

# Minutes of the Bromyard Downs Common Association

## General Meeting

Tuesday 3rd December

7:30 - 9:30 Falcon Hotel Bromyard

### Committee Attendees:

James Hawkins (Chair)  
David Boddington

Lauren Smith (Secretary)  
Karen Rock

Clive Brazier (Treasurer)  
David Grant

### Apologies & Absence;

Jan Densham  
Ray Pullen  
Jo Stoddart (Vice Chair)

Nigel Shaw  
Ben Hiley

Nic Hinchcliffe (NT)  
Fred Clark

### 2. Action points

- 2.1 Source History recorder for History Society and copy voice recordings on to CD – Recorder has been located and initial recordings have been downloaded to a computer CD – **Action Closed**
- 2.2 Trees need removing by Buckenhill Drive as they are too large for the volunteers to remove professional quote to be sourced – James has commissioned Hugh Davies to remove the trees but due to an accident this action has been delayed - **Ongoing**
- 2.3 Downs Committee have been invited to be involved with the Victory in Europe celebrations next year - **Action** James to attend the next council meeting and discuss plans
- 2.4 Please take your litter home signs to be posted on the Downs – action to see what signs we have available in the lock up – **Action for Jan ongoing**
- 2.5 Memorial stone to be set by the Butts pool area – James to liaise with the Town Council to see if any additional funding is available - **Action Ongoing**
- 2.6 Source an auger to drill new holes for posts for the car park notice board – Equipment available need to liaise with work party to agree time weather permitting – **Action ongoing**
- 2.7 Prepare advert/plea for more volunteers on the Downs  
Design a poster to use in Record and web site and around Town – **Action completed** - Posters to be placed on notice boards and around town and advert to be posted on Bromyard info and record when possible
- 2.9 Check the current Bromyard Downs management plan to see if the planting of trees is allowed prior to any further decisions regarding tree planting. –

- The woodland management plan covers the maintenance of the current trees on the Downs - After discussion agreed to plant trees when available along the borders i.e. hedgerows taking care not to block any views
- Print out a copy of the condensed management plan which could be made available in Bromyard Info – **Action Lauren**

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

#### **3. Finance Update**

- Current funds stand as follows;
  - Current Treasurers Account - £14,398.09
  - Cash & Card Account - £ 600
- Caravan club rent is due in January this is calculated as a percentage of the pitch fees for the year
- Last payment of the 2019 Stewardship grant is also due in January
- Tractor fuel payment is due to James £165.20
- Tools and lock up insurance also due

#### **4. Brockhampton Group Parish Council Update**

- A proposal by Tom Fisher to renovate the old railway line as a safe walking/ cycling route received overwhelming favour from the committee. It would be a real asset to the town.
- The Parish plan raised concerns of the sighting of new houses along the Malvern Road

#### **5. Town Council Update**

- Mr Fred Clark as the Town Council Representative has not yet attended any of our meetings - **Action** Lauren to e-mail the clerk and enquire if anyone else may be interested in the position

#### **6. Downs Management**

- James is currently completing an environmental impact assessment of bracken on the Downs this is a 22 page document which needs to be completed by Christmas.
- The bracken will be managed on a 3 year rolling period i.e. different areas will either be cut or rolled, to aid rejuvenation whilst other areas will be returned to grassland
- Pool monitoring should be completed in the spring – This could be incorporated in to a family id day, we could approach Roger Lowery or Will Watson to lead **Action** Judy to mention to Will
- Martin Reed has been lined up to clear the ditches when weather allows

- Boundaries along the Malvern Road to be checked in preparation for sheep grazing
- James will be putting together a budget spending plan for the Downs over the coming year.
- Budget will also be identified to cover any further training needs identified for the volunteers
- James wanted to extend his apologies to Alan Grantham as they have been unable to clear the Downs around his property this year due to the very wet weather making the ground conditions unsuitable for the tractor
- The scrub on the Malvern corner which is impeding the view from the Malvern turning needs to be cut back as a priority.
- Noted that we are getting short of leaflets – **Action** Lauren to have go through and update leaflets and ready for a reprint
- Noted that the website and links needs updating – **Action** Lauren

#### 6.11 **Volunteering Update -**

- Due to the weather some volunteering days had to be delayed, however volunteers have cleared around the specimen tress which were planted for the oldest and youngest resident, and the lower end of the racecourse down to the road.
- Clearance has started along the hedge by the carpark with a view to having the hedge laid in the spring. Possibly incorporate this into a training day for the, as this would be a useful skill for the volunteers.
- Consider arranging a family volunteering day in the spring to try and encourage more volunteers, this could incorporate pond clearing and litter picking

#### 7. **Public Member Questions**

No Questions

#### 8. **Any Other Business**

- Karen Rock made a plea to the committee to withhold permission for Clifton hunt to travel across the Downs during the traditional Boxing Day ride, due to the damage which was caused last year. Karen had photographic evidence of the damage caused which had resulted in some very deep holes in the common; a health and safety issue for walkers.
- Karen also voiced her intention to hold a Boxing Day dog walk on the Downs at around the same time as the hunt is due. Last year's walk raised funds for the Downs and it was Karen's intention to do the same this year.

- The meeting was also attended by James Ford Master of the Clifton Hunt who put forward his request for the hunt to ride across the Downs on Boxing Day as part of the traditional celebrations.
  - The Boxing Day meet is due to meet in Bromyard Square, ride up the Worcester Road, across the Downs down to Buckenhill where trails are laid.
  - The hunt would follow the same route as last year staying off the footpaths and keeping to the rough areas to minimise any damage due to wet ground.
  - He also mentioned that during last year's ride the hunt encountered a group of people on the Downs, who were very unpleasant hurling abuse at the riders in front of children
  - James Ford also gave his personal assurance that any damage caused by the hunt riders would be repaired
  
- This is an emotive subject for many; the Downs committee must be seen to be impartial, and balance the rights of all parties to access the Downs. Horse riders have the right to traverse the Downs as do dog walkers. With this in mind the committee members in attendance agreed to allow the hunt to ride across the Downs, with the proviso that any damage will be repaired.  
**Action** – James Hawkins and James Hunt to walk over the Downs area after the meet to check the ground and make provision for any repairs necessary.
  
- James Hawkins also suggested to Karen that the dog walks was scheduled for a different time, but Karen confirmed the walk had already been arranged.
  
- James Hawkins thanked the Bromyard Lights Committee for the Bromyard light show this year, which is looking spectacular.
  
- James also extended his thanks to the BDCA committee members wishing everyone a good Christmas.

**Date of next meeting**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February** – Falcon Hotel Bromyard 7:30 – 9:30

Thank You all for Attending  
Meeting Close.

Lauren Smith  
BDCA Secretary  
01885 488223 – Mobile 07808 949 880  
<mailto:bromyardbdca@gmail.com>

BDCA Meeting Schedule for the coming Year	
<b>General Meeting Dates</b>	Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	7:30 -9:30
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2020	
AGM – Wednesday 1 <sup>ST</sup> July 2020	