

# HARRISON'S ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP

Minutes of the Harrison's Rocks Management Group meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2005 at the Village Hall, Groombridge at 16:00 hrs.

Present: Bob Moulton (Chair)  
Geoff Pearson  
Tim Skinner  
Graham West  
Nigel Head  
Sarah Cullen  
Chris Tullis  
Sarah Butler  
Cllr. Lynda Myers  
Frank Shannon

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Bob welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced two new members to The Group, Sarah Butler, as a local representative and Frank Shannon as a climber.

Apologies were received from George Akins, John Galloway, Guy Keating. Bob thanked Sarah Cullen for agreeing to take the minutes.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were signed as accurate.

## 3. Matters Arising

3a. Frank said the flake on West Wall does move a little bit and would probably be worth strengthening. Various options were discussed, and it was decided that a cement grout should be used as the best option. **Action FS**

### 3b. Artificial Boulders in Birchden Wood.

Chris expressed his reservations regarding artificial boulders in Birchden Wood. There were concerns of introducing artificial boulders into a natural environment. Nigel said that there could be worries of litter and camping out causing trouble spots. Sarah Butler said that the local residents may be against change to a natural environment. Bob pointed out that the location under consideration was outside of HRMG's direct control, and that the matter would be discussed at the Sandstone Volunteer's meeting in the evening.

## 4 Terms of Reference

Bob said that he had been asked to join the BMC's Land Management Group, and he was interested; however he said that the BMC may want the Chair of HRMG to attend.

Bob informed everyone that John Galloway has offered to step down from The Group due to ill health.

Tim Skinner has been asked by Bob to take over as Chair of HRMG, and was thinking about it.

## **5 Harrison's Rock Work and Site Manager's Report**

Chris reported that there had been some problems at the car park with some climbers. There has been a complaint about a teepee, which has been built in the woods, from a neighbouring landowner. Chris has dealt with this matter.

### **5a. Cement Work**

Nothing to report.

### **5b. Resin Work**

Nothing to report.

### **5c. Bolts**

Nothing to report.

### **5d. Ground Erosion and Maintenance**

The ground is boggy in the Signal Box Arête area. The horizontal trees here may need to be pruned. Nigel said it may be as well to investigate properly, the cause, perhaps there is something that can be done from the top? Chris said that the water is underground up there. Nigel therefore suggested, perhaps a T shaped drain at the bottom of the rocks. This drainage will need to be kept clear.

**Action CT**

### **5e. Woodland Management**

It was noted that the second phase for cutting back the holly in the Garden Wall was due about now. Chris will look into this this, and he will clear the diagonal path in that area. He said that a few more wood chippings were needed in a number of areas. **Action CT**

### **5f. Car Park and Toilet Block**

Frank reported that there had been some problems at the car park. Primarily these problems are with particular individuals taking class A drugs and playing booming music from their cars. The local police are now aware of these problems, although Chris noted that they don't really seem to pay much interest in the Car Park.

Lynda informed the Group that a local woman 'Community Beat Officer' had been appointed to liaise with young people in the area. It may be that there is something she could do to help with the current problems in the car park.

Sarah Butler said that she will put a note in the Parish Magazine to say that if any villagers notice anything untoward then they can ring the 'Community Beat Officer'.

Lynda said that she would talk to the Community Beat Officer and e-mail The Group with her phone number. **Action LM, SB**

## **6. Sandstone Code of Practice.**

Geoff showed the Group the latest artwork for the Sandstone Code of Practice. The format of the 'postcard' version has been changed so that the most important parts are obvious.

Geoff pointed out that he is possibly too busy with work to take on the full responsibility for distribution of the Code of Practice. He agreed to speak to Guy to establish how much could be done by the BMC and to work out what needed to be done locally. **Action GP**

Sarah Butler will proof read the Code. Geoff said that he would send her a copy so that she can proceed with this. **Action GP, SB**

## **7. Health and Safety**

No accidents to report. Sarah Cullen currently has the accident book and will return it to Chris. **Action SC !**

Bob reported that he made no progress on the Emergency Plan, and that he wasn't intending to do anything further until the question of who would be running the car-park was resolved.

## **8. Car Park Notice Boards**

Permanent notices have been made up for the notice boards, which he hoped to be collecting on 20.1.05, to be attached to the notice board. **Action BM and CT**

## **9. Notice(s) for Boulderers**

It was agreed that a copy of the 'Postcard' could be blown up to A4 size to put near North Boulder. BM intended to get the BMC to get a number of these made up so that they could be used at Stone Farm etc.

**Action BM**

## **10. Sport England Issues**

Bob reported that a meeting had been fixed between Sport England, the Forestry Commission and the BMC in early February to discuss the future of the Rocks and the car-park.

## **11. Future Policy Review as it affects the HRMG**

Nothing to report.

## **12. Financial Report**

Bob explained the spreadsheets: the figures in blue were his attempt to tally Clare's figures with the BMC figures that Guy has given us. The latest figures show there's more money in the Harrison's Fund than Clare's original figures, so this must be good news!

The amount shown for the Soft Rock contract had been reduced this year as by mutual agreement Soft Rock would now be charging for 'project' work as and when he does it rather than being paid up front.

## **13 Stone Farm Rocks**

**13a** Graham wants to get started on the proposed woodland management work (primarily removing some large hollies at the west end of the Rocks), hopefully within the next couple of months. Chris was intending to help with this, but unfortunately is too busy to be able to fit it in. Sarah Cullen suggested that perhaps someone else could help. A project akin to that which Graham Adcock has undertaken at High Rocks might suffice. Graham said that he would raise this at the Open Meeting.

Nigel offered his services when he has a week off work over Easter.

Chris said that he could supply some equipment for this project.

**Action GW, CT**

**13b Resin Work**

Nothing to report.

**13c Site Management Plan**

A site management plan has been done.

**13d Notice boards**

Bob is sorting out the notice boards.

**Action BM**

**13e Fencing and Stile**

East Grinstead Climbing Club have agreed to sort out the fencing and stile. Bob will contact them regarding this. It was agreed not to take the fence to the corner of the boundary, but to just replace the unsightly, broken, Victorian fence which currently spoils the view. **Action BM**

Neil Atkinson has agreed to mark the boundary using a GPS system, and to put in some corner markers for now. **Action BM to liaise.**

**14 AOB**

Tim Skinner said that the Maidstone Mountaineering Club recently had their AGM and decided that they would like to make a donation to the upkeep of the rocks of about £300-£400. Bob said that he would talk to Tim about which would be the best way to deal with it and what to spend it on. **Action BM, TS**  
Thanks were given to all those who helped make the tea!

**15 Date of next meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> May 14.00 Harrison's Site Meeting, 15.30 in the Clubroom, Groombridge Village Hall. **Action SC**

After the meeting, Sylvia Sutton was invited to receive a signed book from The Group and a drawing of the Rocks, in appreciation of her 27 years service to the management of Harrison's Rocks.