**Bringsty Common Manorial Court**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting**

**on Wednesday 10th November 2021**

**by Zoom**

**Attendees:**

Catherine Fuller (chair), Tom Fisher (vice-chair), Peter Bridge (treasurer),

Tim Phillips, Jenny Creek (clerk)

Sally Knowles (Whitbourne Parish Council )

Cllr. Nigel Shaw (ward councillor)

Niall Waller, Tasha Waller, Philippa Clayburn

1. **Apologies for absence**

Kirsty Udall

1. **Minutes of the meeting of 8th September 2021**

Approved.

1. **Questions and comments from the public**

None

1. **Chair’s report - Catherine Fuller (CF)**

Tom Fisher has stepped down from producing the Commoner and is being replaced by Philippa Clayburn. CF thanked Tom for his dedication over the years.

We have been promised a donation from Herefordshire Council for work on bracken control and environment improvement for the next five years. The subject will be discussed under New Business.

CF welcomed Niall Waller to the committee. We still have four vacancies. She also thanked the members who have stepped down for their support.

1. **Treasurer’s report - Peter Bridge (PB)**

The accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. There was nothing to report since the last meeting.

1. **Official Business**
   1. **Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer**

The following were re-elected:

Chair: Catherine Fuller nominated by Tim and seconded by Tom

Vice Chair: Tom Fisher nominated by Catherine and seconded by Tim

Treasurer: Peter Bridge nominated by Catherine and seconded by Tom

* 1. **Co-Options**

Jenny Creek was co-opted and re-appointed as clerk. She announced that she will be resigning the post next year and that a volunteer to take over the post would be welcome.

* 1. **Appointment of auditor for 2021/2022**

Mr David Hunter-Miller Bsc.(Hons), PSLCC, MCIHT, Clerk to Brockhampton Group Parish Council, has agreed to continue auditing our accounts.

* 1. **Auditor’s report for2020/21**

This was approved. See attached document

* 1. **Dates of meetings for 2022**

Ordinary meetings:

Wednesday 9th February 2022

Wednesday 11th May 2022

Wednesday 14th September 2022

Wednesday 9th November 2022

AGM:

Saturday 22nd October 2022

The February meeting will be on Zoom. A decision about the subsequent meetings will be made at that meeting.

1. **Matters Arising and Actions from meeting of 8th September 2020**
   1. **Auditor**

The search for another auditor was unsuccessful. The committee are in favour of continuing with the current arrangement, which meets the requirement that the audit is carried out by someone who has no connection with Bringsty common or the committee.

* 1. **Cost estimates for grass cutting**

We have yet to receive an invoice for the current season’s work. It is estimated that the cost of cutting the tracks wider is approximately £1800; cutting the standard width in previous years cost approximately £1300.

* 1. **Speed limit/enforcement**

The committee is disappointed that a formal written report on the investigations into reducing the speed limit has not been made available, resulting in lack of confidence that a proper investigation was carried out. It was agreed that we should write to the appropriate councillor expressing our concerns. The Chair offered to do this.

**Action:** Write to council requesting a formal report **CF**

Cllr Shaw has asked Balfour Beatty to do a survey of the road but is of the opinion that a reduction in the speed limit is unlikely to happen.

A camera van has been noticed on the A44 occasionally.

* 1. **Donations/charity status/bank transfers**

There is nothing further to add to this item.

Discussion of creating a new parish was also closed as it transpires that it could cost up the £3000 and would involve a lot of work.

**Action:** remove both these items from the agenda **Jenny**

* 1. **Tree felling/scrub clearance by residents - draft proposal**

This has not yet been amended. Cllr Shaw agreed to look it over and then send it to the clerk for circulation to the committee for approval.

**Actions:**  Review the draft proposal **NS**

Circulate the amended document **Jenny**

* 1. **Memorial trees/benches – draft proposal**

This had been circulated to the committee. It was approved.

* 1. **Estimated work + costs to restore old Worcester road**

It was agreed that the track is currently in an acceptable state .

.**New Business**

* 1. **Website**

Niall Waller has offered to recreate a website for the common. He presented his initial thoughts on the content. It was unanimously agreed that this should be progressed. CF and Jenny volunteered to be involved, together with Tasha Waller

**Action:** set up a planning meeting **Niall**

* 1. **Social**

It was agreed that we should consider arranging a social event for all residents. Various ideas were put forward, including a barbecue and/or an event to celebrate the Queen’s forthcoming platinum Jubilee. Tasha Waller would be willing to co-ordinate ideas.

* 1. **Donation from Hereford Council**

We are very grateful to Herefordshire council for the offer of a donation to be used in furthering the conservation work. We need to clarify with them what work we would be expected to carry out, as we will be required to present detailed accounts.

**Action:** Write to council for clarification **CF**

Tom Fisher suggested that we should think about what we would like to do with the money. HCC might be prepared to be flexible. He agreed to co-ordinate suggestions from the committee.

**Action:** create a list of suggested uses for this money **Tom**

It was agreed that we should formally thank the council for this contribution

**Action:** Thank the council **CF**

1. **Conservation Group**
   1. **Conservation activities**

Wild flower plugs have been planted on the Jubilee and the old cricket pitch: 75 Devil’s Bit Scabious, 45 Dyers Greenweed, 120 Betony

Native tree whips will soon be planted in heavily brackened areas

* 1. **Woodland management plan**

Nothing new to report. We should be getting a formal offer of a 5-year agreement soon.

Carried forward to the February agenda.

1. **Parish Reports**
   1. **Ward Councillor - Nigel Shaw (NS)**

As documented in item 7d above, there will be no further action on the idea of a new parish. The council is short staffed. He will do some costings for the idea for possible future reference.

In response to a question, the Post Office mobile van is at the top of the L&LL track, Bringsty , Mondays 13:45- 14:45. <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder/7122470/bringsty-mobile-service>

Nothing else to report affecting the common.

* 1. **Brockhampton (no current representative)**
  2. **Whitbourne – Sally Knowles**

The white lining in the village has been completed

The Crumplebury planning application has been turned down

The Live Inn –appeal awaiting

No news regarding the fate of the Wheatsheaf

The entrance to the village has been improved

The next meeting of WPC is on 5th January 2022 at 7.30 in the village hall.

There was no further business so this meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

The next meeting of BCMC will be on 9th February 2022 at 7.30 p.m. by Zoom.