

Burghill Parish Council
The Commons Management Plan
for
The Three Commons in the Burghill Parish

Background:

The Burghill Parish Council (BPC) is the owner of three parcels of land within the parish which are registered as "Common Land". These land parcels are known as:

- ***Tillington Common***, registered as CL19 (11.281 acres/4.56hectares) comprising permanent and established grassland located in the north of the parish and to the south of the C1095 road.
- ***Whitmoorpool Common***, registered as CL20 (1.784 acres/0.598hectares) comprising permanent and established grassland, with a small pool near the eastern boundary, located in the mid part of the parish just to the west of the Burghill Academy and south of the C1095 road.
- ***The Bird Pool***, registered as CL21 (Front Part only)(0.33 acres/0.13hectares) comprising part of an ancient pool with a grassed apron and wooded fringes located just north east of the junction between the C1095 road and the Tillington Village Road at Whitmore Cross.

As the registered land owner of the commons the BPC has decided to put in place a management plan for these three areas of the common land within the parish. The essence of this management plan will comprise minimum intervention with machinery so as to maintain and where possible enhance the natural bio-diversity and wildlife habitat of these established areas of grassland.

The BPC is aware of the recorded rights of the commoners for both grazing and access for these areas and these are summarised in the attached document entitled: *Information on those who have commoners rights*. This summary is taken from the official record of common land held by Herefordshire Council. A copy of this record of commoners is also held by The Clerk to The Burghill Parish.

Any management plan must respect the rights of commoners for both access and grazing. Nothing can be done by the landowner (BPC) which would materially harm these recorded rights.

The Commons Management Plan – December 2019:

1. The BPC will respect the recorded rights of the registered commoners for grazing and access onto the common land.
2. The BPC may lease out the grazing rights on the common land should the BPC decide that it is seasonally appropriate to take this action and subject to the rights of commoners. Any leasing agreement will be authorised by the BPC.
3. The BPC will carry out at least one annual inspection of the common land and its trees and boundaries.
4. The BPC, as the landowner, will seek to register the common land with DEFRA, or other organisations or agencies, for the purpose of gaining appropriate and supporting grant aid to defray the management costs of the common land.
5. The BPC will take out an annual insurance policy to indemnify the BPC against third party claims arising from those using the common land.
6. The grassland of Tillington Common and Whitmoorpool Common will be cut at least once annually after the end of July in any year. The grass cuttings will not be collected, but left on the common land to decay naturally. This work will be authorised by the BPC.
7. In order to fulfil the BPC's responsibility regarding public footpaths, two pathways will be cut in the grassland of Tillington Common along the lines of the two public footpaths Nos. BX24 & BX23. This band along the line of the footpaths will be cut at appropriate intervals during the growing season. The grass cuttings will not be collected, but left on the common land to decay naturally. This work will be authorised by the BPC.
8. Grass will not be cut under the canopies of established trees, other than where the footpath line passes near to these trees.
9. Hedgerows will only be cut or trimmed when required for reasons of public safety or for access onto the common land and as authorised by the BPC.
10. Trees will not be felled or pruned, unless required for reasons of public safety or for access onto the common land and as authorised by the BPC.
11. Any plant clearance, weeding, planting or sowing of any species, as seasonally appropriate for the management of the grassland, will be authorised by the BPC.
12. Fencing or other containment or perimeter obstructions either within the common land or on the perimeter of the common will neither be erected nor removed without the authorisation of the BPC.
13. Aside from dogs used by commoners for live-stock control, dogs will only be permitted on the common land when kept under control and accompanied by a responsible person. Dog faeces must be collected by the person managing the dog(s) and disposed of in an appropriate and lawful manner.

14. Only the following types of motorised vehicles will be allowed onto the common land:

- Vehicles required by the BPC as landowner for the management of the drainage ditches, grassland, trees or hedges on the common land.
- Vehicles required by commoners for the management or transportation of livestock.
- Vehicles required by the commoners when exercising their rights of access.
- Motorised disability vehicles or wheelchairs.
- Police vehicles or vehicles used by the emergency services.
- Vehicles used by those who have a prescriptive right of access over the common land
- Any vehicle, including propelled machinery, driven on the land with the lawful authority of the BPC.

15. The drainage ditch running alongside the C1095 Tillington Road will be cleaned annually and the surplus material left on the common land to decay naturally. This work will be authorised by the BPC.

16. The BPC will neither fund nor carry out any maintenance work to that part of the drainage ditch which runs to the south of the properties fronting the C1095 Tillington Road. *(Note: Due to the discharge entering this ditch from private gardens and the ditch crossing points constructed by residents, the BPC considers that the maintenance of this drainage ditch has become the responsibility of the riparian land owners on its northern side.)*

17. The BPC will neither fund nor carry out any maintenance, improvement or engineering works to the metalled track on Tillington Common which provides access for those registered as commoners with rights of access. Any work to this access track will need to be authorised by the BPC.

18. The lighting of fires will not be permitted on the common land.

19. The dumping of rubbish or other surplus material on the common land will not be permitted.

20. The discharging of liquid or solid waste onto the common land from swimming pools, sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, cess-pools or any other type of tank or storage device will not be permitted.

21. The BPC requests that any observed breaches of the above management plan are reported to The Parish Clerk.

22. The BPC reserves the right to update or amend this management plan for the commons at any time and as considered appropriate by the BPC.

Note: In the above text the words: "Authorised by the BC" or "Lawful authority of the BPC", will be understood as meaning either a letter or email from The Clerk to The Burghill Parish Council.

Mrs Paulette Scholes
The Clerk
Burghill Parish Council
Date: 12th November 2019

Simon Hairsnape
Chairman
Burghill Parish Council
Date: 12th November 2019