

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Evolution Climbing Wall, Plumyfeather Farm, Lye Green at 19:00.

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

### Action

#### 1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Jim Clarkson, Johanna Howells and Martin Bryce.

#### 2 Minutes of the Last Meeting (19/01/10)

These were agreed, with one typo noted in section 4e, where the initials TH should read TS.

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

**3a Celebratory Dinner** The group expressed a vote of thanks to SC for organising the dinner, which was a great success.

#### 4 Harrison's Rocks Work and Site Manager's Report

**4a Cement Work** Work is still needed on Wailing Wall, Blackeye Wall, The Flakes, Archers Wall and Right Circle. GP reported that he had spoken to Ian Bull, who had offered to quote for the work. SC suggested that the group should approach Laurence Reading (who works at Bowles and does their rope groove repairs) to see if he would be willing to do the work. The group agreed that this was the preferred approach. **SC**

**4b Resin Work** Work is still needed on North Boulder, Bow Window (both high priority), The Flakes, Foresters Wall, Birchden Wall, Southwest Corner, ZigZag, Rift (all medium priority), Carrera, Coronation Crack, Moonlight Arete, The Mank, Piecemeal Wall, Isolated Buttress Climb and Birchden Corner (all low priority). TS said that he would contact Steve Reed about doing the work and CT said that his son Matthew, Barnaby Bentham and Chris Searle had all expressed an interest in doing some as well. It was agreed that they should be trained as soon as possible. **TS/CT**

**4c Bolts** The bolts above Right Circle still need doing. The loose bolt on Bow Window has been repaired using the last of the resin – CT will order more. A bolt inspection was arranged for Wednesday June the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 18:00. TS will contact Graham Adcock to ask him to send a message to the SVG for volunteers to help TS, BM and CT. **TS/CT/BM**

**4d Woodland Management & Ground Erosion Work** The second work day on January the 24<sup>th</sup> was very successful and all the planned clearance work was completed. The next stage of the process – submitting a woodland management plan and getting agreement for the felling of larger trees is moving slowly forward, but we won't now be able to do any of this work until the autumn, probably November. There was some confusion over when we would be meeting with the local Tree Preservation Officer – TS will contact Malcolm McPherson to clarify this. Our neighbour Mrs Treptie must also be contacted before the autumn to ask her for permission to burn the Rhododendron and Sycamore arisings in her field. **TS**

CT confirmed that the group's concerns over a recurrence of erosion problems was well founded, as the cleared areas below Unclimbed Wall, Isolated Buttress, Slimfinger Crack and Luncheon Shelf are already showing evidence of foot traffic, and the season has hardly begun. There is an urgent need for the habitat hedge below these areas to be moved back up the slope. TS will contact Graham Adcock to try and arrange a working party for the 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of June.

TS raised the subject of permanent removal of Sycamore and Rhododendron from the site by the use of roundup (or something similar) and also the suppression of the bracken by spraying. It was agreed that any treatment of the tree stumps should wait until the next cutting days in November, and that the bracken should be left as it is but monitored to see whether it starts to spread once the woodland has been thinned out.

**4e Car Park and Toilet** CT said that he had removed the old money box (and retrieved over £2000 pounds from it) and installed the new one on the other side of the entrance, he also said that new signs were needed (see 4f below). GP said that a couple of sleepers would need to be moved as they made it difficult for cars to turn into parts of the carpark now that the direction of flow has been changed. TS reported that he had phoned Zoe Dixon on 28/01 regarding the state of the toilet block roof and electrics. She emailed forms that would allow us to have the necessary work done without the need for three quotes, but CT was still unable to find anyone to do the repairs. TS phoned Zoe again on 12/04 and she contacted Kevin Burton of Sport England and asked him to arrange a site meeting with CT so that Sport England could use their own contractors to do the work. CT reported that he had met with Kevin about three weeks ago and that he had taken notes and photos and said that he would send CT a report detailing the work to be undertaken, although this hasn't arrived yet. CT said that the work would include repairs to the roof, electrics, plumbing, railings, potholes and paintwork and may include replacement of the handwash units. **TS/CT**

- 4f Signs** TS and BM have yet to contact the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service regarding a map and guidebook for the station, and the BMC regarding the various small signs needed for the carpark etc. TS had contacted Steve McCarthy who had sent details of the new paths in Birchden Wood and also given the go-ahead for a new sign at the turn-off to the rocks, which was now in place. TS will send the details of the new paths on to BM for incorporation into the new maps. CT said the new small signs were urgently needed, and that the new campsite sign should say that the fee is now £3 per person per night. He said that he had sent a list of the signs required to Guy Keating but had heard nothing more – TS will try to get hold of the list. The group were shown a draft of the new Harrisons sign, produced by Steve Jackson and approved by the SVG/Open meeting last Sunday, and once again it was the strong feeling of the group that Steve Jackson should be asked to finalise these signs. BM also reported that he had asked Guy for the original designs of the noticeboard sign but had not received a reply – there are a small number of minor changes to be made. **TS/CT/BM**
- 5 Health and Safety**
- 5a Notes of any Accidents in the Accident Book** There were no accidents to report. TS has still to contact the BMC and also consult with Graham Adcock about getting hold of a first aid kit for SVG days. **TS**
- 6 Financial Report**
- 6a HRMG Budget** TS reported that he had not had a reply from Alan Brown as to why the income grant varied every year - he will ask Alan again. The group asked for clarification on a couple of other matters: the origin of the £500 in the Harrisons Rocks – Other Income row; the origin of the £37.55 in the Harrisons – Staff Expenses row, and the discrepancy between the £1872.34 in the Harrisons – Car Park Income row and the amount that CT banked on 29/03 (£2210). TS will contact Alan regarding these questions. **TS**
- 7 Stone Farm Rocks**
- 7a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** TS has yet to write Natural England (BM to supply contact details) to get their approval for ground erosion and tree work. BM advised that a plan should be submitted along with the request, and GP said we should say that we will go ahead with the work in the autumn if we don't hear from them, as we never received a reply when BM asked for permission to erect the new fence. **TS/BM**
- 7b Resin Work** See 4b above. **TS/CT**
- 7c Signs** BM had asked Steve Jackson to produce a draft sign (see 4f above). **BM**
- 8 Charitable Trust**
- TD said that he had tried to get in touch with Dave Turnbull to discuss the transfer of money from the Harrisons repair fund to the new trust and would be trying again tomorrow. The group then agreed that there was no further need to discuss the trust at these meetings as it was now a matter for the trustees, and it would be more appropriate to deal with it at the SVG/Open Meetings.

**9 AOB**

**9a Filming at the Rocks** CT reported that two requests had been received to film at the rocks, one from Another Production, the other from a location scout working for Warner Brothers on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. A contract was drawn up by BMC head office and signed by Another Production but no filming has taken place (it was scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> of March). The location scout said they would contact CT again but have not yet done so. CT said that from now on head office would deal with the contractual side of things and he would supervise the actual activities at the rocks.

**10 Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held at Evolution climbing wall on Tuesday October 5<sup>th</sup> 2010, at 19.00.