

Harrison's Rocks Management Group Meeting

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

Present:	Sarah Cullen	Chair
	Adrian Paisey	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 Bob Moulton

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (17/05/17)

No corrections were reported to be required.

3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below

SC reported that the FC held a Community Café at Harrison's Rocks Car Park in June and raised £249.80 which was split between the Steve Durkin Trust and the Julie Tullis Memorial Fund.

Following a discussion with L&SE Area rep, Lisa Payne, SC had asked if there were any volunteers in the group who would be keen to join the HRMG to help communications between the two groups. Lisa came forward with a volunteer who SC emailed but unfortunately he did not respond so Lisa will put it the idea out to L&SE area group again.

4a Harrison's Rocks Work Reports

Cement Work

Nothing to report.

4b Resin Work

Martin has handed back all resin equipment to Steve Jackson as he has an issue with a bad back. MB said he'd be happy to help with this. Steve is making on-going repairs to the rocks where necessary.

4c Anchors

There was a discussion on best methods for bolts. DB was content that the resin they used last time is adequate and AP said that it is important to make sure that we stabilise the holes before the resin is applied. DB said that we will do a stabilisation test with PVA. Rob brought along some new bolts. AP said that he had a discussion with Laurence who he is doing some anchor testing at Bowles, so AP has suggested giving him some of our new bolts to do some testing with; the group agreed that is a good idea. AP

4d Woodland Management and Ground Erosion Work

The next area of tree work will be done near Unclimbed Wall in the first week in November. SVG will be the following weekend, 11th and 12th November. SC to will get in touch with tree surgeon. SC showed the group two quotes from tree surgeons the cheapest being £840.00 from John Miller; it was agreed that he will carry out the work. SC

SC reported that she had spoken to Kate Harris at the FC and John Miller, the tree surgeon re. what trees we should appropriate for replanting in the bare areas. Kate asked what conditions were in the felling license. SC has emailed Malcolm McPherson to ask and has not yet heard back from him regarding this. SC will talk again to John Miller when she sees him for the tree work in November.

4e SC reported that some strimming had been done to ease the overgrowth on the footpath. SC also reported that the area beyond North Boulder will be strimmed to create a picnic area for families. SC

Signs and Code of Practice

AP

The group had a look at a sample poster. RD will add on a bit about toothbrushes, look at making the writing a bit bigger and adding the website. RD will send them out to climbing walls and some to SC to put up at Harrison's. AP will send him a list. SC will put up a Code of Practice poster up on the noticeboard at Harrison's once they are ready.

AP brought up that Frank had raised a point at the open meeting regarding music. The group agreed that this is not part of the code of practice and that the code of practice should be reserved for conservation of the crag only. RB suggested referring people to the BMC's crag code. The group felt that it should be an unwritten respect.

4f Isolated Buttress

1. AP & SC reported on open meeting – 50/50 show of hands at the meeting.
2. AP reported his notes on the Open Meeting and thoughts and issues raised. AP notes:-
 - a. There is no solution that satisfies everyone and the main reason for the delays so far are that the options available are

at extreme opposite ends of the spectrum.

- b. AP proposes the following requirements that we can measure against to help focus the discussion as follows:
 - i. Solution should protect the rock / minimise damage
 - ii. Fair wear and tear caused by climbers employing good practices should be acceptable. Damage through bad practice and misuse in any form is not acceptable.
 - iii. Solution should minimise “abuse” of fixed bolts on the IB
 - iv. We should discount arguments about potential dogging / good practice / use of carpet – These apply to the whole crag, there is nothing to guarantee that climbers accessing via either method will respect the IB any more than on the rest of the crag.
- c. We should assume the BMC support both options and all associated liabilities (This may need further discussion)
- d. We had a discussion around balancing convenience against a “right to climb”. How much additional traffic might a bridge introduce in comparison to the original step across? Was the step really that limiting to the masses?
- e. Group use was briefly discussed but I don’t have the details – one to revisit?

The group discussed the above along with their own views on what access to the Isolated Buttress should be. Given that not all members of the HRMG were present at this meeting it was agreed that a vote amongst only those present would not reflect the group as a whole, so it was agreed that a meeting dedicated solely to this subject would be scheduled as soon as possible and a vote would not be carried out until all members were present.

Date to be scheduled as soon as possible.

5 Health and Safety

5a Reports of any Accidents

There were no accidents reported.

6 Financial Report

HRMG Budget

Nothing to report

7 Stone Farm Rocks

7a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work

SC

Malcolm had made reference at the Open Meeting about some trees that need cutting down. SC will talk to Malcolm re. which trees he's referring to.

There was a report at the Open Meeting that some chipping had been done on Belle Vue Terrace. SC to have a look at it.

7b Resin Work

Nothing to report

7c Signs

Nothing to report

7d Anchors

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. RD said that it's difficult to know how difficult it will be to put bolts in until we take the tree stumps out.

9 AOB

DB brought up the subject of groups not using carpets (although Nuts4Climbing do !). RD suggested a meeting for group leaders although it was felt that the probably wouldn't attend RD suggested having some beer mats made and sent to local group users which would be a good idea.

RD agreed to write to local instructors, including those who are already doing the right things, regarding good practice in a positive way. RD will draft up something and send it round to the HRMG.

RD

SC reported that she had a conversation with Kate Harris from the FC regarding campers who are not paying. It is important for all campers to use the honesty system if these facilities are to be maintained.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next HRMG meeting will be held at The Crown on Monday 15th January October 2017, and another meeting will be called as soon as possible to ascertain the decision for access to the Isolated Buttress when all HRMG members are available.