

WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP

NOTES **OF THE MEETING** of the **WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the **2nd OCTOBER 2019** at **6.30PM**

PRESENT Cllrs. James Ellis, Alick Venning, Mrs Anne Johnson

OTHER BODIES Plasterdown Grouped Parish Council – Cllr. Janet Freeman

Whitchurch Commoners – Absent

Tavistock Golf Club – Absent

National Park Ranger – Absent

Tavistock Cricket Club – Ian Gauler

IN ATTENDANCE Cllr. Barry Smith, Community & Compliance Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Paul Glanville, National Park Ranger

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

3. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) The Consultative Group received the Notes of the Meeting of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group held on 4th April 2019 and endorsed their accuracy.

b) There were no Matters arising.

4. REPORTS

The Consultative Group considered the following reports from:-

a) Tavistock Town Council;

- **Gorse Cutting 2019/20** – Gorse cutting by contractor is scheduled for February 2020. This will

again focus on road verges and blocks of over mature gorse identified in the Management Plan.

- **Drone Flying** - the Town Clerk has responded to a request for commercial drone flying for an operator working on behalf of Tavistock Golf Club. Whitchurch Commoners have given their consent. The Town Council's position is the same as that of the National Park i.e. the use of drones or model aircraft on or over any common land with the National Park is an offence under National Park Byelaws. Requests for the use of drones by operators complying with Civil Aviation Authority regulations for activities such as commercial filming or survey work are considered on a case by case basis.

b) Whitchurch Commoners

Not present – none received.

c) National Park Ranger Report

Not present – none received.

d) Tavistock Cricket Club Report

The representative of the Cricket Club extended appreciation to the Works Department for the repairs to the access track. Any spare top soil the Town Council has could be used to level the track at the top of Chollacott Lane. More or replacement benches would be welcomed by the Cricket Club. The Cricket Club has had a good season, finishing fourth in division two. The Cricket Club is planning to undertake work to repair the leaking pavilion roof.

e) Tavistock Golf Club Report

Not present – none received.

f) Plasterdown Parish Council Report

Cllr. Freeman extended appreciation for the trimming of the verges and also the repair of stock fencing on Whitchurch Down.

5. WHITCHURCH DOWN MANAGEMENT PLAN

Work will commence on drafting the 2021-2026 Management Plan early next year.

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

The Town Council has received an enquiry from a local group enquiring about the possibility of planting 2 or 3 small copses of native trees on Whitchurch Down. The Golf Club was suggested as a possible location.

The group to be invited to submit a proposal to the Consultative Group's next meeting. It was also suggested that this matter to be brought to attention of the Town Council's Environment and Sustainability Group.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21st April 2020.

The Meeting closed at 6.55pm.

Signed _____

Chairman

Dated _____