

## **BODMIN MOOR COMMONS COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at Altarnun at 7.30 p.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016**

This was the inaugural meeting of BMCC following an earlier meeting at Bolventor on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016. No business was conducted at that earlier meeting as the full Council had not been elected at that time as St Cleer had not put forward any nominations / representatives. Subsequently Julie Dowton attended a meeting at St Cleer and 2 members were elected.

#### **1. Present**

Members of the Council - Stephen Nankivell, Nancy Hall, Stephen Lyne, Geoff Smeeth, Jim Kempthorne, Bill Steed, Wayne Smith, Martin Eddy, Martin Budge & Clive Jennings.

Scott Mann M.P., Julie Dowton and 7 members of the public.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Jim Goodenough.

#### **3. The Council**

The elected Members of the Council and the Commons they represent are in accordance with the attached schedule.

#### **4. Election of Officers**

The following elections were made:-

Chairman – Stephen Nankivell. Stephen thanked the meeting but in doing so noted that a lot of work would be involved and he would need good secretarial support which will mean raising funds. He added that like everyone else he would give his time for evening meetings but if he had to attend daytime meetings he would expect to claim expenses to cover his costs.

Vice-Chairman – there were no candidates. Appointment to be deferred to next meeting.

Secretary – Julie Dowton pointed out that she was happy to work with the Council but did not wish to take on the position of secretary. John Keast offered to provide secretarial assistance free of charge for perhaps 6 months until the Council got established and appointed a permanent paid secretary. This offer was accepted.

Treasurer – Martin Eddy.

Register & Liaison Officer – Julie Dowton. This position was established to liaise with other local public bodies and to be the initial point of contact for the BMCC. Julie had also spent considerable time preparing the Register required by the Establishment Order.

Reeve / Steward – this appointment was left until it becomes apparent that one is needed and the parameters of his/her duties can be assessed.

#### **5. Appointment of co-opted Members**

Julie Dowton was co-opted as Register & Liaison Officer with no voting rights.

The appointment of a vet as a co-opted Member was also discussed. It was not envisaged that this person need attend all meetings but would be available for advice if required. Jonathan Holt was proposed by Wayne Smith, seconded by William Yeo and carried. Julie is to approach him.

## **6. Standing Orders**

A draft of the Standing Orders was presented to the Members. This had been prepared in consultation with Jeremy Hooper (solicitor) and thanks was expressed for his input.

It was proposed by Stephen Lyne, seconded by Geoff Smeeth and carried that the draft be adopted with the knowledge that it may be amended at the next meeting when Members would have had more time to consider the contents.

## **7. Finance**

The Chairman suggested it was reasonable to approach public bodies to seek funding for the establishment of the Council. Some County Councillors had already pledged funds and it was hoped others would follow.

Martin Eddy had approached Cornwall Council and was hopeful that they would make an initial contribution to set-up costs.

Vivian Hall (County Councillor) offered a one-off contribution of £500 from his Council allocated funds.

The Secretary to write to the Bodmin Moor Parish Councils seeking contributions.

There was lengthy discussion on the raising of funds to meet ongoing commitments. It was proposed by Stephen Lyne, seconded by Geoff Smeeth and carried (9 in favour and 3 abstentions) that initially the Secretary writes to each Association requesting a contribution with a suggested amount of £200 at the Association's discretion according to their financial standing.

The suggestion of a levy to be payable by all Commoners was discussed. It was proposed to invite John Waldon of Dartmoor Commoners' Council to the next meeting so that members could hear from him of the basis on which their Council is run.

Bank Account – it was agreed that a BMCC account be opened at Barclays Bank, Liskeard. The signatories to be 2 out of Treasurer, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Martin Eddy to action.

## **8. Procedure for preparing the Rules of the Council**

A brief discussion was held. It was agreed to prepare Draft Rules in accordance with the requirements of the BMCC Establishment Order for discussion at the next Council meeting. Draft to be circulated at least 28 days before the meeting.

## **9. Publicity & Web-site**

It was agreed to accept the offer of assistance from a local IT consultant to develop a BMCC web-site. Julie to provide further details at the next meeting.

## **10. Bodmin Moor TB Control Plan**

The draft Plan to be circulated and considered in more detail at a future meeting once the Council is fully established.

## **11. Welfare – Pony Welfare Report**

It was agreed to appoint a Working Group to liaise with APHA and Redwing HS to develop a pony policy and improve the current pony welfare situation on Bodmin Moor pending Council rules and Secretary of State approval.

The following were appointed as a Pony Welfare Group – Julie Dowton (Chairman), Wayne Smith, Bill Steed, Tim Cornelius, William Yeo, Jason Smith and Martin Budge.

**12. Any other Business that the Chairman considers urgent**

The opportunity was taken to raise with Scott Mann a variety of general agricultural concerns including TB control issues, SWW pollution control application difficulties and anomalies and delayed Stewardship and Basic Payment Scheme payments.

Members of the public raised the issue of entire animals being grazed on the commons and the production of the Register of graziers and rights.

**13. Date of next meeting**

The Secretary to circulate details in due course – aim for mid November.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Approved 15.12.16