

WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP

NOTES **OF THE MEETING** of the **WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **WEDNESDAY** the **2ND MAY 2018** at **6.30PM**

PRESENT Councillor P Sanders (Mayor)
Councillors P Ward, Mrs A Johnson, A Venning

OTHER BODIES Plasterdown Parish Council – Cllr J Sellis
Whitchurch Commoners – Mr C Mudge
Tavistock Golf Club – Absent
National Park Ranger – Absent
Tavistock Cricket Club – Mr I Gauler

IN ATTENDANCE General Manager, Works Administrator

1. CHAIRMAN

Councillor P Sanders nominated Councillor J Sellis as Chairman. No other nominations were received and the Group agreed unanimously to appoint Councillor J Sellis.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Tavistock Golf Club (Mr K Stenhouse, and Mr J Coe), Tavistock Cricket Club (Mr A Jarman) and Dartmoor National Park (Mr P Glanville).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

4. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- a) The Consultative Group received the Notes of the Meeting of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group held on 7th November 2017 and endorsed their accuracy
- b) Matters arising –
- A list of events requiring the use of Whitchurch Down for additional parking had not been forthcoming from the Golf Club. A meeting is to be arranged with the Golf Club to progress this matter.

- It was noted that a car had been parked on the first tee for the purpose of sheltering a marshal during a golf completion.
- Some vehicle related damage was reported to the area adjacent to the football pitch The Town Council would continue to monitor on an ad hoc basis. No issues had been reported to the Town Council or to the National Park Ranger since the last Meeting.
- The condition of The Pimple continues to deteriorate. The Town Council has written to the registered land owner but has yet to receive a response. Graham Lawrence at West Devon Borough Council is also aware of the issue. Councillor P Sanders to progress the matter with Graham Lawrence.

5. REPORTS

The Consultative Group considered the following reports from:-

a) **Tavistock Town Council;**

- **Middlemoor/Church Hill broken culvert** – the culvert at Church Hill (by the cattle grid) has been repaired and is working well. Councillor J Sellis requested that the end of the plastic pipes be covered over, or cut off. The culvert at Middlemoor is still being monitored on a weekly basis and debris caught in the grille removed. The concrete slab on top of the culvert has been replaced.
- **Use of drones** –No issues have been reported to Tavistock Town Council or the National Park Authority.
- **Golf Club event parking and animal proof waste bins** – No progress.
- **Joyriding** – the Town Council had been monitoring the track adjacent to the football pitch on an ad hoc basis, since the last Meeting. There had been no reported problems to the Town Council.
- **Camping and fires** – there had been no reports of any camping or fires on Whitchurch Down.
- **Gorse Cutting 2017/18** – Due to the poor ground conditions caused by the wet weather, gorse cutting had not been possible. Gorse cutting will be re-scheduled to take place Autumn/Winter 2018.

b) **Whitchurch Commoners**

Mr Mudge reported the last six months had generally been very quiet. The Commoners had not undertaken any gorse

cutting because of the poor ground conditions. It was agreed that the roadside verges on land owned by the Town Council would be included in this year's gorse management programme. Mr Mudge reported that ponies were being darted with contraceptive drugs on nearby Plasterdown. Permission must be sought from the landowner prior to this taking place. Mr Mudge would prefer treatment to be given when the ponies are gathered. The Town Council will write to the National Park Authority to seek further clarification and policy guidance on this matter.

c) National Park Ranger Report

Not present – none received

d) Tavistock Cricket Club Report

The Cricket Club has recently undergone refurbishment. The club reported problems with the access track via Chollacott Lane. The track has become eroded and potholed in places. The Town Council agreed to a temporary repair with a view to investigating a permanent solution that it will bring before the next meeting.

e) Tavistock Golf Club Report

Not present - none received

f) Plasterdown Parish Council Report

Councillor J Sellis had received reports of a fallen tree on the common in the area between Warrens Cross and Five Ways. The Town Council will inspect the tree.

6. WHITCHURCH DOWN MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Works Administrator tabled the Management Plan Work Plan. The main focus of work will be a continuation of gorse and scrub control by the Town Council Works Department and contractors, particularly the area around Pixies Cross.

7. URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Town Council will write to the Golf Club to formally request they attend the next meeting.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20th November 2018.

The Meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed _____

Chairman

Dated _____

