

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BODMIN MOOR COMMONS COUNCIL HELD AT ALTARNUN CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM ON 13th AUGUST 2018.

1. **Present.** 15 Members of the Council as per the attendance list. Jeremy Hooper as legal advisor to the Council and two members of the public.

The Draft Agenda included consideration of a levy payable to raise funds for the proper working of the Council. Under the Standing Orders that is a matter requiring a special majority (two-thirds) and 16 voting Members are required to be present in order to be quorate. As there were less than 16 Members present this item was removed from the Agenda before the commencement of the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence.** Martyn Budge, Wayne Smith, Geoff Smeeth, Bob Clark and Andrew Finnemore.
3. **Minutes.** The Minutes of the meeting held 13th November 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising.** No matters arising other than dealt with later at this meeting.
5. **Chairman's Report.** Stephen Nankivell referred to the useful meeting with Lord Gardiner in March arranged by Rupert, subsequent to which the Rules have been approved by DEFRA.

Stephen noted the poor response to the requirement for completed registration forms. Julie noted that she had only received just over 70 signed responses of which 53 were non-active Graziers and 20 active Graziers. Further, many were not completed correctly. A reminder to be included with the forthcoming circulation of the approved Rules. It was stressed that the local Commons' Associations must encourage their Members to return the details to Julie as soon as possible.

The Secretary reminded Members of Rule No 1 of the Council which reads
"No person shall de-pasture on the Commons any animal in respect of which he does not have a right to graze and for which he has not registered the intention to graze with the Council"

Jonathan Holt reminded Council that the details we hold should comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Regulations and it is hoped that an appropriate note could be placed on the bottom of the forms with a tick box agreement.

The aim must be to obtain as many email addresses as possible of the Commoners and Landowners requiring circulation.

6. **Treasurer's Report.** Martin Eddy presented a detailed schedule (as attached) of the income and expenditure of the Council since its financial inception on 1st November 2016. There is a balance in the Bank of £8,209.15 and cash in hand of £30.25.

Martin was thanked for the detail and clarity of his accounts.

The Council thanked Nancy and Rupert for the loans they had provided to enable the continued progress of the formation of the Council and their patience in awaiting repayment.

It was noted that no funds had to date been received towards the setting up of the Council from Blisland, Davidstow and East Moor Commoners' Association. They are to be contacted by the Secretary.

7. **Secretary's Report.** John Keast referred to the exchanges with DEFRA in relation to the BMCC Rules, nature of the comments raised by seven people during the Consultation Period and the assistance given by Lord Gardiner.

He had received the following correspondence:-

(a) Andrew Burchardt an Elder of the Foundation for Common Land requesting contact details for each of the individual Commons. He is to be informed that correspondence should be through the Secretary to the Council.

(b) An email from Chris Coldwell of the Cornwall AONB Project Development Office seeking a list of contact details for Commoners on land where they wish to undertake Scheduled Monuments surveys. Rupert noted that he was raising this with the Landowners and there was no necessity for all the individual Commoners to be contacted as it did not affect their grazing.

(c) Email from Jayne Wraxall MoD surveyor in relation to restrictions on grazing over the Range at Cardinham Moor. It was agreed that this was a matter for the Landowners and local Commoners' Association and not the Council.

8. **Appointment of new Secretary / Treasurer.** There was comprehensive discussion on the nature of the work to include not only the responsibilities as Secretary but also Treasurer in liaising with Julie to obtain registration details and when approved, sending out levy invoices and collecting funds. It was noted that the rates for Parish Clerks tends to vary between £7 - £15 / hour. The Secretary suggested that for both roles the budget should be in the order of £100 / week average throughout the year.

Stephen noted that Johanna Merritt had expressed some interest in taking on the position and it was proposed by William Yeo and seconded by Ian Smith and carried without objection that she be approached to take on the position, perhaps initially for a 12-month trial period.

The Meeting gave the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary a mandate to meet with Johanna to hopefully establish a basis for her to take over these positions.

9. **Website.** The format and content of the website was praised by those Members who had looked at it. With the next circulation to Commoners and Landowners the details of the website to be included.

10. **Pony Welfare Report.** Julie gave a comprehensive report including:-

(a) APHA undertook seven welfare visits during the year but only one pony was found to be in a condition requiring specific treatment as it had been injured and four ponies were removed by their owners. There were no malnourished ponies giving any welfare concerns as had been frequent prior to the formation of the Council.

(b) The Equine Identification Regulations 2018 were coming into effect on 1st October eventually requiring micro-chipping of all horses. The Pony Committee will consider the implications at their next meeting.

(c) So far this year Julie had received 203 telephone calls concerning livestock on the Moor together with a number of emails and other correspondence resulting in some 87 livestock related callouts. This is saving calls to APHA, Trading Standards, the RSPCA and Police potentially further straining their limited resources. This information was to be collated and passed to Lord Gardiner in due course to support the request for Government funding towards the Council's running costs.

(d) Shires Holt Pony Sanctuary had been advertising that it was rescuing ponies from Bodmin Moor – this was not the case.

11. **Bodmin Moor TB Control Plan.** The Chairman reminded Members that every Common should have a TB control plan submitted to APHA where Sam Holland was the contact person.

12. **Any Other Business.**

A. In giving his apologies Andrew Finnemore noted that he had been elected to the Council as a non-active Grazer but he was in fact now an active Grazer. It was agreed by Council that in such a situation the Member should continue in their role until the next election.

B. Non-attendance at meetings. Concern was expressed at the failure of some Members to attend any Council meetings. In order to ensure that a quorum is available for future meetings it may be appropriate to check that those Members not able to attend take advantage of placing a proxy vote with the Chairman or another Member of the Council.

C. Rupert referred to the DEFRA Mires Project which included Bodmin Moor within the proposed re-wetting areas. It was noted that some of those areas were then removed from eligibility for BPS and it was stressed that the current proposals are not supported by the Council.

D. Jim Kempthorne noted that it could be useful to be provided with details of the income the participating Associations received from Stewardship Schemes and MoD payments and of which a small proportion could perhaps be used to help meet the Council's running costs. The Chairman will consult with the Associations to further discuss the funding of the Council.

E. Richard Nankivell raised the issue of obtaining a derogation from Natural England to enable the grazing of sheep beyond the end of August. This was supported by Council.

F. Julie noted that APHA were putting a contingency plan for disease control on Bodmin Moor with nominated people from each area to be contacted for rounding up stock and bringing them in as required.

G. Julie raised the point as to whether the Commoners' Associations required an updated constitution following the formation of Council. It was suggested that the Associations now simply agree to abide by the Rules of the Council

H. Julie raised the idea of the Council supporting the formation of a charity to manage ponies requiring welfare needs. Pony Committee to consider this option.

I. Martin noted that pressure was being brought on the authorities on Dartmoor and Exmoor to impose speed limits on the Commons. It was noted that since the end of February 2018 reported livestock killed on the roads on the Bodmin Moor Commons

were 32 sheep, one bullock and one pony, although it was noted there were many non-reported incidents.

J. Stephen noted that Cardinham Commoners were requesting consent to erect a fence on the one part of their Commons which was unfenced. The Council supported this proposal.

13. Public Comments. None.

14. Dates for next meeting. Provisional date of Monday 8th October 2018 7.30pm at Altarnun Church Hall.

The wholehearted thanks of the Council was given to Julie for her extensive work on the Council's behalf.

John Keast was thanked for his time as Secretary and in particular in the drafting of the Standing Orders and Rules and obtaining agreement of same. The Council voted a payment of £250 to John in recognition of his work.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Approved 27.11.18