

Bringsty Common Manorial Court

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 9th May 2018 at Whitbourne Village Hall

Present:

Allan Corder, Tom Fisher, Mike Harrison, Peter Hall, Claire Hall, Tim Phillips, Paul Friend, Carol Friend, Sue Long, Nigel Shaw, Jenny Creek

Helen Beale, HCC

1. Apologies for absence

Anne Evans

Also absent: Martin Roche

2. Chairman's report

The chairman said his report would be covered by the items on the agenda and under Any Other Business

3. Treasurer's report

The treasurer had nothing to report as there had been no new transactions since the previous meeting.

4. Parish Reports

a. Ward Councillor - Nigel Shaw

- Nigel introduced Helen Beale who is now the HCC officer responsible for Commons. In response to a query from the chairman, Helen confirmed that George Thompson is still involved and should be included in all correspondence for the time being.
- Nigel reported on planning applications in respect of two properties on the common. Nuttage Farm has received approval to re-roof 6 barns which are listed properties. The application for a single storey extension to replace a conservatory at The Old School House has also been passed. He had nothing else to report relating to the common.
- Allan had a question regarding the cabling for the high speed broadband across the common. Nigel said that Gigaclear have a wayleave from HCC to lay cables. Surveying is currently ongoing and the plan will be submitted to HCC for approval. Helen believed the cables would be laid by moleing but it would be up to the contractors. Peter and Allan expressed concern that damage would not be done to the few environmentally important areas, so we would like to be informed of the proposed plan. We do not want to hold up the project so Allan proposed that any issues could be dealt with by email rather than waiting for the next meeting.

b. Brockhampton - Paul Friend

- They are still in the initial stages of the Neighbourhood Development plan. Paul reminded us that the plan is not just about housing, but also how the area should develop and look. If anyone has any concerns they should contact Paul.
- The council supported all the planning applications.
- The council is looking for development land for about 20 houses in the Linton parish.

c. Whitbourne – Anne Evans

There was nothing to report from Whitbourne. There are no current planning applications relating to the common.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes of last meeting

a. Update on grant application

Allan, Tom and Paul had an initial meeting Ann Cantrell from Farmerology to discuss the feasibility study.

Unlike previous grants, we must not have a single focus for the grant. She hopes to have a draft document ready by September to present at our September meeting. We have supplied her with a large amount of data and she will return to the common in June to do a thorough survey. She may then need input from the committee. Peter asked about her qualifications and Tom said that she is very experienced. Peter explained that Andy would be returning to do the botanical survey and would like some guidance as to how to organise this. Allan suggested that Peter should detail this in an email to him and Tom which could be forwarded to Ann Cantrell and Helen Beale/George Thompson.

Action: Peter to send email to Tom/Allan re botanical survey.

Allan expressed his concern that we still have not received the Woodland Management plan. We need this plan for our Natural England application. When it arrives Allan will circulate it to the committee by email. HCC also need to be kept informed.

b. High speed broadband/Fastershire

This topic was mostly covered under item 4a above, but Nigel reminded the committee that there are several companies other than Gigaclear who can provide the connection to the service.

c. Trees on the south slope of the Jubilee

More trees have been felled as detailed in the previous meeting's Minutes. Jenny passed on a very favourable comment from a resident about the improved view.

d. Live & Let Live

Helen Beale said that a route has been agreed for the discharge pipe with the Environment Agency. There are still issues with the easement for the common land. The proposed

route also includes crossing private land, the owner of which has agreed in principle to this, subject to certain terms and conditions. These matters are awaiting response from the landlady of the pub.

Action: Jenny to put this on the agenda for the next meeting

Tom asked about the holes in the track caused by the water leakage. It is not part of the BOAT. The committee discussed this problem. Allan wondered if a temporary solution could be found but an easement would still be required. He asked if this matter could be expedited as soon as possible.

e. water level in Drover's pond

Raising the level would involve raising the height of the dam so the suggestion is to leave it as it is. Allan proposed waiting to see what would happen to the level in the summer. Peter suggested we monitor the wildlife over the season which was agreed by the committee. Paul mentioned the existence of an organisation that monitors ponds, and agreed to get their details.

