

WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP

NOTES	OF THE MEETING of the WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on <u>TUESDAY</u> the <u>20TH NOVEMBER 2018</u> at <u>6.30PM</u>
PRESENT	Councillors P Sanders, P Ward, Mrs A Johnson, P Squire
OTHER BODIES	Plasterdown Parish Council – Councillor J Sellis Whitchurch Commoners – Mr C Mudge Tavistock Golf Club – Absent National Park Ranger – Mr P Glanville Tavistock Cricket Club – Mr I Gauler
IN ATTENDANCE	Town Clerk, Works Administrator

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for election of Chairman of the Consultative Group for the ensuing Civic Year.

A nomination was received in respect of Councillor P Sanders

RESOLVED THAT Councillor P Sanders be appointed Chairman of the Consultative Group for the 2018/19 Civic Year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No Apologies for absence had been received.

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 2018 and endorsed their accuracy.
- b) There were no Matters arising.

5. REPORTS

The Consultative Group considered the following reports from:-

a) **Tavistock Town Council;**

- **Golf Club event parking** – No update.
- **Football Pitch** – the goal posts were in a poor state of repair and were to be removed by the Works Department as soon as possible in the interests of safety and replacements installed.
- **Gorse Cutting 2018/19** – Some gorse cutting had already taken place along roadside verges. The contractor would be cutting areas of gorse between November 2018 and mid-February at Taviton Brook and Pennycomequick quarry. Volunteers from DNPA would be cutting gorse from around Pixies Cross with the assistance of the Works Department.
- **Representation from users of Whitchurch Down** – the members of the Consultative Group were defined as Tavistock Town Council, Plasterdown Parish Council, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Whitchurch Commoners, Tavistock Golf Club, and Tavistock Cricket Club. There was an expectation that representatives from the Town and Parish Councils spoke for the people of the local area and issues could be brought forward via the Council's reps.

b) **Whitchurch Commoners**

The Commoners representative reported the last six months had generally been quiet. The Commoners were pleased to see that the roadside verges had been cut and the culverts cleared. The gates on the cattle grids at the top of Green Lane and near to Fullabrook were in a poor state of repair and there was a danger that livestock could escape. Devon Highways had been contacted but to date no repair work had been undertaken. The Town Council would make direct contact with Tom Lee at Devon Highways to stress the urgency of the repair.

c) **National Park Ranger Report**

The National Park Ranger reported a very quiet summer. There had been no reported issues with drones. In response to a question it was reported that the National Park did not have a specific policy in relation to Chinese lanterns but in view of animal welfare and fire hazard issues park rangers witnessing the setting off of Chinese lanterns would intervene to prevent it.

d) Tavistock Cricket Club Report

The representative of the Cricket Club extended appreciation to the Works Department for the repairs to the access track. The cricket club has gained promotion into the A division and anticipated an increase in visitors next year.

e) Tavistock Golf Club Report

Not present - none received.

f) Plasterdown Parish Council Report

The representative of Plasterdown Parish Council reported that the area by the cattle grid at Church Hill was flooding. The pedestrian gate at St Davids Road requires a new spring closure. The Town Council would investigate both matters and repair as necessary.

6. WHITCHURCH DOWN MANAGEMENT PLAN

The main focus of work over the next 6-months would be a continuation of gorse and scrub control by the Town Council Works Department and contractors. The bi-annual tree survey on all Council owned and managed sites would be undertaken in the spring. There had been no reported incidents of fly-tipping in the last 6-months but the Council would continue to maintain a log. Reports of increased dog fouling on Whitchurch Down in the vicinity of the end of Down Road were noted.

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

The Town Council officers would review the DNPA Management Plan Review and the consultation on the Glover Report (deadline of the 18th December 2018).

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 23rd April 2019.

The Meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Signed _____

Chairman

Dated _____