

AGENDA ITEM No 10(c)

NOTES of the Meeting of the **WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP** held on Tuesday 2nd November, 2021 at 5:30pm at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock

PRESENT

Councillors J Ellis, Mrs U Mann.

Councillors B Smith, P Squire (Observers)

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Representative of Plasterdown Parish Council – Councillor R Phillips

Dartmoor National Park Authority – Mr R Taylor

Tavistock Cricket Club – not represented

Whitchurch Commoners – not represented

Tavistock Golf Club – Messrs G. Ruth, S Getson

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk, General Manager

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the Election of Chairman of the Consultative Group for the 2021/2022 Civic Year.

A nomination was received in respect of Councillor J Ellis.

RESOLVED THAT Councillor J Ellis be elected Chairman of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group for the 2021/2022 Civic Year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Mr A Jarman (Tavistock Cricket Club), together with Councillors A Hutton, Mrs V Parker and A Venning.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

4. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Consultative Group received and noted the notes of the Meeting of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group held on 13th April, 2021.

5. WHITCHURCH DOWN – REPORTS

The Consultative Group considered the following:-

- a. **Request for Tavistock Cadets to use Whitchurch Down for Day activities** – The General Manager reported a request in connection with the foregoing and undertook to circulate details of same to the members of the Consultative Group. Subject to there being no material issues or objections following circulation the consensus was that the request, for the regularisation of existing low impact use, was worthy of support.
- b. **Drainage Work** – The General Manager reported the outcome of a meeting held between the Town Council and County Council to clarify the position regarding responsibilities for the clearance of drains and agreement upon those areas falling to be the responsibility of the Town Council, and those the County Council. In particular, it was noted that the Town Council would dig a channel from the Middlemoor junction to help alleviate the surface flooding. Devon County Council would further investigate ownership of the culvert to establish ownership which both parties agreed was not the responsibility of the Town Council.
- c. **Vandalism/damage** – the General Manager reported that there had been little by way of associated problems since the last meeting.
- d. **Bins/seats** – The General Manager reported issues arising with the West Devon provided contractor responsible for the emptying of dog bins in certain locations on Whitchurch Down. These had been raised on a number of occasions with the Borough Council who had provided assurances that improvements to services had been made, notwithstanding the introduction of a monitoring regime introduced by the Town Council. It was noted that these bins should be emptied three times per week.
- e. **Proposed changes to Bye-Laws by Dartmoor National Park Authority** – these matters had previously been considered by the Town Council which had resolved to object to same. Principally upon the basis that there was some discomfort with proposals associated with dogs on leads, wild camping and overnight parking. The representative of the Dartmoor National Park Authority reported that the consultation period had recently closed, and there were anticipated to be in the order of 3,500 responses which would be reviewed going forward to inform the approach to Government for appropriate changes as/where necessary.
- f. **Written reports by partner organisations** – where possible, partner organisations, together with the Town Council, were requested to provide written reports for future meetings in order

that all stakeholders could be apprised of current issues (whether or not they were able to attend in person).

Noted that in response to a question representatives of the Golf Club advised of a reduced length practice range (to 70 yards) in proximity to the Pimple in order to mitigate potential concerns regarding danger to walkers. The General Manager further undertook to review whether or not damage to a trough-like structure near to the Pimple was on Council land.

6. WHITCHURCH DOWN MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Consultative Group was advised that it had not been possible to bring the Management Plan to the meeting. However, gorse clearance was under way and, in response to a question the General Manager undertook to notify the Golf Club of and consult it in connection with areas proposed for clearance.

The Consultative Group was further advised, by the Dartmoor National Park Authority, of unauthorised works undertaken in proximity to the Holwill House Public Footpath where a request had been made for the temporary closure of a footpath to allow works to occur. The Consultative Group was also advised of damage which had been incurred through recreational use elsewhere on Whitchurch Down which the Dartmoor National Park Authority was in the process of arranging a mini digger to repair/reinstate

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 19th April, 2022.

The Meeting closed at 6:07pm

Signed:

Dated:
CHAIRMAN