

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on October 7th 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
	Martin Bryce	BMC
	Sarah Cullen	BMC

Action

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Sarah Butler. TS said a replacement would be needed for Sarah Butler, who wished to stand down. The Group thanked her for her service and wished her well.

2 Minutes of the last meeting (19.05.08)

TS noted a typo in section 7a and GP said the words 'for groups' should be removed from the title of section 10a. Agreed.

3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below

- 3a Replacement for Lynda Myers** No action had been taken: It was suggested that Groombridge parish council be approached to find a replacement (and possibly a local resident to replace Sarah Butler). A non-climber living locally is needed. TS has yet to contact Wealden District Council to see if there is anyone willing to attend the meetings. **TS**
- 3b Driveway Clearance** TS had received an email from Steve McCarthy at the Forestry Commission saying that they had completed their work and CT confirmed that things were back to normal.
- 3c Sandstone Leaders Forum** CT reported that a forum of around 15 organisations has been formed to promote and run the Sandstone Award. Kent County Council will continue to run its own scheme in conjunction with the forum and a syllabus is currently being agreed.

- 4 Future ownership and management arrangements**
- 4a The Rocks** BM said agreement had been reached on rectifying the mistake in the registration of the area of land bought from Mrs Treptie. The proposed Sponsorship Agreement between Sport England and the BMC was discussed. BM said that there was little to dispute. TD pointed out the necessity of backdating the annual payment of £5,000 from Sport England. TD wanted section 4.5 (health & safety and planning) removed because it seemed an irrelevant and onerous commitment. The group also agreed to delete the word 'abseiling' from section 4.9. TD wanted to delete section 4.10, which referred to HRMG's future rights to transfer or mortgage the rocks, as it was unreasonably restrictive. The proposed Management Agreement was also discussed. BM said he had not circulated copies of this document because the BMC wanted a number of amendments and there was no point in discussing it until these had been agreed. BM also said that current arrangements needed to be codified in the agreement. Responsibility for the building works and maintenance of the structure of the toilet block should not be within the remit of the BMC. BM said there must be a dilapidation agreement with Sport England regarding the condition of the toilet block at the end of its lease from the Forestry Commission. BM will pass on the Group's comments to the chair of the BMC Land & Property Trust. **BM**
- 4b The Car Park** The proposed Management Agreement mentioned in **4a** above covers the carpark – otherwise there was nothing to report.
- 4c The Campsite** The proposed Management Agreement mentioned in **4a** above covers the campsite. The proposed Sponsorship Agreement also made reference to it and BM said that this must be amended as the Sponsorship Agreement is only for the rocks.
- 5 Harrison's Rocks Work and Site Manager's Report**
- 5a Cement work** The rope groove on Wailing Wall still needs filling. The Group agreed with a small amendment to the design of the 'Good Practice' tags provided by Steve Jackson – these will be discussed further at the SVG meeting on the 12th. **CT**
- 5b Resin work** TS said a film company had wanted to take moulds of the rocks and would pay. They had a respectable track record and used a technique approved by the National Trust for use on sensitive buildings etc. HRMG had agreed providing the company could prove there would be no damage to the rocks. A test sample was done and showed no damage, however some damage was done at the bottom of Garden Wall and the entrance to the cave of Smith's Traverse, because when the mould was removed some green ferns came away and brought some sandstone with them. A few areas may need some work and TS will speak to Steve Reed about doing this as soon as possible. TS had received an ear-bashing from one group of climbers. CT had refused permission for a further visit. **TS**
- 5c Bolts** CT had done much of this despite the poor weather. The second bolt above Right Circle still needed doing. SC mentioned that the bolts above Dark Chimney were a bit loose. CT said someone had carved 'this bolt moves' into the rock near these bolts. **CT**
- 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, as does the one below Squat Tower. BM asked about the wood chips, and CT said he would try and transport some of the pile in the carpark to the top of the rocks, as Croydon MC have another work day this weekend (11th). The more specialised revetment work will have to be done by CT and assistants. **CT**

- 5e Car Park and Toilet** CT said there had been a leak in the ceiling of the store room, very near to the electrical meters etc. TD said disposable barbeques were becoming a nuisance. CT said they were banned but people still used them, particularly at the campsite. CT said signs could be put up. **CT**
- 5f Signs** CT said the replacement bouldering notice at north boulder had been put up.
- 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** This was noted. BM explained that the Harrisons Income Grant figure for 2007 was unusually high because part of it had been paid twice. The figure for this year was correspondingly low to account for this. TS to check with Alan Brown whether we should be paying VAT on the car park donations. TS will also ask Alan to send down a paying-in book for CT so that the payments can be banked and accounted for at the same time. **TS**
- 8 Stone Farm Rocks**
- 8a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** CT said that the stump from the top of Remote had done a good job of blocking the gap in the revetments below that climb. He also said that the work near the oak tree below Undercut Wall was standing up OK. BM suggested that we try and get hold of some more coir matting, or something similar, to hold the soil in place around the tree. **CT**
- 8b Resin work** TS said a survey was needed and he would talk to Steve Reed. Some abseiling damage was reported from an organised group led by World Challenge. BM had checked and it appeared to be insignificant. Guy at the BMC had contacted the group which had apologised and said it would not go there again. TS will contact World Challenge to clarify policy on use of the rocks by groups, as Guy had told them that commercial groups were not allowed. **TS**
- 8c Noticeboards** Most of those needed are up.
- 9 Charitable Trust** No change. BM to consult David Unwin. **BM**
- 10 AOB**
- 10a Bowles Leaflet** CT pointed out a leaflet publicising plans by Bowles to include abseiling at its rocks at an organised event on November 15th. SC to bring the matter up at Bowles, as the implication in the leaflet is that abseiling is OK on all the sandstone outcrops. **SC**
- 11 Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held at Evolution climbing wall on Tuesday January 13th 2009, at 19.00.