

Minutes of Bringsty Common Manorial Court

on Monday, 16th July 2024 from 19:00 – 21:00

at Whitbourne Village Hall

Attendees:

Niall Waller (Chair), Tom Fisher (Vice Chair), Peter Bridge (Treasurer), Elizabeth Hesketh (Clerk), Rob Randall, Martin Boote, Kirsty Udall, Ruth Lyon

1. **Apologies for absence:** Peter Stoddart, Sally Knowles (Whitbourne Parish Council).

2. **Minutes of the meeting of 13.05.24**

Approved.

3. **Questions and comments from the public:**

None

4. **Chair's report**

Butterfly Count:

Chair reported that a group of around 15-20 people from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust will carry out a butterfly survey on BC. This is planned for Sunday 18th Aug 1.30-3.30pm, will last for around 2 hours and will be led by Lucy Morton. The survey will be advertised on the HWT website.

Butterfly enthusiasts are welcome to join in. Chair has requested copy of findings which can be shared with Butterfly Conservation Society.

Action: To forward findings to Butterfly Conservation Society

Chair

Rob identified an appendix relating to butterflies / moths within the 1980/90s BC Management Plan. This might be a useful reference for the society.

Action: To email society

Chair

BC Constitution / updated bylaws / grazing rights for BC: No update.

Action: To contact Helen Beale to discuss above issues

Chair

Track on south of BC: Chair has received email from residents concerned about its deteriorated state and the high cost of repairs. A contribution from HDC is being sought by residents.

Action: To support residents by raising this issue with Helen Beale.

Chair

5. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer has circulated most recent statement of BC finances. Discussion re sources of income and running costs of BC. Vice Chair advised that 2023 monies from Rural Payments Agency are still outstanding. Treasurer outlined interest that has been / will be paid on the BC current, 6-month fixed and 12-month fixed bank accounts. Discussed merits of keeping an amount in 32-day notice account vs 6-month fixed rate account for paying large bills.

Action: To send annual financial report to Helen Beale, HDC, by 15.10.24 **Chair**

6. Official Business:

Dissemination of information to residents re. BCMC meetings / agendas / minutes and activities taking place on BC:

News section of BC website is not used and is not current. To continue to post BCMC minutes / agendas on website / BC noticeboards and to contact Cathy re Facebook posting

Actions:

- (i) To remove News Section of website **Chair**
- (ii) To post BCMC minutes / agendas on website **Chair**
- (iii) To put BCMC minutes / agendas on BC Noticeboards **Clerk**
- (iv) To contact Cathy re posting minutes / agendas on Facebook **Clerk**

Both BC noticeboards are in a bad state of repair (e.g. rotten wood, let in water) and difficult to access due to nettles / brambles etc

Action: To evaluate whether noticeboards can be renovated or whether they require replacing **Martin**

Dissemination of information re upcoming events (e.g. BC AGM) is more difficult since the demise of 'The Commoner'. Discussed one off leaflet delivery, insert in Whitbourne Parish magazine, collection of residents' email addresses.

Action: To contact Cathy and Philippa to request email addresses of residents **Chair**

Dropbox: Mixed response from BCMC re its usefulness and accessibility. Agreement to continue with its use but to send around agenda and minutes as word doc attachments as well as Dropbox link.

Action: BCMC Committee members to contact Chair or Clerk if require help with uploading or viewing docs on Dropbox

All

7. AGM Planning

Discussed possible topics for invited speaker (i) first aid / use of BC defibrillator (ii) History of BC (iii) re-wilding (iv) Herefordshire Wildlife re wildlife on BC (v) foraging on BC.

Report required for AGM re change that has taken place on BC over last 12 months.

(i) To approach contacts re first aid / defibrillator training

Kirsty

(ii) To approach Local History Society re possibility of speaker

Martin

(iii) To produce report for AGM

Chair

Matters Arising and actions from 13.05.24

a. Routine management of Bringsty Common.

Track cutting: Tracks now had first of two cuts of 2024. Discussion ensued re how wide and short the tracks should be cut and whether they should be cut once / year (as had been the case previously) or twice/year (as agreed with Herefordshire Council 12 months ago: aim - to encourage more wildflower growth at borders of the tracks). Concern that leaving grass cuttings on edge of tracks is not conducive to wildflower growth.

Agreement that the current track cutting plan requires review but that 12 months is probably not long enough to for measurable change to have taken place. In terms of this year, to proceed with a second cut mid-September, but for the cut to be single width.

Action: To liaise with the contractor

Kirsty

Grasslands: Map indicating areas of grasslands to be cut has been shared with the usual Contractor and an estimated cost of work has been provided. To ask contractor to spread grass cuttings over a larger area to reduce the risk of fire. With view to future, a more precise map of areas to be cut will be drawn up so that tenders can be invited from other providers.

Actions:

(i) To continue to liaise with the Contractor re grassland cutting for this year

Martin

(ii) To increase map specification of grass areas that require cutting

Martin, Ruth

Bracken Management: Bracken bruising (2 days) has now taken place and invoice for work has been received. Rob has done some bracken strimming around young trees – this needs doing regularly over the summer months.

b. Bringsty Common maintenance and development

Management Plan: No recent progress re producing (i) a detailed map of BC and (ii) a BC management plan. Chair to work on a discussion document over the summer period.

Action: To carry over to September meeting

Clerk

Woodland Management Plan: Nothing new to report.

Vice Chair

8. New Business: None Identified

9. Parish Reports: None received

There was no further business, so the meeting was closed.

**The next ordinary meeting will be held at Whitbourne Village Hall
on Monday, 16th September 2024 from 19-00 - 21-00**