

Bucklebury Commoners Association



Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Date : Tuesday, 10 March 2026 – 19:30

Venue : The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village

Attendance : 36

1. Introduction.

- a. All BCA members welcomed to AGM by Chair Jason Allum & Secretary David Southgate. This is not a public meeting and is strictly for members of Bucklebury Commoners Association, and our two guests if not you cannot vote.
- b. Purpose is a brief update & to elect a new committee.
- c. Apologies for the delay in holding the AGM.
- d. The Bucklebury Commoners Association (BCA) was formed in 1965 as a direct result of Commons Registration Act, 1965. Chaired by Air Commodore J.H. D Ker who encouraged all the existing commoners had to register the rights.
- e. The registration period started on 1st January 1966, and 124 holdings (properties) in Bucklebury on 27th July 1979. This confirmed the household rights, and for a few (20) included the number and type of livestock that were allowed to graze the Common.
- f. Most of these properties have subsequently changed hands and only three of the original owners are in the same dwellings as registered in 1979.
- g. Apologies from: Graeme & Joan Gould, John Wyatt, Julia & David Hunt

2. Current situation of works on the Common.

- a. A lot has happened on the Common in the last two years and everyone has their own views on the overall result - speaking personally:
- b. Applaud the removal of the holly and understory, The fencing and gates at entrances enhances the common
- c. Thinning of wooded areas, particularly Fannys Road to Briff Farm, St Saviours Wood.
- d. Clearing and improving the carparks is a huge improvement, restoration of the haul roads has been a massive improvement.
- e. heathlands are very bare - Heathers are starting to return Calluna. There are however concerns over the long-term maintenance, managing gorse, birch, bracken
- f. Understand the clearing of the gullies but seen as very intensive
- g. No replanting of hazel, alder and other smaller species to encourage more biodiversity.
- h. Bucklebury Estate commented that this had been a labour of love to restore the common from its degraded state. Land restoration is brutal and the common is now starting to recover. Weather was not kind to the work and made many of the tasks difficult. New Ranger Sam has had a very positive impact on the Common and her work is much appreciated.
- i. Further work being conducted on the Avenue and St Saviours areas by local contractor Sean Smith and at present some areas appear raw. Some issues with Bamboo and Laurel in this area. The cattle are being used to good effect in areas of the common.

3. Access.

- a. This is really not a BCA problem but we have repeated emails from commoners complaining about motorbikes.
- b. BPC have tried to restrict motor vehicles on the Common but WBC are only able to put temporary Traffic Restriction Orders (TRO) on certain Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT) between November & May.

- c. TROs only apply to vehicles with 3 wheels or more – no interest in WBC to include motorcycles
 - d. BCA can attend Local Access Forum if they wish
4. Finger Posts.
- a. Request for assistance and Bucklebury Estate agreed to provide timber.
5. Summary of Bucklebury Commoners Rights.
- a. 1965-1978 registration of common rights by Commons Commissioner
 - b. CL28 Register of Common Land
 - c. 124 entries have wooding rights “the right to take timber for repairs, to top all pollards which have been usually topped, to have hedgebote and firebote and to take furse and bracken”
 - d. 10% of English Commons have wooding rights. Commoners in the New Forrest are provided with piles of cut logs by the land owner.
 - e. 20 entries “will have the grazing rights stated above
 - f. The Commons Registration Act 1965 significantly modified the legal standing of commoners by establishing a mandatory, definitive register, whereby rights not registered before the cut off ceased to exist.
 - g. Management of the common is quite complicated in that it is privately owned and managed land that various local organisations have interest in such as BBOWT, WBC (ROW, Countryside & District Councillor), North Wessex Downs National Landscape, BPC, BCA and the Local Access Forum in addition to the local population. Most of these organisations meet at a six monthly Bucklebury Common Interest Group meeting which replaced the Bucklebury Common Advisory Committee.
6. Nominations.

NAME	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Stewart Wells	Bob Wyatt	Carolyn Wyatt
Carolyn Wyatt	Barry Dickens	Jason Allum
Chris Read	Paul Haffner	Chris Wheeler
Liz Wallace	Mary Plank	Julian Miller

- a. Nominations for the 4 committee posts were received as above

7. Vote.
 - a. All 4 candidates above were approved in turn by the attendees by a majority show of hands.
8. Appointment of New Officers.
 - a. Chris Read was approved as the Chair by a majority show of hands.
 - b. The BCA Committee will have to choose a Secretary at their first meeting.
9. Proposed Works.
 - a. Bucklebury Estate commented that the future focus would be on improving the common strategic habitats and access routes.
 - b. Everything needs more work in the future
 - c. Heather protection, Holly management, no tree replanting
 - d. Huge Brash/stump piles – should have gone August 2025. Contract issue over price for disposal as biomass at Heathrow. No date for resolution provided. Seen as an eyesore and fire risk by commoners. Limiting completion of access works by the Estate.
10. Any Other Business.
 - a. Common Clearing on 28th March at 2pm – meet Memorial Hall
 - b. Restoration of ponds – Restoration of 8 and development of 8 ponds completed. Beenham turning, Oak gate and Kings Copse completed. No more on The Avenue planned. Question over pond at top of Hillier Drive as was the only pond in the area with a wagon cut.
 - c. The meeting thanked the outgoing committee for their service.

Meeting Closed 20:25

David Southgate 11/03/2026