**Action: Paul to email the committee with details of pond monitoring organisation.
Allan to contact them.**

Post meeting note:

Paul identified the organisation as the Freshwater Habitats Trust with a project called PondNet. Allan has asked Paul to contact them on his behalf, which he has kindly agreed to do.

Action: Allan/Paul to report at next meeting

f. Owl boxes

Paul has finished cutting the wood for all the boxes, but he is waiting for better weather to complete them. There have been several offers of sponsorship for these. Sponsors can suggest an area for the box but the siting of them has to be done correctly.

Action: Paul to report on progress at next meeting

6. New Business

a. Future MX activity and Bringsty "grand prix"

Nigel and Allan reported on a meeting they had Jeremy Holden. Our request for a written agreement that future activity might be curbed was not accepted. Allan detailed all the discussion that took place which was reasonably forthright but generally civil. It was agreed that the channels of communication would be kept open for possible future discussion. There would appear to be little more that can be done to prevent the event as every avenue seems to have been explored. There was a long discussion among the committee, including the attitude of HCC, and the weakness of the law regarding noise nuisance. Allan thinks we must continue to make our objections heard as strongly as possible. He thinks that noise monitoring must continue. Sue suggested inviting Jeremy

Holden to come onto the common to hear the noise as the acoustics are probably worse than on the actual field.

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

b. Mowing

i. football pitch

We should continue mowing the football pitch; hopefully funding from the parish councils will still be forthcoming. The committee agreed to this

Action: Allan will talk to Hugh

ii. tracks

Allan also proposed that we should mow the tracks as normal. The committee agreed.

Action: Allan to contact Dave Manton

iii. grass

Allan suggested that we should carry out the cut as last year. Peter suggested cutting all the grass but cut it much later, probably early September, and cut it higher, and then see what the effect on the butterflies will be. This should also help with late-flowering plants. Sue suggested that if the ground is boggy then only cut the flatter areas and leave to grass long on the slopes. This was agreed.

Action: Allan will talk to Hugh

c. Brackenburn

Brackenburn have unfortunately ceased trading. We cannot afford to cut the bracken ourselves.

d. How to change/amend byelaws

Allan asked Nigel about the process for changing byelaws. They have to be passed by the council but also have to be approved by the Secretary of State. Helen Beale is looking at this subject in relation to commons and will report at the next meeting. Allan wondered if they could be strengthened to cover noise pollution but this seems unlikely as it is quite a complex subject.

Action: Nigel to pass on Helen's findings

Peter wondered if the Malvern Hills AONB could be extended to cover the Bringsty/Bromyard Downs. Nigel pointed out that this would not stop the noise.

The discussion then broadened to cover related topics

Mitchells coppice is an area of ancient woodland and has been surveyed, although the council does not have any record of this. Tom said he would try and find the details of the survey

Action: Tom to report on the survey of Mitchells coppice

e. Bringsty common gateways and signs

As the attempt to get the speed limit reduced on the A44 was unsuccessful, Allan suggested that we might consider erecting railings on either side of the road on the approaches to the common with a suitably worded sign requesting careful driving. He believed the costings would not be great. The committee approved of this suggestion. It would need approval from HCC/Highways agency but Nigel felt that this would not be a problem. We could have them made from recycled materials to avoid maintenance costs.

Action: Allan to investigate further

7. AOB

a. Data Protection

Our status under these regulations was discussed, based around a document issued by Tom to the committee prior to the meeting. We have a database containing the names and addresses of people living on or connected with the common. These are primarily used for the delivery of the Commoner. We may need to get permission from these people to use this data. This would be a difficult task. We would need to produce a privacy statement, which could be published in the Commoner. This would have to be approved by HCC. Helen was unsure about how the regulations apply to us so she said she would get advice. We need to ensure that we are covered legally. Allan thanked Tom sincerely for his work on this.

Action: Tom to email a copy of his document to Helen

Helen to report back after taking advice. Nigel will convey this to the committee.

Allan thanked Helen for taking the time to come to the meeting.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Whitbourne village hall on Wednesday 12th September 2018