

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2008 at Evolution Climbing Wall, Plumyfeather Farm, Lye Green at 19:00, with a site inspection at 17:30.

Present:	Tim Skinner	Chair
	Geoff Pearson	BMC
	Bob Moulton	BMC
	Nigel Head	BMC
	Chris Tullis	Site Warden
	Sarah Butler	Local Resident
	Sarah Cullen	BMC

### Action

- 1 Welcome and Apologies**  
Apologies were received from Richard Hayden, Tim Daniells and Martin Bryce.
- 2 Minutes of the last meeting (14.01.08)**  
Agreed.
- 3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below**
  - 3a Replacement for Lynda Myers** TS has yet to contact Wealden District Council to see if there is anyone willing to attend the meetings. **TS**
  - 3b Driveway Clearance** SB reported that the Forestry Commission have opened the gate and put up signs, but so far nothing else has happened. CT said that some clearance of the driveway had taken place. TS will contact Steve McCarthy to get the latest information. **TS**
  - 3c Sandstone Leaders Forum** CT has spoken to several people about this, all of whom were keen, but he hasn't yet set a date or organised anything more concrete. BM reiterated the offer of free guidebooks for the attendees and GP will assist CT as necessary. **CT/GP**
- 4 Future ownership and management arrangements**
  - 4a The Rocks** BM reported that he had phoned Dave Turnbull today (19<sup>th</sup>) and this had led to several phone calls between them and the solicitors. The outcome of the discussions was a suggestion that BM meet with Mrs Treptie, show her the map with the different parcels of land marked on it, and ask for her agreement to transfer the correct parcel to the BMC. Mrs Treptie gave her verbal agreement to this and the BMC's solicitors will now draw up a Deed of Rectification for her to sign. BM said that HRMG would pay if Mrs Treptie needed to consult her solicitors before signing. Once this has been settled, there should be no more obstacles to the transfer of the freehold. **BM**

- 4b** **The Car Park** BM said there was nothing to report, as he has been concentrating on the rocks. The Forestry Commission have decided not to take back the lease of the carpark (or campsite) ahead of schedule, so things will carry on as they are now (unfortunately this includes the financial arrangements) until the leases expire in 6 years' time. BM recommended that we start thinking about what we are going to do at the end of the lease, as there are several possible scenarios and we should have a strategy to cope with them.
- 4c** **The Campsite** see **4b** above.
- 5** **Harrison's Rocks Work and Site Manager's Report**
- 5a** **Cement work** The rope groove above *Wailing Wall* still needs to be repaired, along with the one above the finish of *The Flakes*. CT said that Pete Atkinson had been around and he would contact him to see if he would do the repairs. **CT**
- 5b** **Resin work** TS and BM noticed a small number of areas that needed attention during the site visit. These are North Boulder, the crimp on the crux of *Coronation Crack*, a low foothold on *Second Chance* and the first handhold on *Rift*. TS will contact Mike Vetterlein and Steve Reed again and encourage them to share the necessary skills so that Steve can do some of this work in the summer. **TS**
- 5c** **Bolts** a set of bolts is still required at the top of *Right Circle*. TS will contact Steve Jackson again about the best practice tags. **CT/TS**
- 5d** **Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** Some future work is needed to repair steps on the path below Wellington Block. The upper part of the drainage channel below Grants Wall needs digging out. A couple of new logs are needed below Isolated Buttress (there are a couple by the large holly felled in the clearance work). BM suggested that the area below Isolated Buttress should be wood-chipped again, and CT said there was a pile in the carpark. Some of this work could be done on a working day in the autumn, but the more specialised revetment work will have to be done by CT and assistants. **CT/TS**
- 5e** **Car Park and Toilet** All the damage reported at the last meeting has been repaired, at a cost of ca £1300, with Sport England picking up the bill. The washer units still need servicing and CT had to clear the rain drain which had become blocked, meaning that there was a large amount of water on the roof. NH suggested that we try to get the plans so that we know where the soak-away for these drains is located, in case more work is needed. **TS**
- 5f** **Signs** the replacement bouldering sign at North Boulder still needs to be put in place. **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** TS has still to incorporate comments and any relevant entries from CT's version into a new risk assessment document and circulate it to the group. **TS**
- 7 Financial Report**
- 7a HRMG Budget** TS will contact Alan Brown and ask again 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 noted that an electrical inspection had been carried out but we don't have the report. TS will contact the BMC head office to see if it was sent there. It was also noted that the 2007 Harrisons – Income Grant figure is larger than it should be because of overpayments by Sport England. CT also said that he had quite a large amount of carpark donations to send to Alan Brown. **TS/CT**
- 8 Stone Farm Rocks**
- 8a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** the revetment repair work has been completed, although more filling is needed around the small oak. BM wondered if some matting would be useful, but we have none left. The top riser on the step next to the oak has come loose and CT has removed it for now. He will keep an eye on it in case it needs to be put back. **CT**
- 8b Resin work** an inspection is needed, once Steve Reed has been trained (see **5b** above).
- 8c Noticeboards** replacement Bouldering and Grafitti signs have been put up at Inaccessible Boulder. CT said they have a much stronger backing and should last longer.
- 9 Charitable Trust** TD has advised that he won't be able to progress this. It was suggested that BM get in touch with David Unwin to see if he would be willing to get involved, if only in an advisory role. MB offered to take it on if necessary and NH said he would be in a position to help once he retires in 6-9 months. **BM**
- 10 AOB**
- 10a Brochure for Groups** GP reported that the work was almost complete, there is only the final funding to sort out. Steve Jackson will have 5000 copies printed at a cost of £475 and this will initially be paid for out of the HRMG budget. We will then try and recoup some of the cost from the ACT fund and to this end GP will contact Cath Flitcroft at head office. Steve will pass the brochures on to GP and he in turn will pass a box on to CT. TS also asked for some to take to Cotswolds in Maidstone, Arethusa climbing wall and Richard Hayden at the Bewl centre. **GP**
- 10a Non-Payment in Carpark** CT commented on the fact that very few people put any money in the box as they leave the carpark. He thinks this is because they believe it is run by the Forestry Commission and wondered whether we could have a large sign (in the house style) on the grass near the collection box to make people aware of the true situation. CT will contact Steve Jackson with the appropriate wording and ask him to do a design. **CT**
- 11 Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held at Evolution climbing wall on Tuesday October 7<sup>th</sup> 2008, at 19.00.