**Bringsty Common Manorial Court**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting**

**on Wednesday 12th May 2021**

**by Zoom**

**Attendees**

BCMC members:

Catherine Fuller (chair), Tim Phillips, Martin Roche, Mike Davis, Kirsty Udall,

Cllr. Nigel Shaw (ward councillor), Jenny Creek (clerk)

Sally Knowles (Whitbourne Parish Council representative )

Members of Public:

Mark Clark (Whitbourne Parish Council)

1. **Apologies for absence/not present**

Tom Fisher (vice-chair), Derek Brookes, Graham Chapman, Peter Bridge (treasurer)

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

Mark Clark asked about the origins of the Manorial Court and possible sale of the common. Cllr Shaw gave a brief summary of its history and explained that the Council were open to conservation charities, or similar, taking over ownership of their commons subject to consultation with and support of residents.

1. **Minutes of the meeting of 10th February 2021**

Approved.

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

She reminded the committee of the priorities and linked to the agenda and recent developments (see separate report). Mention was made of the recent arson attacks, including on the new bus shelter. Mark wondered about CCTV to protect this from future attack. This will be further investigated

Action: Include CCTV on the agenda for the meeting on 8th September Jenny

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

In the absence of the treasurer there was no report. Catherine reminded the committee that we have limited funds with no guaranteed income other than contributions to cutting of the football pitch. Existing funds will run out in 5 years unless the situation changes. We hope to receive some funding from Morgans and Butterfly Conservation but it will fall short of the amount we need to spend on track maintenance and grass cutting in the long term. The treasurer’s report will be circulated with these minutes

1. **Matters Arising and Actions from meeting of 10th February 2021.**
2. **40 mph speed limit and enforcement**

We have the support of both Brockhampton and Whitbourne parish councils for our application.

The police will be setting up a speed enforcement camera in the area but this has not yet happened. Catherine will check on this.

Action: Chair to enquire about speed enforcement Catherine

1. **fire risk assessment**

The fire risk assessment was carried out at the time of the arson attacks. Their assessment is that there is little difference in risk whether the tracks are cut early or late, but they could be made wider where practical. CF will talk to the contractor about this. The council has been approached for a contribution towards the extra cost of doing this and there is a possibility that we may receive some funding for one year’s cutting.

Action: Chair to talk to contractor Catherine

1. **Money raising ideas**

* The draft notices have been amended and were circulated prior to the meeting. There remains the question of how many to produce and where they should be sited. Mike suggested five locations. It is intended to include a QR code on the notices to enable donations to be paid directly into the BCMC bank account. Kirsty will liaise with the treasurer to organise the details.
* It has also been suggested that we should try to get sponsorship for the tracks from local businesses.
* Welsh Water have expressed an interest in BCMC applying for funding under their environmental scheme, but this will require a large amount of work developing and presenting the project. There is a smaller scheme which could be used to get involvement from local schools.
* Tom has submitted an application for the Forestry Commission woodland management plan but there is doubt about whether we have the resources to carry out the work.

Actions: Set up operation of QR code Kirsty/Peter

Sponsorship of tracks Graham

Mark Clark suggested applying to the Chris Roberts Memorial Community fund and involving local schools. .

Action: this item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting Jenny

1. **change of ownership of the common**

This was covered under Item 2.

1. **Defibrillator**

This has now be obtained and installed by the entrance to Bringsty café.

Thanks to Kirsty and Mike.

1. **Permission for tree felling/scrub clearance**

After some discussion it was agreed that residents should not need to ask permission from BCMC to work on land up to 10 metres from their boundary, for either clearance or planting, provided any felling is restricted to trees not more than 15 centimetres in diameter and that they have notified their neighbours of this. Tree planting restricted to native species.

Action: clerk to produce a draft proposal for discussion including a list

of desirable trees Jenny

1. **Wayleaves**

There has not yet been any reply from Herefordshire Council on this subject. Carry forward to the next meeting.

1. **Conservation Group**
2. **Work parties**

No work, other than tree planting below, has taken place owing to the Covid restrictions.

1. **Tree planting**

12 black poplar cuttings have been planted at various sites. Several of them are already showing signs of growth.

1. **Tracks**

Some residents have expressed concern regarding the late cutting of the tracks last year. The question of timing was put to a vote and it was agreed unanimously that we should return to earlier cutting, probably late July to avoid disturbing ground nesting birds.

1. **Grassland**

The grassland will be cut as last year at the end of the summer. The promised funding and conservation benefits are dependent on this being the case.

1. **Woodland Management Plan**

The application for this has been submitted. Nothing further to report in Tom’s absence.

1. **Proposal for annual budget**

It was proposed that the conservation group should be allocated an annual budget. After discussion and an outline of the proposed expenditure plan by Mike, the sum of £350 annually for 2 years (this year and next) was voted on and agreed unanimously.

1. **New Business**
2. **Communications**

The Chair set out the ways in which we communicate with residents:

* The Commoner
* Posting of agendas on the notice boards
* Facebook
* Minutes available to anyone on request
* Meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend and time is allocated for discussion at the start of the meeting

1. **Restoration of old Worcester road**

Carried forward

Action: include this on the agenda for the next meeting Jenny

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

* He has had a meeting with the Fire Service regarding the arson attacks on the common.
* The bus shelter has been repaired and treated with fire retardant. Ian at The Live and Let Live kindly donated some shingles for the roof.
* He received a request to plant a commemorative tree. Agreed and passed to the conservation group to provide guidance on type of tree and whereabouts.
* Speed on the A44 needs to be monitored. A meeting of both parishes (Whitbourne and Brockhampton ) and BCMC needs to be arranged to discuss the long-term plan for the road.
  1. **Brockhampton (no current representative)**

Extra councillors are needed for Brockhampton. Anyone interested should contact Brockhampton Parish Council.

* 1. **Whitbourne – Sally Knowles**
* The AGM was held on 5th May. Ron James was re-elected as Chair and Jackie Bromley as vice-Chair.
* A complaints procedure for the council has been discussed.
* Future meetings will be face-to-face.
* The playing fields have re-opened.

1. **AOB**
2. **Memorial bench**

Permission has been requested for a memorial bench on the Jubilee. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that we do not wish to have a further bench there but would be happy to have one on the ridge or by the football pitch.

Action: Notify the requestor Catherine

1. **Pedestrian proximity to boundaries**Carried forward to the next meeting
2. **Correspondence from resident.**Catherine circulated correspondence received from a resident concerning trees on the common. Please send her any comments **ALL**
3. **AGM planning**

It was agreed that we should hold the AGM in the village hall, Covid permitting.

Actions: Book village hall provisionally for Saturday 23rd October 2021 Jenny

Send ideas for a speaker to Catherine who will arrange. ALL and Catherine

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th September at 7.30 p.m. This will again be on Zoom