**Bringsty Common Manorial Court**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting**

**on Wednesday 10th February 2021**

**by Zoom**

**Attendees:**

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

Tim Phillips, Martin Roche, Mike Davis, Kirsty Udall, Derek Brookes, Jenny Creek (clerk)

Sally Knowles (Whitbourne Parish Council)

Cllr. Nigel Shaw (ward councillor)

From Whitbourne Parish Council:

Ron James (chair)

Tess Hunt

Jackie Bromley

Mark Clark

1. **Apologies for absence**

Graham Chapman

1. **Minutes of the meeting of 11th November 2020**

Approved.

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

CF welcomed the members of Whitbourne parish council.

There were only two items to report that were not covered by the agenda:

* she had received comments about blocked access. Please allow free access on all tracks and property entries. If this cannot be resolved between individuals you can now log complaints with the police electronically.
* an ecologist from Natural England will be surveying the common in connection with creating a Living England map

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

The accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. There has not been much change since the last meeting. Cllr Shaw has informed us that we can expect a donation from Herefordshire Council.

1. **Matters Arising and Actions from meeting of 11th November 2020**
2. **40 mph speed limit and enforcement**

Tom Fisher and Catherine Fuller have drafted a report on this matter, summarising comments from over 20 residents who are unanimously in favour of a reduction in the speed limit. This was circulated prior to the meeting with additional comments from Peter Bridge.

Currently we have the backing of Brockhampton PC but not Whitbourne. Whitbourne have now agreed to reconsider their decision and this report will be presented at their next meeting on 3rd March. Derek Brookes suggested that residents should be encouraged to report all traffic-related incidents to BCMC, not just those involving the emergency services. The report and Peter’s additional comments were accepted by the committee.

1. **fire risk assessment**

A new Fire Safety officer will be joining the council on 01 April so Herefordshire Council suggest a delay until then. If required BCMC will have to pay for the assessment; there will not be any funding from the council.

Action: carry forward to the next meeting Jenny

1. **money raising ideas**

CF expressed gratitude for the two donations we have received, from Morgan Motors and Butterfly Conservation, which have enabled us to do some initial conservation work. We have also had a small donation from Gigaclear

1. draft notices

The text of Mike Davis’s draft for a notice for the notice boards and possibly flyers had been circulated prior to the meeting. This was unanimously accepted.

Mike also suggested trying to get sponsorship for the notice boards.

1. collecting electronic donations

Kirsty Udall said that these could be done via a QR code or through a website such as JustGiving

1. Sponsorship from businesses

No progress has been made on this, but it might be worth pursuing with companies who have a connection with the common. e.g., water companies, power suppliers

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

This is being considered by the council and will need to be discussed further by the committee in consultation with residents. There will be no significant money forthcoming from HCC and we only have sufficient funds to maintain tracks and grass for approximately 5 years. Herefordshire Council only have a liability for minimum maintenance e.g., removing obstructions.

Eywas common have recently set up a trust in place of private ownership. CF has been in touch with them; as soon as the Covid-19 situation allows there will be reciprocal visits.

Action: CF will mention this potential change on our Facebook page

to get initial reactions from residents and include an open slot for residents

at the next meeting. Catherine

Action: carry forward these items to the next meeting Jenny

Martin Roche mentioned wayleaves, which are currently paid to HCC but historically went to BCMC. CF will raise this matter with the council.

Action: contact HCC re wayleaves Catherine

1. **Defibrillator**

Little progress since the last meeting. We are still looking for a suitable location. Mike Davis will approach Bringsty Vintage Living again. Other possible sites are at the pub or the forge, but these are not as ideal as BVL. Kirsty agreed to approach these two sites if needed.

Actions: speak to Bringsty Vintage Living Mike

approach Live and Let Live pub and the forge if required Kirsty

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

These are in abeyance for now due to lockdown restrictions but work will recommence as soon as allowable. Two areas have been identified for improvement, requiring no more than volunteers and hand tools. Graham Chapman had approached Makita who are willing to donate some tools in exchange for publicity.

1. **Tree planting**

Mike gave a brief overview of the common then and now. The original plan was to plant 25 to 50 whips per year which would involve expenditure. However, it is now suggested that we follow the Forestry Commission guidelines for rejuvenating existing woodland, mainly coppicing and scrub clearance with some planting of new species. There is a possibility of a grant for this work. The committee were in agreement with exploring this further. It was agreed that this idea would be publicised on our Facebook page and in the Commoner in order to get residents’ views. Cllr Shaw said that HCC would also need to be consulted. Tom offered to explore potential grants.

Actions: Refine plan Mike

Explore funding options Tom

publicise provisional plan Catherine/Mike/Tom

1. **Tracks and grassland**

Last year these were cut later than usual which produced mixed reactions from residents. It was agreed that we should cut the grassland as late as possible and residents’ views will be taken into consideration before making a decision on the timing of track cutting. This will be done via the Commoner, Facebook and include an invitation to express their views at the next meeting.

Action: publicise in Commoner Tom

publicise on Facebook Catherine

carry forward to next meeting Jenny

1. **Eywas common response**

This was covered under item 5d – change of ownership

1. **Grazing**

A resident has requested permission to graze some sheep. She is not a Commoner so does not have automatic grazing rights. She will therefore need a licence and there was discussion about whether that would be supplied by BCMC or the council. Cllr Shaw will clarify with Helen Beale. We want to encourage grazing but the usual concerns about the A44 and also uncontrolled dogs were expressed by the resident.

Action: clarify the issuing of the licence Nigel Shaw

1. **New Business**
2. **Permission to commoner for tree felling/scrub clearance**

Permission to clear scrub and small trees round the perimeter of a property has been granted. The Chair suggested we should have agreed criteria for future requests. We need to ensure that the work will not involve any significant trees and also that the work is covered for public liability and chain saw use. CF will produce and circulate a draft document.

Action: draft criteria for future permissions Catherine

1. **Trading licence**

Permission to offer light refreshments from a converted horsebox has been requested. A licence from HCC is required as well as a street trading licence. Helen Beale has been in contact with the applicant to ascertain the intended locations of the vehicle. She has asked for the views of BCMC and suggested if appropriate an initial 3-month licence. Concern was expressed about the potential increase in litter, increased risk from possible additional traffic onto and off the common and whether it may encourage COVID-19 restrictions on local exercise to be breached. It was suggested that should the request be granted they make a donation to BCMC. Cllr Shaw will contact them regarding the concerns and feedback. This was agreed by the committee.

Action: contact the person regarding these issues Nigel Shaw

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

We want to encourage more participation from residents in the form of questions/comments via Facebook or email and attending our meetings. It was agreed that time at the beginning of our meetings will be allocated for any public participation. It was also suggested that we could perhaps use a survey app to collect responses to specific subjects.

Action: this to be added to the agenda for the next meeting Jenny

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

Bus shelter **-** he will be meeting with the contractor to confirm a start date for the works

Peter Bridge asked how much the council receives in wayleaves on the common. Cllr Shaw said he would investigate.

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

The Ardley Meadows footpath extension has been completed

Two planning applications were supported

White linings of the road outside the pub and HGV notices were discussed

The village hall is undergoing improvements while it remains closed

The playing fields remain open

1. **AOB**

Mark Clark suggested once COVID-19 restrictions allow we offer guided walks around Bringsty as a way of raising money. A further suggestion was made to arrange refreshments.

Action: add this to the agenda for the next meeting Jenny

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th May at 7.30 p.m. This will again be on Zoom