

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on January 19th 2010 at Evolution Climbing Wall, Plumyfeather Farm, Lye Green at 19:00.

Present:	Tim Skinner	Chair
	Bob Moulton	BMC
	Geoff Pearson	BMC
	Steve Durkin	BMC
	Johanna Howell	Wealden DC
	Nigel Head	BMC
	Chris Tullis	Site Warden
	Martin Bryce	BMC
	Sarah Cullen	BMC

Action

- 1 Welcome and Apologies**
Apologies were received from Tim Daniells.
- 2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (14/10/09)**
These were agreed.
- 3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below**
- 3a The Campsite** TS had checked with Alan Brown whether the monies from the campsite and carpark were kept separate but they were not. CT said they would be in future, and had been in the past except for a short period.
- 4 Harrison's Rocks Work and Site Manager's Report**
- 4a Cement Work** Work still needed on Wailing Wall, Blackeye Wall, The Flakes, Archers Wall and Right Circle. **CT**
- 4b Resin Work** Work still needed in several areas.
- 4c Bolts** The bolts above Right Circle still need doing. **CT**
- 4d Woodland Management & Ground Erosion Work** TS updated the meeting on the latest extensive work at Harrison's by the SVG, which took place last Sunday (17/01) as part of the woodland management plan being developed with the help of Malcolm McPherson. A second work day is scheduled for the 24th. TS explained that some brash that had been placed some time ago to prevent people walking in certain areas had been shifted to build a habitat hedge 10 metres from the rocks, with the area between this and the hedge left clear. There was concern from the group that this could lead to a recurrence of erosion problems that had been successfully tackled over the last decade by use of revetments and strategic 'brashing' of no-go areas. TS will speak to Malcolm to explain the importance of this approach and also the reason behind the direction and angle of the footpaths and water courses to avoid excessive erosion. **TS**

- 4e Car Park and Toilet** CT said many thanks were due to Steve McCarthy of the Forestry Commission for the installation of the new gate. CT has a key and was able to shut it to prevent access when the car park was icy in the recent snow. CT said the toilet block was deteriorating badly and passed a list of problems on to TS. He also reported that although several builders had been out to look at the repair work needed to the roof and electrics, only one had sent in a quote for the work. Sport England require three quotes for any work and so nothing had happened yet. TH will take this up with Sport England, who he will contact to ask for advice and also to find out what is happening as a result of their recent condition survey. CT said the waste bins had been filled up over the Christmas break, and he had gone through and found Christmas wrapping paper and envelopes with the address of one Mrs Davies of 3 Meadow Road, Groombridge. CT had written to the address but had received no reply. JH said recycling was coming to Wealden in the next year so fly tipping should not occur in future. **TS**
- 4f Signs** BM said the BMC in Manchester had suggested all information go on one sign in future and provided draft wording. Some changes were suggested to parts of the wording and it was the strong feeling of the group that Steve Jackson should be asked to design and finalise these signs. CT mentioned he had met the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service today at Harrison's to confirm where and how emergency access should be made. The Fire & Rescue Service wanted a map in the station, plus a guidebook to the rocks. TS & BM to deal with this and also to contact the BMC regarding a sign for the gate, plus the car park and campsite. TS will talk to Steve McCarthy about a sign on the road indicating the rocks. **TS/BM**
- 5 Health and Safety**
- 5a Notes of any Accidents in the Accident Book** There were no accidents to report. BM said there ought to be a first aid kit for SVG days. TS will contact the BMC and also consult with Graham Adcock about getting hold of one. **TS**
- 6 Financial Report**
- 6a HRMG Budget** TS reported that he had contacted Alan Brown at the BMC to let him know about the error in the previous report that was spotted by TD. Alan reported that he had received an invoice from Wealden DC for the replacement bins. NH asked why the income grant varied every year. TS will ask Alan about this. **TS**
- 7 Stone Farm Rocks**
- 7a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** TS reported that he and CT had met in November for a site visit. They had removed a large dangerous block from the top of *Garden Wall Crack*. TS said some revetment work was still needed, including the area under *Front Face*, and some treework was also necessary. He will write to Natural England (BM to supply contact details) to get their approval. **TS/BM**
- 7b Resin Work** Nothing to report.
- 7c Signs** The BMC had sent out draft wording for the new combined sign (see **4f** above). CT said that some graffiti signs needed to be replaced. **TS/BM/CT**
- 8 Charitable Trust**
- SD presented a draft trust deed. The group discussed this and made a few small adjustments, including some suggestions from TD by email. TS will produce a final draft and circulate it, after which SD will continue the process of setting up the trust. The group thanked SD for his work on this. **TS/SD**

9 AOB

9a Celebration of the Acquisition of the Rocks SC updated the group on the arrangements for the party. About 70 in total were planning to go to the do at the High Rocks Inn on the 13th of March. MB to remind TWMC via email about the need to contact SC re attendance. Some more names were put forward for SC to invite and BM promised to send more once he had checked his emails. **SC**

10 Date of Next Meeting The next meeting will be held at Evolution climbing wall on Tuesday May 18th 2010, at 19.00, preceded by a site inspection at 17.00.