

Minutes of the Bromyard Downs Common Association

General Meeting

Wednesday 10 January 2018

7:30 - 9:30 Falcon Hotel Bromyard

Committee Attendees

James Hawkins (Chair)
Clive Brazier (Treasurer)
Jan Densham
Ray Pullen

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

Lauren Smith (Secretary)
Nic Hinchcliffe
Karen Rock
Graham Cooper
David Grant

Public Attendees

Judy

Welcome & Apologies for absence;

George Thompson

Nicki Howard

Evan Bowen-Jones

2. Action points ongoing from previous meetings

2.1 School poetry and art competition – Decided that as the Poetry group already run a poetry competition we should try something else. Gill suggested a bird spotting leaflet distributed to the schools. – **Action Gill**

2.2 Memorial Bench quote - James awaiting quote from Bringsty Forge. The original spec has been mislaid, James has sent again so we hope to receive soon.

Action – Ongoing

Note - It has been disturbing for the volunteers to discover clumps of ashes on the Downs, which have been disturbed due to the wet weather. Scattering of ashes is not strictly allowed without the landowner's permission.

Action James - to check with George Thompson on Hereford Council's views

Action Lauren - to note views in newsletter

2.3 Closure of Dog bag dispensers – A few of the bins have now been removed and will be passed to Clive who will try and raise some revenue from the sale. Remaining bins to be removed. Lauren to note Facebook and on the website. **Action Volunteers and Lauren.**

2.4 Funding meeting to be arranged –meeting arranged - several good ideas were discussed -

- Charity status – Friends of Bromyard Downs, need to come up with a mission statement.
- Raffle
- Meadow/Picnic Day early July, to coincide with National Meadows Day
- Bingo Night – Public Hall mid-March
- Charity Dog Walk
- Harriers Race around Downs
- Common walking Trails

- Nigel Davies would like to pass on the running of the 'Round the Downs Race'. Possibly BDCA could take over? – **Action** James to have a word with Nigel
- A Race DVD Night in October. (Possibly venue Bromyard Cricket Club)
- Coffee Mornings – History of Downs/Gardens on the Downs

There is a talk being advertised at the Kindle Community Centre by Azda in Hereford about 'Grants and how to apply'

Action - Jo to attend

Action - Jo to right a short piece for the Spring Newsletter

Action – James to re-e-mail around the projected running costs for the Downs so we are all aware of the money we need to raise

2.5 Keeping in touch with the Wildlife Trust – Evan Bowen-Jones from Hereford Wildlife trust was invited to this meeting but was unable to attend. James has also just given a talk to Weobley WT. The talk was well attended with 48 people and a contribution of £30 was made to the Downs - Maintain contact – **Action Closed**

2.6 Mark BDCA Equipment with Smart water –the weather needs to be warmer to ensure the marking will work – **Action will be completed as soon as the weather improves.**

2.7 Chipper Training – Training has been organised for the 11th January, 6 volunteers are to be trained and will hold a NTPC qualification to use the chipper. **Action Closed**

2.8 Media and Newsletter – First Draft lay out has been circulate. Keep to two sides of A4. – Items to include; -

- Chairs introduction – **James to draft**
- Volunteers report – **Ben or Jan to draft**
- The Crow Family – David B – already submitted
- Tales from the Downs – **Lauren to look up the History archive reports**
- News - Funding – **Jo**
- Events – Events planned, Dawn Chorus etc. – **Jo/Lauren**
- Notes from the byelaws – **Lauren i.e.** drones prohibited – scattering of ashes

Action as above - All contributions to be passed to Lauren or Jo asap to design draft.

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
- The BDCA has already received 75% of the grant from the ELS scheme for this year. Approximately a further £840 due.
- Could everyone please present any bills for payment at least a week prior to the meeting so Clive can prepare – **Action Lauren** to send out reminder with Agenda

4. Brockhampton Group Parish Council Update

- The Parish Council has objected to any further expansion of the Linton Travellers site. (The plan was for the temporary site at Leominster and the refurbishment of two existing sites at Linton)
- There are 6 positions vacant on the Parish council if anyone is interested
- There is no section 106 monies (effect of development to local amenities) available for the planned Gas turbine Generator on the Linton trading estate. The construction will only take up two porta cabins so there is no impact to the local environment

5. Town Council Update

- There is an opportunity for the appointment of local Dog Wardens.
- Look at educating Dog owners to clear up and enforce fine for fouling.
- Bromyard Town Council cannot give any money out outside of Bromyard and Winslow area which means they cannot help in funding the Downs.

5 Bromyard Downs Management

- Old Tree by David Grants which had split has worsened and needs attention, Hugh to take a look
- James has received a letter from the Grantham's thanking the BDCA for the work which is being carried out on the Downs.
- Western Power has identified tress on the Downs which need removal from arranged the power lines.
- Sale of logs from trees felled on the Downs was raised, this has been looked at before as a source of revenue for the Downs but when taking into consideration the work for the volunteers of cutting, storage and bagging it's too difficult to collect and distribute to make any profit. Volunteers will continue to fell and bag up for local pensioners and leave for commons who have rights for felled wood.
- Noted that the fence at the top of the quarry will soon need attention.
- The Quarry insurance is now due at a cost of £580 – The BDCA would prefer to maintain the quarry as an asset to the Downs but the cost of insurance is too costly to consider as we no longer have lottery funding.
 - Motion put forward to give up the quarry lease back to Hereford Council and cancel the insurance. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Action - Clive to notify Insurance agents that we would not be renewing the insurance
 - Action – Notify Hereford Council we would be giving up the lease,
 - Note - as we have never received a formal lease from Hereford Council despite repeated requests, we would expect that the 3-month notification period be waived and Hereford Council to take the Quarry back with effect from the end of the month.

Volunteering Update

- Unfortunately, the last volunteer day had to be cancelled due to the wet weather
- Once conditions have improved, work will continue clearing the ash samplings along the racecourse and along the Downs road from the lodge up to the carpark
- A suggestion has been received that we could generate further revenue by hiring out our volunteer labour to use the tractor and flail on Bringsty Common. The general consensus was that, we have a keen volunteer force who are gaining experience and getting to know Bromyard Downs well. We shouldn't at this stage push too heavily on what is being achieved. Maybe, something we could consider in the future.
- We have received some good feedback on what the volunteers are currently achieving on the Downs. To further show the efforts more visually take before and after photos to record progress.
- The toposcope and new bunker sign are both now ready in the lock up to be erected.

Race Course Research

- Graham Cooper would like to undertake more research on the Downs racecourse. There are doubts that the current information we hold is accurate, as there is data that the racecourse was first used about 1808 well before the date we have as around 1892. Graham would like the ground where they think the grandstand stood to be mowed for a couple of seasons so it would be easier to see the open ground and establish where the base of the grandstand actually stood.

All agreed this was a good idea for Graham to take forward.

- A suggestion was made that we use a camera drone to scan the site. However, it was also noted that the flying of drones/airplanes are not allowed on the Downs. The use of drones on the Downs invade resident's privacy and could cause a danger to other users. As a reminder this byelaw to be added to the newsletter – **Action Lauren.**

6. Public Member Questions

- No Questions

7. Any Other Business

- As soon as we know where any temporary fencing is to be erected for grazing this year ensure all relevant parties and users to the Downs are informed i.e. Parish & Town Council so they are aware

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 7th March 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>

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

Finances Attached