

Minutes of the Bromyard Downs Common Association (BDCA)

Meeting Tuesday 12th December 2023

7.30 Falcon Hotel Bromyard

Committee Attendees

James Hawkins-Acting Chair, David Grant, Paul Symons, Mac Mclean (Treasurer), Clive Brazier, Steve Scott, Pete Stoddart-Ward Councillor, Victoria Hawkins(Secretary)

In Attendance **Graham** Barker 1 other

1. Welcome, apologies, and absentees.

- Jo Stoddart, Nicki Howard, Mark Franklin
- Jen Hartwright, Karen Rock
- James explained Jo had stood down as chair due to Family commitments so as vice-chair would cover the role. Emily Palmer had also stood down due to work pressure. Victoria Hawkins had volunteered to cover as Secretary on a non-voting role. All members were happy with this.

2. Matters arising from minutes

- Website is live www.bromyarddowns.org.uk , it has links to our Facebook and Instagram page and also has a donate page.
- Quarry update, lease now in place.
- No training update. **Action** David Grant to update at next meeting.
- Recruitment – Steve Scott asked for feedback from volunteers. Website will be the best recruitment tool alongside social media. Photos of activities posted on face book and Instagram could be the most productive. The leaflets might be a little outdated with wildlife trust logo. The question was asked if weekend work parties might encourage families to join in. Ten years since volunteers began; some new volunteers may need more support. With more volunteers some may need training but there was a greater need for non-skilled volunteers. A suggestion of a weekend litter pick might attract new volunteers. Some past volunteers may be contacted and encouraged to return.

- **Action** Steve to deliver recruitment plan before the next meeting in March, a recruitment drive would be in place and notices ready for activities.

3. Approve minutes of meeting 13 September 2023

- Minutes were approved with the note that David Grant had not been present at September's meeting and Mac's points had been noted.

4. Brockhampton group parish council -Clive

- Old members are missed, and new members are active and knowledgeable. Busy with railway ideas.
- Portable speed limit sign for the three parishes which will also record speeds.
- Smart water packs distributed.
- Dustbins could not to be funded for Brockhampton School by Herefordshire Council

5. Bromyard Town Council Update

No one attending.

6. Bromyard Bringsty Ward update- Peter Stoddart

Please see attached report.

7. Volunteer report - Graham

- As the ground is so wet very little chance to use tractor but a lot of good work has been carried out.
- A good deal of ash die back has been identified and dealt with.
- Container issues at the quarry had been resolved.
- Volunteers had been informed Balfour Beaty can cut ash die back if near highway.
- **Action** Graham B to mark ash trees on map and send to Pete S.

8. Downs management and HLS- James

- Some of the downs has been badly poached by overuse from horse riding.
- Some paths may need to be temporarily closed and fenced off to allow recovery.
- The general public would be given notice if and when taking place.

- Reptile, butterfly and moth surveys need updating in 2024.
- Additional engraving of an existing bench has been approved.
- Brockhampton School are looking at infrastructure improvement for a new soakaway for sewage. More information is needed as to size and location and the impact it might have on the common.
- The school signs do require planning and permission should have been sort before they were erected.
- James had given a talk to Bringsty Manorial Court about the HLS scheme.

9. Finance Report - Mac

- Closing balance at last meeting £66563.86 (13 September 2023)
- Income in period £2694.07
- Outgoings in period £25571.44
- Closing balance £43686.49

Treasurer suggested moving monies to a higher interest 95-day notice account to generate more interest. All the committee agreed and thought that next RPA payment could also go into the same account.

- **Action** Mac to set up Liquidity Manager Notice Account and transfer money.
- Sale of old chainsaws seems to be the most productive.
- RBS has refunded a case of fraud from BDCA account.
- Volunteers work on ash dieback had generated £630 from logs.

10. Correspondence

- Dr Boddington is to have a memorial oak tree and guard. The exact location is to be agreed with BDCA and parish council.
- **Action** James to purchase tree and liaise with Parish Council and Caroline Boddington regarding the planting.
- Details had been received regarding Bromyard MAD Show from Neil Whipp. It has the objective of generating initiatives by Bromyard folk that will make a personal contribution to averting Climate Change. The committee felt it was an opportunity to connect with members of the public. -details attached.
- Smerdon are undertaking more power line tree work.

11. Any other business

- It was felt the old barriers were not fit for purpose and are to be removed and replaced with metal ones with a combination lock.
- A Site for a new barrier on Malvern Rd to prevent Fly Tipping was agreed.
- **Action** James to liaise with Graham and Mac to source and install new barriers.
- There are numerous dog attack issues and dogs being aggressive. BDCA need some authority to act. **Action** Pete Stoddart will investigate what could be the solution.
- A parish council lengths man has been approved.
- Fly tipping is a constant issue but in the most recent incident it was resolved through hard work of a volunteer.

Date of next meeting- Wednesday 13th March 7.30 Falcon Hotel Bromyard

Meeting Closed 9.05pm

Victoria Hawkins

BDCA Secretary

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Proposed BDCA Meetings - 7:30 Falcon Hotel Bromyard	
<i>* Dates subject to change</i>	
Wednesday 13 March 2023	<i>General Meetings</i>
<i>AGM – Tuesday 14 June 2023</i>	<i>Annual General Meeting and election of committee</i>