

# Minutes of the Bromyard Downs Common Association

## General Meeting

Tuesday 13 August 2019

7:30 - 9:30 Falcon Hotel Bromyard

### Committee Attendees:

James Hawkins (Chair)  
David Boddington  
Nigel Shaw

Lauren Smith (Secretary)  
David Grant

Jan Densham  
Ray Pullen

### Apologies & Absence;

Fred Clark  
Karen Crop  
Jo Stoddart (Vice Chair)

Ben Hiley  
Graham Cooper

Nic Hinchcliffe (NT)  
Clive Brazier (Treasurer)

### 2. Action points

- 2.1 HLS Agreement has been passed to the secretary to copy and make available to all committee members – **Action Closed**
- 2.2 Andrew Nixon has forwarded suggestions for hygiene facilities for use on Bromyard Downs's for educational visits – **Action Closed**
- 2.3 Update on equipment being supplied to Bromyard Downs from the HART project – Roger not in attendance - **Action ongoing**
- 2.4 Volunteered Training list has been compiled by Jan – **Action closed**
- 2.5 CCTV Camera signs in the main carpark have had a positive impact showing a definite decline in late night activity in the carpark and much less rubbish in evidence. However, it has been noted that more rubbish has been dropped along the road side - **Action closed**
- 2.6 Work for the placement of toposcope and clearance of catch pools will cost approximately £700, Once Ben has selected the stone needed, work can commence. - **Action Closed**
- 2.7 Source History Recordings and the actual recorder, unfortunately these have not as yet been located. There is some recollection of someone borrowing the recorder to use but this has not yet been located or returned. - **Search ongoing**
- 2.8 Seeking volunteer to take forward the promotion of the Downs as a site for educational visits as part of our HLS scheme – No one has yet volunteered – **Action ongoing**

- 2.9 A one off wayleave payment from Gigaclear for the superfast broadband installation across Bromyard Downs, will be made to Hereford Council which should eventually be passed to the BDCA, Monitor payment - **Action Closed**

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

**3. Finance Update**

Current Financial spreadsheet plus cash account balance attached

- Current funds stand as follows;
  - Current Treasurers Account - £14,008.49
  - Card Account - £ 500
  - Cash in Hand - £90

**4. Brockhampton Group Parish Council Update**

- Karen was not available to comment.

**5. Town Council Update**

- Nigel informed the committee that the Town Council have produced a short film of Bromyard in conjunction with the Economic Planning Committee. It was suggested that an aerial component featuring the Downs could be added. It was proposed to introduce Bill Morgan (sky camera) who has recently taken some aerial photographs of the Downs and is very keen to produce some more, to the Town Council Clerk.

**6. Downs Management**

- 6.1 The first hay cut has been completed and the bales are being stored by James at Warren Farm. Unfortunately, there is currently no market for hay due to a surplus, so may have to be left to rot or burnt. A second cut will be due shortly and will cover the area around Park Head and behind the Royal Oak.

James has had several letters from Downs's residents, over the timing of the first cut, voicing concerns that we were not giving enough time for the orchids and flowers to seed. Others have praised the management.

The cutting is being done within the management plan guidelines and the rotational cutting each year will see diverse areas being cut at different times each year. Once cut, the grass is left to dry then turned to release seed before the hay is removed to maximise reseeding over a period of time, ensuring no area is treated the same every year.

- 6.2 One letter, complained that ragwort had not been pulled near their cottage, and that we were failing in our task to manage the Downs.

There is no undertaking to remove ragwort, the volunteers work extremely hard in doing what they can, this aside, Jan will see if she can arrange an additional work

day to try and pull some of the ragwort. This will entail bagging the weed and arranging for the plants to be burned.

- 6.3 There is a Health and Safety Issue with the view coming out from Malvern turn which is being obstructed by trees. These will need to be removed as soon as possible to ensure an unobstructed view.

There are also several trees which are now too large for the volunteers to remove by Buckenhill drive by the cattle grid, James agreed this is an instance we could utilise funds from the HLS Grant – **Action** James to organise a quote to remove the trees.

- 6.4 Noted that Golf lane is looking stunning, all thanks to the volunteers for their hard work

- 6.5 The Town council have broached the subject of the Downs Committee becoming involved with the Victory in Europe celebrations next year; possibly hosting a beacon on the Downs – **Action** James to have a word with the Town Council and find out exactly what they would like us to do, and if it is a beacon possibly a word with Gemma Mitchell who has previously been very proactive in arranging fireworks displays and bonfires for the PTA.

- 6.6 We have again been asked to consider the litter problem on the Downs by providing litter bins or at least signs asking people to take their litter home. Previous costings supplied by Karen proved too expensive for the BDCA to consider and Hereford Council would also not be keen for additional rubbish collections. So this is not something we intend to take forward. However, we will look at providing signs in the carpark requesting that litter is taken home. **Action** – look to see what signs we may already have available in the lock up

- 6.7 The idea of a memorial Stone being erected by the Butts pool for local residents to add remembrance plaques has been well received; As Bromyard Cemetery is nearing capacity, the Town Council may also look favourably on helping us with funding for this project – **Action** James to liaise with the Town Council and see if any additional funding is available before we go ahead.

- 6.8 The notice board in the main carpark needs to be re-erected. Nic has agreed that the National Trust would supply two post to reset as a base for the boards. **Action** James to have a word with Nic and also source an auger to drill new holes for the posts

- 6.9 Camper Vans have been seen stopping overnight in the carpark and on the Downs, legally under the byelaws there is no overnight camping allowed on the Downs, However, a suggestion was put forward that if anyone is seen they are asked for a donation towards Bromyard Downs.  
Bringsty Memorial Court have also been considering carpark fees, which would again be a source of revenue, if we decided on this course of action it would need to be in conjunction with any scheme Bringsty decided to instigate.

- 6.10 James mentioned he needs to complete the bracken survey prior to any bracken clearance on the Downs and there is one more session of seed harvesting due.
- 6.11 **Volunteering Update** - The summer months have been quiet for the volunteers, they have finished the work in Golf Lane which is now looking good  
The old notice board has been taken down ready to refurbish and will be re-erected once the new posts are available  
The flail was out of commission for a time but is now been repaired so some more clearing can now be scheduled

The Downs urgently need more volunteers. **Action** - James to add a plea for volunteers into 'Off the Record' and on 'Bromyard Info'.  
Possibly, draft a leaflet we can give out to try and drum up more support and get people interested in helping.

**7. Public Member Questions**  
No Questions

**8. Any Other Business**  
James has been discussing a request with Heather Baker, for a memorial bench for her grandfather who was the headmaster In the 1930s at Brockhampton School.  
James suggested clearing the area by the rock formation by the school for the bench, the family would agree to maintain the area once the bench was in place. Committee were in agreement.

**Date of next meeting**  
**Wednesday 22 May – Falcon Hotel Bromyard 7:30 – 9:30**

Thank You all for Attending  
Meeting Close.

Lauren Smith  
BDCA Secretary  
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<b>BDCA Meeting Schedule for the coming Year</b>	
<b>General Meeting Dates</b>	Falcon Hotel, Bromyard  7:30 -9:30
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2019	
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2020	
AGM – Wednesday 1 <sup>ST</sup> July 2020	