

# Bringsty Common Manorial Court

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Whitbourne Village Hall

### Present:

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

### Also present:

Ann Cantrell, Farmerology

Hayley Murray, Natural England

Nigel Hand, Central Ecology

approximately 20 commoners and residents of Bringsty Common

### 1. Apologies for absence

Claire Hall

### 2. Chairman's report

The chairman welcomed all the visitors to the meeting and explained that we would process the items on the agenda as quickly as possible. He had nothing additional to report

### 3. Treasurer's report

At the end of August, which is the end of our financial year, we had £24034.49 in our business account and £10915.60 in our Secure Trust savings account after receiving £134.31 in interest. The total funds available are therefore £34950.09. The Drovers' Pond fund is included in these figures and has £1719.82 remaining for maintenance purposes.

We have paid 60% of the invoice from Bearwood Associates for preparing the woodland management plan and still have £460.80 to pay. I believe that it has been agreed that we will pay this when we are refunded the full amount.

We are also still owed our final CS payment of £1300 which has now been delayed twice "because of the large number of mapping issues".

Although the spreadsheet for the end of the f.y. shows us to have overspent by £34.17, we would go back into the positive when the WMP funding is settled to the amount of £657.03. This plus the CS payment of £1300 would mean a credit of £1957.03. We are

expecting invoices from contractors in this new f.y. for work carried out in the previous f.y. which will take us back into the red again if we use a strict accounting basis.

#### **4. Parish Reports**

##### **a. Ward Councillor - Nigel Shaw**

Nothing to report

##### **b. Brockhampton - Paul Friend**

Two further notice boards have been erected on the Downs

##### **c. Whitbourne – Anne Evans**

At the meeting of Whitbourne Parish Council on 5th September 2018 Councillors discussed the feasibility study commissioned by BCMC about options for future management of the Common. Councillors supported the action of the BCMC and in particular their determination to achieve sustainable long term management for the benefit of the land and its wildlife.

#### **5. Actions from meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

##### **a. botanical survey**

This has not taken place

##### **b. Live & Let Live discharge pipe**

The process for obtaining a wayleave is being followed. If this is not completed by the end of this month, further action will be required.

##### **c. Drover's pond monitoring**

PondNet will monitor the Drover's pond, as well as the pond on the north side of the A44. They will notify us of the results in due course.

##### **d. Owl boxes**

Paul has completed 6 boxes. They await siting in trees. Paul will deal with the offers of sponsorship for this work.

##### **e. MX activity on adjacent land**

Meetings are still happening. These are being monitored by the nearby residents. So far 10 have taken place this year (the legal 'allowance' is 14).

##### **f. Mowing**

###### **i) football pitch**

Hugh has been mowing this as required. Due to the very dry summer the grass has not been growing very much

###### **ii) tracks**

Dave Manton has done these as normal

iii) grass

Hugh and Ashley have cut the grass later than normal, as agreed at the last meeting.

**g. Bylaws relating to commons.**

The process for amending bylaws is tortuous. No further action.

**h. Mitchells Coppice survey**

Tom has passed this on to Peter.

**i. Bringsty Common gateways and signs**

This is on hold. Allan has had a new idea and will email Nigel with the details.

**Action: Allan to email Nigel**

**j. Data protection**

It was agreed that no further action is required.

**6. New Business**

**a. Commemorative tree planting on Jubilee**

This had been brought to our attention by Hugh Davies. A local Girl Guide group have requested permission to plant two oak trees on the Jubilee. These have apparently been raised from seed gathered locally. Peter wanted to ensure that they would not be planted in the grassy areas. Allan and Hugh will correspond by email about this.

**Action: Allan to email Hugh**

**b. Buddleia planting for butterflies**

Peter suggested this as a way of providing a temporary supply of late nectar for the insects. Hopefully the later cutting of the grass will eventually result in late-flowering plants. The suggestion is to plant them in the grassy areas so that any seedlings will be mown, thus preventing them spreading. Allan said this subject should be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

**Action: Jenny to include this on the agenda for the November meeting.**

**c. Are firebreaks/rides covered by NE grant money**

There is some uncertainty about this. It was decided that Allan should discuss this with NE as part of the current grant application. Item to be carried forward to next meeting

**Action: Jenny to include this on the agenda for the November meeting**

**d. Arrangements for AGM**

Carol and Sue offered to do the catering again.

The speaker this year will be Sasha Norris of Herefordshire Wildlife Rescue.

#### **e. Gigaclear operations on the Common**

Cabling is now taking place. Some of it is lying on the surface. Allan said he had queried this with one of the workforce, the response being that they are waiting for wayleaves. Allan asked Nigel to seek clarification from HCC about this, also whether all properties on the Common are going to be connected. To be reported at the next meeting.

**Action: Nigel to find out the current situation with regard to this work**

### **7. Public discussions**

#### **a. Woodland Management Plan**

Allan gave a brief summary of this, which can be found in the September issue of the Commoner. The complete plan is accessible on the Bringsty Common website.

#### **b. Feasibility Study**

Ann Cantrell of Farmerology gave a comprehensive presentation on this. A summary of the presentation is also included in the September issue of the Commoner, along with Allan's introduction to the subject. Full details of the study are available on the website. Hayley Murray of Natural England was present at this point in the meeting, and contributed to the Q&A session at the end of the presentation.

### **8. AOB**

There was no further business to discuss, so the meeting was then closed.

Allan thanked everyone for coming, in particular the residents/commoners who attended.

The next ordinary meeting of the Manorial Court will take place on Wednesday 14th November 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

The AGM will be held on Saturday 20th October 2018.