

NOTES **OF THE MEETING** of the **WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the **2nd NOVEMBER 2017** at **6.30PM**

PRESENT Councillors Mrs A Johnson (in the Chair)
Councillor P Sanders (Mayor)

OTHER BODIES Plasterdown Parish Council – Absent
Whitchurch Commoners – Mr C Mudge
Tavistock Golf Club – Absent
National Park Ranger – Absent
Tavistock Cricket Club – Absent

IN ATTENDANCE General Manager, Works Administrator
Councillor A Hutton

1. CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman (Councillor J Sellis) it was agreed that the Vice-Chairman (Mrs A Johnson) would Chair the Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor J Sellis (Plasterdown Parish Council), Tavistock Golf Club (K Stenhouse, J Coe), Tavistock Cricket Club (A Jarman), Dartmoor National Park (P Glanville) and Councillor Paul Ward.

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 2nd May, 2017 and endorsed their accuracy
- b) Matters arising –
 - A Member reported that the National Park Authority was going to produce a policy regarding the flying of drones. All drone flying is subject to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulation.

- The Golf Club had not produced a list of events requiring the use of Whitchurch Down for additional parking for the Town Council. The Golf Club is required to produce a list of 2018 events by 1st January 2018.
- The track bisecting Whitchurch Down between the Golf Club and the football pitch is occasionally being used as a short cut. 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.
- There had been no reports of fly-tipping in the last 6 months. Tree prunings had been found at the rear of a property on Down Road by Town Council staff, but these had been removed by the following day. Town Council to monitor the use of Whitchurch Down for the purposes of disposing of and/or collection of garden waste by residents in Down Road.

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. The culvert at Middlemoor is still being monitored on a weekly basis and debris caught in the grille removed. Work is required to replace the slab on the top of the culvert and this will be undertaken by 10th November.
- **Use of drones** – the use of drones is not permitted on Common land within the National Park without prior authorisation from the National Park Authority. Permission to fly drones and other model aircraft is not normally granted as the National Park byelaws do not allow for these activities. No specific problems have been reported to Tavistock Town Council or the National Park Authority.
- **Golf Club event parking and animal proof waste bins** – Mr Coe has discussed event parking with Mr Mudge, and Whitchurch Down Commoners had no objections to event parking as long as the 15 yard rule was observed. However, a formal proposal from the Golf Club has not yet been received by the Town Council. The animal proof waste bins are still being researched by the Golf Club.

- **Joyriding** – the Town Council had been monitoring the track adjacent to the football pitch on a weekly basis, since the last Meeting. There had been no issues and no reports of problems to the Town Council or the National Park Authority.
- **Camping and fires** – there had been no reports of any camping or fires on Whitchurch Down.
- **Gorse Cutting 2017/18** – the Town Council’s Works Department will be undertaking work to cut back over-mature gorse surrounding Pixies’ Cross over the Autumn/Winter period. Work would continue on widening the path areas adjacent to Taviton Brook and up around the Cricket Club. Lindsay Rogers would continue to flail the areas of gorse identified in the Management Plan.

b) Whitchurch Commoners

Mr Mudge reported that Mr Francis Mudge had been cutting and bailing bracken in various areas across Whitchurch Down. The Group’s thanks were extended to Mr Francis Mudge for undertaking this work.

c) National Park Ranger Report

Not present – none received

d) Tavistock Cricket Club Report

Not present - none received

e) Tavistock Golf Club Report

Not present - none received

f) Plasterdown Parish Council Report

Not present - none received

6. WHITCHURCH DOWN MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Works Administrator tabled the Management Plan Work Plan for Autumn/Winter 2017/2018. The main area of work would be a continuation of gorse and scrub control by the Town Council Works Department and contractors. The biennial tree survey had been completed.

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

Interest had been expressed by a local resident at the Annual Town Meeting in volunteer opportunities on Whitchurch Down and would be further explored with the Works Administrator.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2nd May, 2018.

The Meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed _____

Chairman

Dated _____