

HRMG MEETING MINUTES

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

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

BOLT TESTING REMINDER:- STONE FARM DUE 2015, HARRISON'S DUE 2016

- Action**
- 1 **Welcome and Apologies**
SC welcomed the group and reported that Mick Canning has stepped down from the HRMG
 - 2 **Minutes of the Last Meeting (13/01/2016)**
Approved for accuracy
 - 3 **Matters Arising not covered in other items below**

BM

 - Code of Practice – BM reported that its now ready to go; he has spoken to Steve Jackson and given that it was printed locally previously, he is happy to get quotes in for us.
 - Signs at the entrance to the rocks. Chris Tullis' number needs to be removed and replaced with BMC details. TS said we need one at the bottom entrance. BM suggested that we may need to change belay rope – to rigging rope. Adrian suggested putting stickers over the wording we want to remove, and replacing with the BMC's details (Contact details – phone number for the BMC office – 0161 445 6111 and ask for the access officer – or email access@thebmc.co.uk), so as to save some money on the signs.
 - MB said perhaps break up the signs and have different information on different signs to make people pay attention to them more, however BM said that we don't want too many signs and the group agreed. DB suggested that we have a sign saying 'If you enter this land you agree to the following terms'. BM asked what legal significance this would have and RD said that there was none. There was a discussion on whether we could ask people to leave the land if necessary. RD clarified that although it's open access land we couldn't ask people to leave if it was for something minor, however if they were lighting fires or causing damage then we could.

- SC reported on the graffiti problem. We have had an incident where sadly a young man had taken his own life and one of his friends had carved his name and dates into the rock above Tame Variant. On repairing the rock the young man's mother was very upset as this had become her shrine for her loss. SC offered for her to plant a tree on our land and set up a meeting with the Forestry Commission to discuss placing a bench or sculpture on their land above the rocks. Rob Dyer has written a draft email to send to the mother, however at this time we felt it unnecessary to send it as the mother is now engaging with the Forestry Commission regarding the matter and seems satisfied with this outcome. BM said that graffiti is totally unacceptable and we need to stop it. BM has suggested putting milk on to encourage green growth and cover it over.

4 Harrison's Rocks Work Reports

4a Cement Work

We are waiting to hear from Portsmouth regarding the project that is being undertaken by MSc student Greg Balding. TS reported that he has already knocked off the loose cement and that he has emailed Greg, however he's in the middle of his exams and hopes to start around June 13th and may need another site visit. He may want one of us to join him on that site visit. **TS**

4b Resin Work

BM has spoken to Steve Jackson and he's keen to get on with it once it dries out a bit. SC showed the group some pictures of the area around Tame Variant which needs some attention.

4c Anchors

TS said he has some good anchors at home and will ask Chris Tullis where they came from. RD will write a method statement. AP said that we need to investigate the best anchors that we can get hold of. RD said that Dan Middleton could advise on this and felt that he would advise that Bolt Products anchors are the best. BM suggested asking Scot Titt. Anchors at Bowles have a swivel top and we need to investigate the best possible product. BM suggested asking Loz and AP said he will talk to him. BM suggested AP gets hold of one from Loz and brings it to the next meeting for us all to have a look at. TS has noted that Bowles have several 'do not use signs' and it's possible that the swivel anchor could be subject to vandalism. RD suggested that those with a post bar on a swivel anchor may erode. **TS/AP/SC /MB**

DB reported that the rear anchor on unclimbed wall is swivelling – this has already been reported. TS said that there was an issue to remove old anchors and that we are a bit nervous about removing them without causing damage to the rock. Grinding it off is the likely answer, along with using a core drill then infilling with cement. MB said that he has a method by which he will be able to remove it by drilling down and then infilling it. AP suggested doing this in a trial area. SC suggested Bow Window would be a safe place to try. RD suggested getting a rod and twisting it out. TS said this has been done before, however there were concerns about more damage to the rock. RD suggested trying gently with a metal rod to see if it would easily come out. There maybe a couple more to come out as well. TS said that it was good that people report the loose anchors, and BM suggested that we should write back thanking them for the report and that we are aware and monitoring them. TS said that Harrison's anchor testing is possibly due this year, although Stone Farm does definitely need doing as this was due last year. BM asked RD to set up a calendar system to remind us when they need doing. TS to send RD up to date anchor test records. Discussion on how to do reminder – SC suggested leaving the dates on the minutes.

