

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 at Evolution Climbing Wall,  
Plumyfeather Farm, Lye Green at 19:00.

Present:	Tim Skinner	Chair
	Geoff Pearson	BMC
	Bob Moulton	BMC
	Tim Daniells	BMC
	Chris Tullis	Site Warden
	Sarah Cullen	BMC

### Action

#### 1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Sarah Butler and Nigel Head.

#### 2 Minutes of the last meeting (15.10.07)

Agreed.

#### 3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below

**3a Replacement for Lynda Myers** TS will contact Wealden District Council to see if there is anyone willing to attend the meetings. **TS**

**3b Driveway Clearance** CT reported that the Forestry Commission have marked trees in the wood, so may be planning to bring in felling equipment, which would necessitate clearing the driveway to the carpark. If this doesn't happen we will contact them to see about getting it done.

**3c Sandstone Leaders Award** CT is still keen to hold some form of seminar for group leaders. This would need to be well publicised amongst the groups that use the rocks, possibly by leaflets on all minibuses and also by a mailshot to LEAs, Scouts & Guides and the various Army groups. The first seminar could be timed to coincide with the release of the new CC guidebook and BM thought that free copies could be supplied for the attendees. GP volunteered to help CT with the organisation. **CT/GP**

#### 4 Future ownership and management arrangements

**4a The Rocks** BM reported that the latest news is not very good, as he has now finally (after two months) received the colour version of the map that shows the land transferred by the purchase from Mrs Treptie and it shows that we have actually bought the wrong parcel of land, much smaller and further north than originally intended. It looks as if this was a mistake by Sport England's solicitors or by their surveyors, but either way it needs to be sorted out before the freehold is transferred to the BMC. BM has advised Dave Turnbull of the situation and will remind him as appropriate to chase the solicitors. TD advised that the matter could probably be sorted out through the Land Registry and that this would be quite easy as long as there was no objection from Mrs Treptie. BM will try and do this at the Portsmouth office and in the meantime either he or CT will speak to Mrs Treptie. **BM/CT**

- 4b The Car Park** Sport England are still keen that the carpark lease be transferred at the same time as the freehold to the rocks and this is slowing up the process. The Forestry Commission want a survey of the carpark and toilet block – the latter is currently in a poor state, especially the roof.
- 4c The Campsite** no progress has been made since BM met with Mr Littlemore from Wealden District Council at the end of 2006 to sort out the new licence. Having heard nothing since then, BM chased him about it and found that Wealden are unable to issue a licence to the BMC as they don't have a management agreement for the carpark or campsite. This is a low priority at the moment as it must wait until the transfer is completed.
- 5 Harrison's Rocks Work and Site Manager's Report**
- 5a Cement work** nothing to report. Frank Shannon and Pete Atkinson have not been around much and the weather has meant that no work could be done anyway.
- 5b Resin work** TS has contacted Mike Vetterlein and Steve Reed and put them in contact with each other so that Mike can instruct Steve in the art of treating the rocks. Hopefully Steve will then be able to start work once the weather improves.
- 5c Bolts** a set of bolts is still required at the top of *Right Circle*. TS will also update the bolt testing document with details of the bolt holes (as yet unfilled) above *The Nuts*. TS also contacted Steve Jackson about the proposal to fix good practice tags to key sets of bolts. He will contact him again with a view to getting new designs ready for the SVG/Open meeting in May. **CT/TS**
- 5d Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** the SVG weekend that took place on the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> of January achieved an enormous amount, with all the tree clearance completed and the channel under The Vice re-excavated. The group expressed its gratitude to the SVG and especially to Graham Adcock for organising the work. Some future work is needed to repair steps on the approved paths and a small amount of roped clearance work may be needed on the crag itself, although it was felt that the latter could probably be done on an ad-hoc basis. **CT/TS**
- 5e Car Park and Toilet** CT reported that, after speaking to a group of people hanging around in the carpark one evening, he found that next morning all the urinals had been smashed, the glass in the lockup in the Ladies' had been smashed, the sink pipes had been kicked in and the noticeboard had been ripped off. He contacted the police who weren't that interested, despite the fact that CT had the car registration numbers of the group he had spoken to. They apparently followed this up but CT has not heard anything more. Sport England have agreed to pay for the repairs and CT has already had one of the three quotes they require – the cost was £1290 (excluding the glass repairs). CT also said that the handwash units need servicing – TS will contact Sport England about paying for this as well. **CT/TS**
- 5f Signs** the replacement bouldering sign at North Boulder still needs to be put in place but CT has no more signs. TS will contact Steve Jackson and ask him to send the relevant artwork (and the artwork for the graffiti signs) to Guy Keating at the BMC so that we can have 10 A4 signs of both types made up and sent down to CT, who will then erect them as necessary. **TS/CT**
- 6 Health and Safety**
- 6a Notes of any Accidents in the Accident Book** There were no accidents to report.

- 6b Future Health and Safety Inspections** there was some discussion of the risk assessment circulated at the last meeting, as BM had revisited it and had misgivings about some of the entries. The group agreed and went through each entry to assess whether or not it was appropriate for Harrisons and Stone Farm. TS will incorporate the comments and any relevant entries from CT's version into a new document and circulate it to the group before April. **TS**
- 7 Financial Report**
- 7a HRMG Budget** TS will contact Alan Brown and ask that the £200 from Adventure Unlimited be moved from Car Park Income to Other Income and also to ask about the whereabouts of the donation made by Maidstone Mountaineering Club, which was intended for use at Stone Farm. It was decided that separate accounts are not needed for Stone Farm. **TS**
- 8 Stone Farm Rocks**
- 8a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** the revetment repair work is still in the planning stages. CT can get hold of the timber needed but can't transport it to the top of the rocks. TS spoke to two of the volunteers at the SVG weekend who offered the use of their 4x4 pickup – CT to liaise with them once TS has passed on their contact details. **TS/CT**
- 8b Resin work** see item **5b** above.
- 8c Noticeboards** replacement Bouldering and Grafitti signs are need at Inaccessible Boulder. CT to erect them once new signs are available (see item **5f** above). **TS/CT**
- 9 Charitable Trust** TD has not done any work on this, so there is nothing to report. **TD**
- 10 AOB** there was none.
- 11 Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held at Evolution climbing wall on Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2008, at 19.00. There will be a site meeting beforehand at 17.30.