

AGENDA ITEM 9b

NOTES of the Meeting of the **WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP** held on Wednesday 6th July, 2022 at 5:30pm at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock

PRESENT

Councillors B Smith, Mrs U Mann.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Representative of Plasterdown Parish Council – Councillor Janet Freeman

Dartmoor National Park Authority – Mr R Taylor

Tavistock Cricket Club – A Jarman

Whitchurch Commoners – not represented

Tavistock Golf Club – Cameron Kenworthy (Secretary)

IN ATTENDANCE

Carl Hearn Town Clerk, Wayne Southall General Manager

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the Election of Chairman of the Consultative Group for the 2022/2023 Civic Year.

It was RESOLVED THAT Councillor B Smith be elected Chairman of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group for the 2022/2023 Civic Year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the Election of Vice Chairman of the Consultative Group for the 2022/2023 Civic Year.

It was RESOLVED THAT Cameron Kenworthy be elected Vice Chairman of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group for the 2022/2023 Civic Year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors A Venning, Ms T Eperon and B Rowe Works Manager.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

5. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Consultative Group received and noted the notes of the meeting of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group held on 2nd November, 2021.

6. REPORTS/DISCUSSION TOPICS

The Town Council gave an update on:-

- a. **Tree maintenance/planting schemes** – The General Manager explained what was planned for a planting scheme at Middlemoor as part of the Queens Green Canopy Initiative. It was agreed that the Works Manager would continue to liaise with Dartmoor National Park over the next quarter around approach and species when delivering this scheme. Attendees were also advised of the arrangements to deal with storm damaged trees primarily below the cricket club.
- b. **Middlemoor drainage works** – A discussion was held around the principles of why the drainage run had been further excavated in 2021 to help with the flooding of the highway during excess periods of heavy rain. It was explained that there had been concerns around the appearance of the excavated soil bunding, but the group all agreed that ascetically the soil had started to grass over and would be further flattened by livestock and that no further action was necessary.
- c. **Park and Ride Goose Fair** – The General Manager reported that the football pitch on Whitchurch Down was being considered as a third park and ride site for Goose Fair due to the loss of Harford Bridge. Stakeholders recognised the need for the park and ride site and it was agreed that further consultation would follow if this location was decided to be implemented for 2022. The Dartmoor National Park Authority suggested a further alternative option at Plasterdown and it was agreed that this would be investigated regarding its feasibility.
- d. **Beacon Ceremony Summary** – An overview was provided regarding the Beacon Ceremony near the Pimple on 2nd June 22 as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was acknowledged that this had been a successful event and the Works Manager and Depot team were commended for the arrangements implemented.

Pre-meeting written reports – Due to the fact that this Consultative Group was held every 6 months, and to help with discussions, it was agreed that written reports would be submitted by all and circulated with the agenda a few weeks before the next meeting, to aid discussions, especially where representatives were unable to attend.

7. REPORTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

a. Whitchurch Commoners

No report was received.

b. National Park Ranger

An update was provided on such aspects as dog attacks data, the use of body cams, the increase in marshals, challenges in relation to bylaw consultation and loss of water interventions at Plasterdown leat.

c. Tavistock Cricket Club

An update was provided around the cricket club extension. It was explained that due to funding challenges the original proposal had to be reduced but that one of the main elements was a significant improvement to changing facilities. The cricket club was congratulated on their recent engagement with youth. A discussion was also held around the on-going issue of lost balls in bracken and it was agreed that the Council would review the management of this area as part of the Whitchurch Down Management Plan consultation process.

d. Tavistock Golf Club

A request was received by Tavistock Golf Club to fly a drone as part of their marketing initiative to visually record each hole aerially. It was explained that they would need permission as drone flying was prohibited from the landowner and that they would need to formally apply to Dartmoor National Park for areas under their jurisdiction. It was agreed that subject to Dartmoor National Park approval, that the golf club could fly a drone, subject to agreeing approach, dates, and time limited period.

e. Plasterdown Grouped Parish Council

A question was raised around traffic management/speeding awareness on Whitchurch Down. There was signposting to key contacts and it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Mann would liaise direct as a on certain topics as a consultee specific to the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

8. WHITCHURCH DOWN MANAGEMENT PLAN

A discussion was held around the production of the Whitchurch Down Management Plan for the period of 2022-2027. It was explained that the Council had recently recruited into the positions of Works Manager and Community and Compliance Officer and that the Council would now be in a position to start the consultation with stakeholders for the production of the first draft, to be presented at the November 2022 meeting. This would include a detailed review of gorse management and the associated scheduling and arrangements between stakeholders. A brief summary was provided of the gorse management

that was delivered in-house in the first quarter of 2022, which received positive feedback from Members present.

9. URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

None

10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 15th November, 2022.

The Meeting closed at 6:23pm

Signed:

Dated:
CHAIRMAN