4d Woodland Management and Ground Erosion Work

- Compartment E is due to be cut this year; this is the area from Slimfinger Crack to Long Layback. TS said that Tony isn't doing any tree work now and TS suggested Simon and Rosie from Eagle Trees, and also Phil Loasby may want to quote. RD said we need to check they've got the relevant qualification tickets. SC will get some quotes for this work. **SC**
- Himalayan Balsam. SC reported that the Himalayan Balsam is coming up again and that she will put up a sign appealing to everyone to pull this plant up if they see it. **SC**
- SC reported that vandals had dislodged large boulders and pushed them over the top of the Rocks above Monkey's Bow, and they were now in the vegetation below Moonlight Arête. They had left another boulder and to stop this also being pushed over the edge HRMG members had dragged it back from the top of the cliff and it was now located where it could not be moved.
- BM Forestry Commission Grants – BM reported that the grant application is complicated and a lot of work. He said that he will talk about it at the LMG meeting and suggest that either the BMC make the application, or we decide if it is worth doing at all. RD said that there is nobody at the BMC office who would be able to do this and so we will have to employ a forest agent. After some discussion it was agreed that it would be worth doing **SC**

it. RD suggested asking Kate Harris at the Forestry Commission who may be able to recommend someone. SC to ask her. RD reported that Jonathon Webb has said that the amounts available were:- £1,282.48 – 2012 (for two years) and £2,500 (5 year application)

4f Isolated Buttress

SC

RD said that the signs had now been delivered and SC will put them up. He said that he doesn't think that there'd be a great defence in court if an accident occurred. It was agreed that we need to remove the rope that has been in-situ, periodically. MB suggested keeping a record of when it's been removed. RD said that if one of us removes it they can email the date to him and he will keep a record.

**5 Health and Safety
5a Reports of any Accidents**

There were no accidents to report.

**6 Financial Report
HRMG Budget**

SC

Tim said that there are loads of things in the report that are no longer relevant – SC to ask Alan to remove them. Page 1 on income management fee/campsite fees etc. can go. Anything to do with the car park can go. Soft Rock can go. Just have maintenance works.

**7 Stone Farm Rocks
7a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work**

SC/TS

SC reported that the fence has broken which was replaced a few years ago. RD suggested a more conventional wooden post and rail fence. A discussion was had on whether or not it is a right of way. There is a problem with people climbing over the fence, RD suggested a sign asking people not to climb over it. AP suggested a robust fence. Bunny Fencing – and/or Simon and Rosie. Tim Skinner to send SC contact details.

7b Resin Work

SC said that Steve Jackson will continue with the resin work when the weather is better and that it's looking better.

7c Signs

BMC details need to be added to the signs at Stone Farm.

7d Anchors

SC reported that she had looked at the anchors on the top of the Face Route with RD. The tree stumps are still usable but rotting and possibility won't last long. TS said that there are places we could put anchors in. RD said that it doesn't need doing immediately but we may need to dig out the mud around and underneath the tree stump to see what it's like underneath. TS said that we would need to decide what sort of anchors to put in.

8 AOB

- RD reported that Arcteryx had been in touch with him and would like to run a promotional weekend where they could perhaps hire 2-3 instructors and teach people about ethics on Sandstone. They would supply equipment and run workshops, provide lunch and a barbeque in the evening. **RD**
- AP said that Group users at Harrison's on a damp day have no concept of rag/carpet/cleaning shoes – it's in the new code, but not on the notices and BM said that this might be a good reason to update the signs. RD suggested he'd write to local groups asking them to use mats and carpets. SC to send him a list of the local users. **SC**

9 Date of Next Meeting
Wednesday 19th October 2016