



- 2.10 Drone Flying.** – Illegal, although not in byelaws, (flying of Model Aircraft is).  
Suggestion made to put up a notice stating this in the Car Park. – **Action** – Lauren has already noted the prohibition in the Spring Newsletter.

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

**3. Finance Update**

No Report Available

**4. Bromyard Group Parish Council Update**

No representative of Parish Council present.

**Note;** Karen Rock had informed Lauren prior to meeting about a Fundraising Fete for the Kempson Players in September and invited BDCA to have a small Information Stall. – More information required re date/timings etc before decision made. James to ask Karen

**Note;** Jo informed meeting that Edgar Whitely had been nominated by the Bromyard Group Parish Council for the Hereford Community Championship Volunteer Award and has been shortlisted.

**5. Bromyard Town Council Update**

No Representative of Town Council present.

**6. Bromyard Downs Management**

**General –**

**(A)** Request from Pam Guiver, Bromyard Guides to mark 75 years of Guiding by planting an Oak Tree somewhere on the Downs. Dr Boddington offered to liaise to ensure only an English Oak is planted and its position. Suggestion made that an existing Oak, possibly in the Park Head area (Used frequently by the Guides) could have a memorial plaque sited nearby, i.e. they could "adopt a tree."

**(B)** Natural England. James continuing to try and obtain finance from the High Level Scheme Plan. A woodland plan is required by the Forestry Commission and a grant would be paid for it to be done. A tree survey has already been completed and is in the Management Plan which has been well received by Natural England.

**(C)** Chemical painting of tree stumps. Ben, Jan and Tor are qualified to administer. James needs to know where and when trees are cut down to ensure this is done.

**(D)** Fly Tipping. Remains a problem. Suggestion made to organise a specific Litter Pick Day for Volunteers. The Young offenders will litter pick too. They will also trim and clip around Benches. May need pictures to show them where action required. Possibly could be asked to cut tracks and pathways where appropriate.

**Note.** Car Park is being mown by Balfour Beatty under contract from Hereford council. Litter bin there will also be emptied by them.

**(E) Culvert Flooding.**

Willow Brook – Already on Hereford Council List to repair culvert above brook. Ditch by Downs Manor running down towards Dr Boddington's Drive.

Broken Culvert opposite The Royal Oak

**(F)** Volunteer Sustenance plan. Re introduction of Sheep with Temporary fencing. James has 70 Hebridean sheep ready to go on Downs when conditions appropriate, possibly May. Temporary Fencing needs to be applied for under Section 38 and a month's notice given of intentions. First area – Malvern road followed by area below Brockhampton School. Sheep are a good management tool and also help draw visitors to the Downs.

Notices using previous information to be put up beforehand to advise public (to be included in Bromyard Info Magazine, Bromyard Facebook and BDCA website) and the temporary fencing will be “live” as soon as it is erected. Sheep will remain in one area for no longer than 6 months and not returned to that area for at least another 6 months.

**(G)** Willow tree close to the Trap House is split and potentially dangerous. Hugh is willing to cut the tree down, but will require a cherry picker at the cost of £125 to do this safely. It is a large tree requiring expert skills. Committee asked to agree go ahead. Some discussion made re spending a significant amount on one tree, which could eventually fall anyway, but may be hazardous whilst it is still standing. James to review and make final decision.

#### **Volunteering –**

Update from Nicki. Quite a few Work days have been cancelled recently due to inclement weather. There have been good turnouts by volunteers. The Race Course area has been almost completed, requiring potentially 2 more sessions.

**Note** Advice from Dr Boddington to be mindful of nesting birds in scrub at this time of year.

Suggestion from James that a meeting with Ben required to ensure that the Management Plan is adhered to and a yearly update made.

All volunteers working on the Downs should have a copy of the Management plan with relevant maps and work cards to ensure specific areas are covered at the relevant time.

Plan can be found in the Drop Box, but requires specific link. Lauren to be asked to send emails of link to those who request. (Request made by Judy at meeting),

Wet weather or cancellation. Clarification needs to be made if dates are changed or cancelled, specifically Saturdays, in order not to offend volunteers who may turn up without previous commitment to that date.

#### **Funding –**

Update on Funding meeting by Jo. Organised by Herefordshire Voluntary Organisations support service (hvoss). Specific event not really relevant to BDCA as the 2 foundations spoken about do not usually give donations to the Arts or Community area. Hvoss may be useful in helping to apply for funding or applying for charitable status etc., but would charge a fee to BDCA of £30 per annum. Further

fund raising meeting to be arranged to set some dates for fundraising ideas already considered. Jo, Nicki, Jan and James to attend. Anyone else welcome.

Suggestion; Potential application for a grant/ or volunteer work could be to cut down some trees in the main Carpark in order that wheel chair users or disabled people would have better vision of the Downs if they remained in that area, due to difficulty for some to traverse the Downs.

Funds from selling Hay are not a reliable source of income; James will be responsible for cutting the hay this year to ensure it is done. There seems to be little or unreliable uptake from other people to cut and take away the hay produced for free.

## **7. Public Member Questions**

No Questions

## **8. Any Other Business**

**(A)** Roger has written an article for the Nature Trust which will appear in print in the Autumn. It includes the Washcroft pond and the Pigmy weed infestation. It is suggested that less problems are caused by leaving it alone, but may be helped by digging another pond alongside to encourage new wildlife and organism habitation. Suggested that a copy of the Article should be kept on file for future management advice.

**(B)** James requested that Volunteer Hours be recorded as this information is often required when applying for funding grants.

**(C)** James mentioned that a Speaker is required for the AGM in June and asked for any suitable recommendations.

## **Date of next meeting**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Falcon Hotel Bromyard 7.30 – 9.30**

Thank you all for attending  
Meeting Close

Jo Stoddart, on behalf of

Lauren Smith  
BDCA Secretary  
01885 488223

[mailto;bromyardbdca@gmail.com](mailto:bromyardbdca@gmail.com)

BDCA Meeting Schedule for the coming Year, Falcon Hotel Bromyard 7.30 – 9.30pm  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018                      **AGM** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018