

# Minutes of the Bromyard Downs Common Association

## General Meeting

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

7:30 - 9:30 Falcon Hotel Bromyard

### Committee Attendees:

James Hawkins (Chair)	Lauren Smith (Secretary)	Clive Brazier (Treasurer)
David Boddington	Jan Densham	Mark Franklin (Town Council Rep)

### Apologies & Absence;

Jo Stoddart (Vice Chair)	Nigel Shaw	Nic Hinchcliffe (NT)
Ray Pullen	Ben Hiley	David Grant
Karen Rock (BGPC Rep)		

### 2. Action points

- 2.1 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 – Hugh has now recovered action dependant on weather - **Ongoing**
- 2.2 Downs Committee have been invited to be involved with the Victory in Europe celebrations next year - **Action** James to contact Karen Mitchel the Town Clerk who is putting together a working Party for the celebration due on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May
- 2.3 Please take your litter home signs to be posted on the Downs – Jan checked there are no posters in the lock up – **Action** Jan to put together a design and words for a poster
- 2.4 Memorial stone to be set by the Butts pool area – James to contact the Town Clerk to see if any grant funding is available and also Helen Beale to check there is no objection from Hereford Council - **Ongoing**
- 2.5 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** - Discuss options with Ben and Jan – Paul Healey has kindly been storing the notice board in his wood shed but would now like it moved – Jan to arrange removal to James's cart shed
- 2.6 Condensed management plan to be produced and made available in the Bromyard information office – **Action** Lauren Ongoing
- 2.7 Town Council Rep - Lauren to liaise – **Action Closed** – New Town Council Rep Mark Franklin was welcomed to the meeting

- 2.8 Pool monitoring session to be arranged in the spring – See Downs management
- 2.9 Leaflets to be updated and reprinted - **Action** Clive to update and consolidate leaflets  
Lauren to locate master copies and send to Clive
- 2.10 Update on Clifton Hunt re any damage to Downs – **Action** James and Nigel checked on the state of the paths there were some hoof prints but nothing in comparison to some of the tracks James will arrange to take roller over the tracks in early April if dry

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

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

- Current funds stand as follows: -
  - Current Treasurers Account - £15,196.32
  - Cash & Card Account - £ 560
- Caravan club rent has been received amounting to £1,028.20
- Seed harvesting from Plantlife international raised £85. They also noted it was some of the best seed they had harvested.
- Nigel mentioned there may be funding available from the rural funding hub for non-profit making organisations

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

- There have been some objections to an application for a tennis court at Clater Park

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

- The committee welcomed Mark Franklin who has taken over from Fred Clark as the new Town Council representative
- A new notice board is being sourced to replace the one at the Linton bus shelter
- The Town Council is keen to support the climate change initiative to encourage more tree planting by planting at Broadbridge in Bromyard and have asked for the Downs support in this venture.

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

James noted that we had listed Cattle Grids under the initial management plan as this will really not be feasible James will write and withdraw this provision from under the capital item in the HLS scheme

A second capital item valued at £4,500, is a sheep handling system for help in grazing on the Downs, James suggested although currently we do not need the item it should be purchased for future use. **Action** James to buy sheep handling equipment and store until needed.

James to set up a funding management meeting to go through the management plan and initiate financing and pinpoint work needed.

**Action** Organiser James – volunteers to attend, Clive Brazier, Jan Densham, Lauren Smith

Need to start encouraging people back to the Downs once the weather has improved  
Consider Pond dipping fun day  
Litter picking day

Toposcope still needs to be erected once the weather is better and the tractors can access the Downs without damage Roger Lowery will need to attend to ensure the toposcope is positioned correctly

**Action** arrange positioning of toposcope once weather improves.

James mentioned due to a new barn being considered at Warren farm the lock up will need to be relocated along with the tractor and equipment Action - will need to consider location.

### **Volunteering Update -**

Volunteers have been busy clearing along the lower racecourse near Fox's cottage and clearing the scrub and debris left by Weston Power's recent work.

Pond maintenance: digging out ponds which are currently quite full due to the high-water table

Clearing around the Down's carpark to improve visibility into the carpark and at the entrance

Ash Tree removed from the side of the road and general clearance along the roadside

The volunteers have been trialling battery powered chainsaws. However, these have not been powerful enough for the type of work the volunteers are doing, so cannot be recommended as replacements for the current petrol chainsaws the volunteers are using.

We have a good core group of volunteers but due to health issues and other commitments they are not always available to help out. We must advertise and try and recruit some new people, we can of course offer training to anyone who is interested and willing to commit to helping out on the Downs

Training is currently being considered as a refresher or for new members in the following; if anyone is interested please contact Jan.

- First Aid refresher course
- Chainsaw training
- Tractor driving training
- Strimmer training

Jan was asked to come up with a wish list of equipment to help the volunteers  
Jan did mention a buggy to transport equipment which would save volunteers having to carry heavy equipment across the Downs where larger vehicle couldn't go.

Question was posed re application of herbicide to ensure that the cleared saplings wouldn't just regrow. James and Torr have the necessary permit to spray so

volunteers should inform James or Torr who will action once the area has been cleared.

**Guest** - PCSO Jack Davies introduced himself as the local police contact for the safer Neighbourhood Team

His contact details [jack.davies@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jack.davies@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Mobile number 07971 051 386

Jack told us about a new app for phones called '**wealert**' where you can be notified of local incidents and use it to post any concerns yourself.

*(I have personally loaded the app just search the app store and follow the instructions it's very easy to set up for local alerts if anyone is interested in downloading)*

The police are undertaking to drive past the top downs carpark to show a visible police presence to deter unsocial behaviour in the area. Jack will also be producing the local Bromyard police newsletter.

PC Meek our previous local police contact has now moved to the Rural Crime Team along with PC Sarah Smith

**7. Public Member Questions**

No Questions

**8. Any Other Business**

***Date of next meeting***

***Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Falcon Hotel Bromyard 7:30 – 9:30 (Cancelled)***

Thank You all for Attending  
Meeting Close.

Lauren Smith  
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<b>BDCA Meeting Schedule for the coming Year</b>	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	<b>Cancelled until Further Notice</b>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2020	
AGM – Wednesday 1 <sup>ST</sup> July 2020	