

NOTES of the Meeting of the **WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP** held on **TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER 2024** at 5.30pm at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs A Johnson and B Smith

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Representative of Plasterdown Parish Council – Councillor R Phillips and Councillor J Sturmer

Tavistock Cricket Club – Mr D Manning

Whitchurch Commoners – Mr C Mudge

Tavistock Golf Club – Mr S Getson

IN ATTENDANCE

Wayne Southall - General Manager, Becky Rowe - Works Manager, Laura Harley – Community & Compliance Officer.

1. APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the appointment of a Chairman, with Councillor Mrs A Johnson being appointed as Chairman for the 2024 – 2025 Civic Year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the appointment of a Vice Chairman, with Councillor R Phillips being appointed as Vice Chairman for the 2024 – 2025 Civic Year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor G Parker and Mr C Kenworthy (Tavistock Golf Club)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

5. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a. The Consultative Group received and endorsed the Notes of the Meeting of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group held on 14th April 2024, subject to the removal of the sentence 'Drainage issues were also mentioned reference land near Farmwell'.

b. There were no matters arising from the Notes.

6. REPORTS/DISCUSSION TOPICS

The Town Council gave an update on: -

Actions arising from the 2024 Whitchurch Down Walkabout –

Cllr Mrs A Johnson thanked the Works Manager for organising the walkabout which covered half of the Whitchurch Down area. It had been a productive event and it was agreed that the Town Council was committed to carry out the work in Purdy Lane to prevent further erosion and that a budget was to be set aside to carry out some improvements to the existing car parks. The trees had been inspected just below the Pimple and attendees agreed with arrangements that had been implemented relating to the planting scheme.

A further date would be arranged for 2025 to look at the second half of the area.

- a. **Annual Open Day** – The Works Manager stated that the Dartmoor National Park was keen to get involved in an open day, the purpose of which would be to inform the public about the flora and fauna of the area and the promotion of the various stakeholders. It was agreed that a Saturday morning in spring/summer would be appropriate and the Works Manager would contact the Dartmoor National Park for some dates which she would then circulate.
- b. **Whitchurch Down Management Plan** –The Works Manager asked that stakeholders send her their plans for the next five years by early December. These should include information about activities, responsibilities, improvements to be made, strategy and vision. This would then be fed into the document with a view to producing a final draft for consideration by early February 2025 to be endorsed at the consultative group meeting in April 25.
- c. **Pre-meeting written reports** – No reports had been received.

7. REPORTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

- a. Whitchurch Commoners:

The Commoners had been disappointed by the amount of traffic diverted over Whitchurch Down during the recent road works. This

had damaged some of the verges and there was concern that these areas would take a long time to recover.

It was explained that Taverton Bottom was due to be cut in January 2025 (subject to conditions) and the Town Council was thanked for cutting the verges.

b. National Park Ranger

Not present – no report received.

c. Tavistock Cricket Club

It was explained that the Cricket Club had finished a successful season. They now had four teams of under 13's and 100 children training each week. It was noted that some local residents had joined the Club as social members which was seen to be a positive move. The Club was aiming to install some improved cricket nets before the next season and hoping to attract some funding. This was proving difficult as the nets could not be constructed according to ECB rules. It was suggested that the club apply for a Tavistock Town Council grant.

d. Tavistock Golf Club

It was reported that the Golf Club had a successful year and that winter maintenance had started on the greens.

e. Plasterdown Grouped Parish Council

There was nothing to report. Organisers explained that it was intended to complete the Beating of the Bounds by 20th October.

8. URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

It was noted that the lower part of the football field on Whitchurch Down would once again be used for a Park and Ride site for Goose Fair on 9th October 2024.

9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is on Tuesday 15th April 2025.

The Meeting closed at 5.55pm.

Signed:
CHAIRMAN

Dated: