

Sandstone Open/Volunteers Meeting - 21st May 2006

Present: Steve Jackson, Oliver Hill, Graham Adcock, Tim Skinner, Geoff Pearson, Robin Mazinke, Tim Daniells, Bob Moulton (chair)

Apologies: Martin Brice, Rob Foster, Malcolm McPherson, Tim Daniells for lateness

MINUTES

Action

1 **Minutes of last meetings**

The minutes Sandstone Open Meeting on 15.5.05 and the Sandstone Volunteers Group on 16.1.06 were noted.

2 **Harrison's Rocks**

a) Ownership progress. BM reported that matters continued to move very slowly, but that the transfer of the freehold of the Rocks, and the lease of the campsite from Sport England to the BMC was now in the hands of the respective solicitors. GP expressed the view that rights of access for campers to the toilets etc should be written into the lease. SJ also raised the question of overnight parking charges for campers. BM had assumed that such matters would be covered by a partnership with the Forestry Commission.

b) The meeting confirmed the nominations of Sarah Cullen and Frank Shannon as members of HRMG.

c) TS reported that HRMG were looking into establishing a Trust to hold funds donated to Harrison's and Stone Farm, although the wording would allow for money to be spent on other outcrops.

3. **High Rocks**

a) OH reported that the slopes below the rock have recovered the cover, now green brambles, nettles and willow herb. A few of the tree stumps are sprouting as are the rhododendrons but they are far away from causing any problem. It was agreed that there was no need to cut back for at least 6 months but it really seemed unnecessary for 18 months, and that the situation should be reviewed in the autumn.

b) The importance of encouraging people to either get a season ticket and to check in at the bar on each visit or to pay the daily entrance fee was discussed. Despite the goodwill now built up with the owner, we do not want a repeat of the situation that happened two years ago when he discovered a bunch of non-payees inside. GA agreed to make a post on the Sandstone forum.

GA

c) Any further bolts after Hut Boulder. RF had reported that the original proposals for belay bolts were for Hut Boulder (done), Isolated Boulder - 4 pairs (above *North Wall*, *Simian Mistake*, *Monkey Nut & Simian Progress*), and above *Orion Crack*, *Henry 9th/Infidel*, and

Advertisement Wall. Also that English Nature had been decidedly cool about more bolts when he discussed the Hut Boulder work with them a year ago. After discussion, including as to the idea of putting a bolt in on the hard move on *Ordinary Route* on Isolated Boulder, it was agreed that no further bolts should be placed.

4. **Bowles**

Nothing to report. It was noted that cement work had been done on the bad rope groove above *Cave Crack*.

5. **Bulls Hollow**

Nothing to report.

6. **Eridge Green Rocks**

BM reported on his meeting with Sussex Wildlife Trust. It was proposed to:

a) put up an A3-sized sign beneath *Sandstorm* (BM tabled the sign prepared by SWT).

b) produce a joint leaflet aimed at climbers and the general public (A3 size, folded into $\frac{1}{3}$ A4. BM had provided draft wording, agreed by TS, for climbers.

Total cost approx £420. BM would be bidding for most of the funding to the ACT, but also to the CC's Kirkus Fund and English Nature. The meeting supported these proposals.

BM

7. **Stone Farm**

BM reported that the contract had now been placed for the fencing work. OH queried whether the work was really necessary. BM replied that he thought that it was a requirement written into the deeds, and although we could probably ignore this it was good land management practice.

8. **Signs**

BM reported that these were now ordered and should be delivered soon. It was agreed that the lead for getting the signs erected (liaising with the owner, identifying location for the signs and who would do the work) would be taken as follows. Chris Tullis had agreed to do the actual work (and be paid for it) as necessary.

a) Bull's Hollow - GA

GA

b) Harrison's - CT/TS

CT/TS

c) High - SJ. SJ explained his ideas for a display board in the Gatehouse, but saw this as a longer term project than putting up the signs in the first place.

SJ

d) Stone Farm - BM

BM

BM would notify all concerned when the signs had been delivered to CT.

BM

9. **Other crags**

Nothing to report

10. **Any Other Business**

a) Feedback on Open Day: The general view was that the evening had been a great success. Some concerns were expressed as to the level of publicity for the day itself, although the impact of the bad weather was acknowledged. BM thanked SJ for the work that he had put in on the display boards. TD was thinking in terms of organising something at High Rocks in September, although he thought that it might have to be in one of the function rooms rather than a barbeque at the Rocks.

b) BM read out MB's email as to drawing up a list of the skills possessed by SVG members. It was agreed that it was better to email round to ask for volunteers to do specific tasks, particularly given the fact that the main requirement at present was for work on the toilet block and that this would cease to be a BMC responsibility in the near future. BM asked those present, particularly GA, to identify anyone with a chainsaw certificate, as this was likely always to be a required skill.

GA

11. **Date of next meeting of SVG**

Agreed as **Sunday 11th November** (HRMG 6.11.06). BM suggested that now that the major work had been completed, we may wish in future to only meet twice a year (May and Autumn).

RDM - 06/07/2006