

Bramber Parish Council
Bramber Brooks Management Committee Meeting
Bramber & Beeding Village Hall
14th March 2019 at 6.30pm

Committee Members Present: Cllr Roger Potter (Chair), Cllr Mick Tilley, Ms Brianne Reeve, Mr Jefferson Cann, Ms Kate Cann, and Mr John McCarthy.

Members of the Public Present: 2

Minutes: Rebecca Luckin (Clerk)

MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence

a) Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Sarah Green.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting – 23rd January 2019

a) Cllr Tilley **proposed** that the minutes of the meeting of 23rd January 2019 be approved as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman. **Seconded** by Mrs B Reeve. **Agreed.**

4. Matters arising

a) Signage design and cost – agenda item.

b) Liaise with Woods Mill re safety advice – KC email circulated 28.02.19

c) Seek advice re tree management – Mr Nick Mills had consulted a Tree Warden, who had recommended some minor tree works to remove limbs that may be a danger to visitors. Felled timber will remain on site, as a benefit to wildlife.

d) MOU/MOA – Natural England advised that a Nature Reserve Agreement should be drawn up between BBMC and the landowner.

e) Nature Reserve Agreement – The Clerk had contacted HDC to request that they delegate the power to Bramber Parish Council. Awaiting confirmation from HDC Legal Team.

f) Provide Riversong Group company information to Natural England – actioned.

g) Community Orchard day – Cllr Potter reported that seven additional apple trees had been planted and that volunteers had enjoyed a hearty breakfast provided by Mrs Mills.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting

5. Open Forum

a) Mr Nick Mills reported that local schools had visited and had subsequently written stories that will be displayed. A local Forest School may not use Bramber Brooks going forward, since it is not exactly suitable for their needs.

b) Countryside Stewardship grants are available towards the cost of fencing, that will keep cattle in place. Soil samples have been provided to DEFRA, as part of the grant application process.

- c) The Environment Agency is due to provide designs for the ponds.
- d) A wildlife expert is due to visit Bramber Brooks regarding the release of harvest mice.
- e) An H&S Consultant will visit the site on 27th March to advise on signage and safety with regard to trees and other matters.
- f) The Woodland Trust has offered packages of free trees to schools. Mrs Brianne Reeve will liaise with local schools, to advise on an application for trees that could be planted on site.

Action Liaise with NM and local schools to apply for trees BR

- g) A timeline record for activities undertaken on the Bramber Brooks was circulated.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting

6. Local Nature Reserve designation progress update

- a) Nature Reserve Agreement - HDC Legal Department has yet to delegate the power to Bramber Parish Council, which will allow them to draft a Nature Reserve Agreement with the owner of Bramber Brooks. Using the Natural England template, Committee Members recommended some amendments to the draft agreement, prior to consideration and agreement at a future meeting.

Action Continue to liaise with HDC until power is delegated Clerk

Action Item for future agenda Clerk

7. Finance

- a) Update - Income received - £10,201.14. Expenditure - £8,870(ExcVAT). Balance remaining - £1,331.14. Members noted that expenditure of the grant should be completed by the end of May 2019.

- b) **Signage** – Committee Members discussed signage options and costs. Mr Nick Mills had identified a supplier of appropriate signage and a local information designer. One sign will be placed at the entrance outlining the history of the site and another by the reserve providing a map and information.

Committee Members noted that disabled access is unlikely to be achievable due to the difficulty of providing wheelchair access. Bramber Brooks is sited on a flood plain making it difficult to maintain a suitable path surface. During the winter, paths are unavoidably muddy.

Final information will be obtained regarding signage, prior to consideration and agreement by Full Council.

Action Provide costing on design of information panel NM

Action Contact Acorn Workshop re cost of 2 X A1 noticeboards Clerk

Action Item for Full Council agenda Clerk

8. Date of the next meeting – 6.30pm Tuesday 21st May 2019 – subject to hall availability

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: