Face and Stone **TS, DB** Farm Crack (once the stumps have been removed). Consent will be required from Natural England.

- 8 AOB**
- 8a Birchden Wood Advisory Group** TS reported that the BMC were looking for a representative for this group (set up by the Forestry Commission as a liaison between all the stakeholders in the facilities), alongside SC, the HRMG rep. DB suggested that we contact Liz Holley, the BMC southeast area rep to see if she would be willing to take on the job. TS agreed to get in touch with her. **TS**
- 8b Tools** TS reported that Chris Tullis is going to get rid of a lot of the tools he had bought over the years to use at the rocks and wanted to know if HRMG wanted any of them. It was generally felt that we should keep hold of the specialist tools (e.g. for bolt placement and maintenance) but that otherwise we could rely on the SVG members to supply tools. TS also said that some of the tools were currently in the lockup at the toilet block and that we should recover these as soon as possible. **TS**
- 8c Resignations** TS expressed his thanks to NH and GP for their many years of service (ca 37 and 20 respectively !) and then said that he would be stepping down as chair after the meeting in May, although he was happy to stay on the group if the new chair didn't mind. NH then suggested that SC would make an ideal replacement and the group agreed. TS will feed this back to BMC head office. TS also said that Dave Turnbull was going to come down in May for a thankyou dinner and that he would let everyone know the details once he had them. **TS**
- 8d Group and CoP Brochures** GP said that he would raise this at the open meeting as someone would need to take responsibility for these now that he was standing down. **GP**
- 9 Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held at Bowles Outdoor Pursuits Centre (subject to SC being able to book the room) on Sunday May 17th 2015, at 15.30, immediately before the Sandstone Open Meeting.