

# Minutes of the Bromyard Downs Common Association

## General Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

7:30 - 9:30 Falcon Hotel Bromyard

### Committee Attendees

James Hawkins (Chair)  
Clive Brazier (Treasurer)  
Jan Densham  
Nicki Howard

Ben Hiley (Vice Chair)  
David Boddington  
Gill Churchill  
Jo Stoddart

Lauren Smith (Secretary)  
Nic Hinchcliffe  
Karen Rock

### Public Attendees

Dale Badman

### Welcome & Apologies for absence;

George Thompson  
Nigel Shaw

Graham Cooper  
Ray Pullen

David Grant

### 2. Action points ongoing from previous meetings

2.1 **School poetry and art competition** – Schools are currently busy with Christmas events so will hold now until the spring - **Ongoing James and Gill**

2.2 **Memorial Bench quote** - James awaiting quote from Bringsty Forge - **Action ongoing**

*Note - Further enquiries have been received for memorial benches.*

2.3 **Closure of Dog bag dispensers** – Discussed with Parish council who have no objection to the bins being removed, Volunteers to arrange removal – Clive has requested the bins for storage, Lauren to note Facebook page, website and Bromyard Info when removed - **Action Volunteers and Lauren.**

2.4 **Deputy Post holders** Deputies agreed – **Action closed**

2.5 **Committee information pack** to be distributed to all committee members – Byelaws have been distributed, will also include contact list and scheme of management. – **Committee happy with info distributed – Action Closed**

2.6 **Funding meeting to be arranged-** James to arrange a meeting has suggested we look to propose a group of Friends of Bromyard Downs to lead the fund raising and take on charitable status to be discussed at the next meeting – **Ongoing**

2.7 **Volunteers to prioritise clearance areas** – Maps produced, volunteers to pinpoint areas and maintain along with the main management plan. – **Action closed**

2.8 **Hay cutting** – look to advertise hay for free cutting and collect next summer, but due to Hay glut this year many organisations have been unable to sell their Hay. **Action closed for now.**

**Minutes of the last meeting discussed and approved;**

### 3. Finance Update

- Funds are now limited to - wayleaves, Caravan Club rent and Entry Level Scheme. Please see attached spreadsheet for details of expenses and balance remaining
- Tractor repair costs have amounted to £2,600, James has already settled the account. The BDCA will reimburse James.
- The funding meeting will address future funding streams, but we do need to keep in contact with the Wildlife Trust and invite them to our meetings; ensure we keep our options open – **Action** Lauren to invite Evan to our meetings
- The caravan club has met with George Thompson from HC and has agreed an increase in the rental of the site for 2019 to £2,500. There has been talk of the Caravan club being allowed to buy the land once the lease expires.
- The BDCA has already received 75% of the grant from the ELS scheme for this year. Approximately a further £840 due.
- Keeping options open; the utility companies pay contractors to keep the lines over the Downs clear, worth seeing if we could quote for the work ourselves. Scrub clearance would be possible using the flail, although tree cutting may be more difficult. We could charge an annual maintenance fee.
- Clive is concerned over some missing cheque stubs and original invoices, which he had passed over to Hannah, but which have not been returned.

### 4. Parish Council Update

- The Parish Council have decided to produce a local Development plan for the area, this will determine in detail where the proposed 30 new houses may be located within the Parish of Linton, Norton, Brockhampton and Saltmarsh. A steering group is being set up and representatives from the BDCA will be invited to join the group.

### 5. Town Council Update

- The Town Council has decided not to complete a Town Development Plan.
- Welsh Water has turned down the proposals for 500 houses on Hardwick bank sighting that the infrastructure is not in place to accommodate further housing.

### 5 Bromyard Downs Management

- Jean Guthridge has made a complaint to Hereford Council to the effect we have not cut the fire breaks around her property. Apparently, Jean paid external contractors to cut the breaks in May this year. Payment was not made to the BDCA.
- Western Power have been in contact to start clearing scrub and trees effecting the power lines, appears to be a lot of work around the Malvern Road area of the Downs. **Action** Graham to maintain contact with Western Power over the work.
- A hedge has been removed from the end of Golf Lane, this has opened up the common in that area. Question raised, do we need to shield the barn by planting a small hedge the common side of the ditch, suggestion - when next cutting willow back plant the canes to start a hedge.

- **Volunteer Days** – The flailing has progressed well but there is still plenty to do. If anyone knows of any places we should prioritise please let Ben or Jan know so they can pinpoint areas to concentrate on for the next volunteer days, as long as this coincides with the overall management plan.
- John Beale has donated some smart water monitoring kit, so we can ensure all the BDCA equipment is marked in case of theft. **Action** - Organise time within the next volunteering day to mark and photograph the equipment for the police.
- Ben has received quotes on the wood chipper training this amounts to £828 including VAT and NPTC registration. The course will cater for 4 to 6 persons and include Safety training and maintenance of the machine. It's a heavy-duty machine and due care will need to be maintained at all times when in use. The committee agreed to go ahead with the training. **Action** – Ben to organise date and volunteers attending.
- **Media & Newsletter** – We are aiming to publish a newsletter for distribution in early January – So far Dr Boddington has volunteered to write a piece on the Crow family, We will be sending out invitations for interested parties to contribute  
 Ideas - Ask Joe Allsopp possibly a piece on Surveys – **Action Lauren/Jo Stoddart** to have a word with Joe Allsopp and send out invite for ideas and volunteers to write a piece for inclusion.

## 6. Public Member Questions

- Dale Badham asked to address the BDCA to apprise them of a diversification project he is proposing in Rookery Wood at the edge of the Park Head area of the Downs. The project consists of the erection of 3 Eco Camping Pods within the wood for use as upmarket holiday lets. The pods which would be raised from the ground on stilts would sleep 2 persons in each and nestle naturally into the landscape. They are hoping to promote to walkers/ramblers as a getaway retreat. Anyone interested in knowing more should contact Dale direct on 07908 440379

## 7. Any Other Business

- Jo Stoddart mentioned that the scrub along the ditches in muddy lane needs cutting back, possibly a job for the Probation workers.

### Date of next meeting

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018** – Falcon Hotel Bromyard 7:30 – 9:30

Thank You all for Attending

Meeting Close

Lauren Smith  
 BDCA Secretary  
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<mailto:bromyardbdca@gmail.com>

<b>BDCA Meeting Schedule for the coming Year</b>	
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	All meetings currently scheduled to meet at the Falcon Hotel Bromyard From - 7:30 to 9:30
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	
AGM Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	

*Finances Attached*