

**WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP**

<b>NOTES</b>	<b>OF THE MEETING</b> of the <b>WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP</b> held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on <b><u>TUESDAY</u></b> the <b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2017</u></b> at <b><u>6.45PM</u></b>
<b>PRESENT</b>	Mayor M Ewings, Councillors A Johnson (Vice Chairman), A Venning, P Sanders, P Ward
<b>OTHER BODIES</b>	Plasterdown Parish Council – Councillor J Sellis (Chairman)  Whitchurch Commoners – Mr C Mudge  Tavistock Golf Club – Mr K Stenhouse, J Coe  National Park Ranger – P Glanville  Tavistock Cricket Club – A Jarman
<b>OFFICERS</b>	Town Clerk, General Manager, Works Manager, Works Administrator, Cemetery Administrator

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**1. Apologies for Absence**

None.

**2. Declarations of interest.**

It was noted A Venning was a member of the Golf Club.

**3. Notes of the last Meeting**

- a) The Consultative Group received the Notes of the Meeting of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and endorsed their accuracy
- b) It was confirmed the track road which runs through Whitchurch Down is owned by Tavistock Town Council.

#### **4. Reports**

The Consultative Group considered the following reports from:-

**a) Tavistock Town Council**

The Works Manager reported the broken culvert at Middlemoor had been repaired which should improve the ongoing drainage issues. The contractor is due to return to site imminently to complete the re instatement work, delayed due to ground conditions.

The Works Administrator reported investigations had identified the ownership of the Pimple however whilst formal correspondence had been sent to the corresponding PO Box address a response had not been received. It was agreed Tavistock Town Council had done all they could to contact the owner and any further action regarding the deterioration of the structure would need to be taken by West Devon Borough Council.

Ongoing concerns regarding joy riders using the lower section of Whitchurch Down were discussed and it was agreed the Works Manager should monitor and quantify the issue before any further action is taken (banking the Down where it meets the road/installing boulders on either end of the track road). The National Park Ranger advised he would also monitor the situation and inform the Works Manager of such activity, as well as the Police (including vehicle details where possible).

It was noted the Works Administrator would update the Whitchurch Down Management Plan with the relevant maps and forward to the Consultative Group along with the action plan for Tavistock Town Council which will be updated and distributed on a six monthly basis.

**b) Whitchurch Commoners**

The issue of drone flying on Whitchurch Down was discussed, with the Whitchurch Commoners Representative reporting he had seen an individual flying a drone on Plasterdown but not on Whitchurch Down. The National Park Ranger advised he had not witnessed any recent drone activity.

It was noted legal jurisdiction prohibited drone flying on Dartmoor. It was mutually agreed by the Consultative Group any such activity should be reported to the National Park Ranger to monitor and enforce bylaws where applicable. It was agreed the Works Manager would liaise with the National Park Ranger in regards to a coordinated approach by Tavistock Town Council Officers.

The Whitchurch Commoners Representative commented on relations between Whitchurch Commoners and Tavistock Golf Club continued to improve and reported on the success of the gorse cutting which will be done annually.

It was reported groups had been gathering at the disused quarry and lighting camp fires. The noise disturbance had been noted by both the National Park Ranger and Whitchurch Commoner Representative who agreed it was a problem throughout Dartmoor. It was decided the on call number for the Tavistock Town Council's Work Department would be issued to all members of the consultative group to contact should they witness further disturbances. It was noted whilst the Works Department should be kept involved and remain vigilant they should not approach any members congregating on Whitchurch Down and the Police should be informed. A process for monitoring and reporting such incidences is to be looked into by the Works Department and reported back to the group.

**c) National Park Ranger**

The National Park Ranger reiterated the issues concerning group gatherings.

**d) Tavistock Cricket Club**

The Cricket Club Representative reported dog waste around the Cricket Club was becoming a serious issue and requested a dog bin be installed. It was suggested the Cricket Club should be responsible for the purchase and installation of a dog waste bin with the possibility of Tavistock Town Council adding the additional bin to their waste collection schedule. Concerns were noted regarding the positioning of the dog bin and access to it from TTC staff. It was agreed the Cricket Club should present a proposal to Tavistock Town Council for consideration.

**e) Tavistock Golf Club**

It was noted the previous issue raised regarding parking on Whitchurch Down during charity events at the Golf Club had not yet been resolved and therefore due to the scheduling of events the Mayor and Deputy Mayor suggested such decisions could be made by Officer discretion. It was noted the Golf Club are to liaise with the Whitchurch Commoners regarding the location of parking and then put forward a mutually agreeable proposal to the Works Manager prior to the first charitable event scheduled.

The Golf Club Representatives presented their proposal for replacement waste bins throughout the Golf Course which are animal friendly, advising they aim to reduce the total

number of bins from six to five. It was explained that the three foot high bins made from recycled materials were in keeping with the surroundings and the style was approved by the Consultative Group.

**f) Plasterdown Parish Council**

The Chairman referenced concerns raised regarding joy riding on the Down and thanked the Town Council for the repair work to the Middlemoor culvert.

**5. Urgent Business brought forward at the discretion of the Chairman**

Interest was expressed by a local resident at the Annual Town Meeting in volunteer opportunities on Whitchurch Down and will be further explored with the Works Manager.

**6. Date of next Meeting**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

Dated \_\_\_\_\_