

NOTES of the Meeting of the **WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP** held on Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 5:30pm at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock

PRESENT

TTC Councillors Mrs A Johnson, N Martin, B Smith

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Representative of Plasterdown Grouped Parish Council – Councillor R Phillips, Councillor J Sturmer

Whitchurch Commoners – Mr C Mudge

Tavistock Golf Club – Mr G Raikes

Tavistock Cricket Club – Mr D Manning

IN ATTENDANCE

Carl Hearn- Town Clerk, Wayne Southall - General Manager, Becky Rowe - Works Manager

Councillor S Hipsey (Mayor) – TTC Ward Member

1. APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the appointment of a Chairman, with Councillor Mrs A Johnson being appointed as Chairman for the 2025 – 2026 Civic Year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the appointment of a Vice Chairman, with Councillor R Phillips being appointed as Vice Chairman for the 2025 – 2026 Civic Year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

5. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- a. The Consultative Group received and endorsed the Notes of the Meeting of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group held on 15th April 2025 subject to the following changes: Item 6 – “Whitchurch Cricket Club” should read Tavistock Cricket Club.
- b. There were no matters arising.

6. Whitchurch Down Management Plan

Subject to a few minor amendments primarily regarding duplication of information and the inclusion of text from the Mayor, the Group endorsed the Management Plan. It was noted that possible grants which would support further investigatory work regarding botany, analysis etc. on the Down should be explored in order to further understand the complexities of the unique habitats that reside there.

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION TOPICS

The Town Council gave an update on: -

- a. **Goose Fair Park & Ride** – The Park & Ride site on Whitchurch Down was a success yet again this year. Whilst the site received a positive amount of users, no incidents or concerns were raised and ground conditions had not been adversely disturbed. It was noted a new ticketing system was introduced where users of the Park & Ride pay on a per-person basis as opposed to per-car. Public reaction was positive.

It was noted the priority focus of Whitchurch Down being used as a car park for the Park & Ride service should be that of the environment and ensuring there is no significant detrimental impact.

- b. **2026 Annual Open Day** – It was noted the initial notion for a public Open Day was the suggestion of the previous representative of Dartmoor National Park and so discussions would need to be held with the current representative to establish whether there was an appetite to hold an Open Day. It was noted the Works Manager would liaise with the current representative.
- c. **Car Parks** – Discussions from the stakeholder walkabout in September were repeated to members. It was noted work to the bank on Furzy Lane, with an amended agreed scope of works would be scheduled over the next quarter and work to restore the surface on one of the other car parks would also be undertaken.
- d. **Pre-meeting written report** – It was agreed, going forward written reports would only be required if members were unable to attend the meeting.

8. REPORTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

- a. The Whitchurch Commoners' representative thanked the Town Council for their continued work on the Down. It was noted a plan should be considered for the issue of unauthorised traveller encampments.

- b. Tavistock Cricket Club – It was noted the season had now drawn to a close following a successful 2025 where the senior team had been promoted and the girls' cricket had taken off, bringing a much welcomed, new demographic to the Club. Plans were in the pipeline to replace the non turf pitch on a like for like basis. Once the work is ready to commence, it is anticipated to take no more than a couple of days and the Club will use the same contractors who undertook the previous projects. The Town Mayor thanked the Cricket Club for the invitation to the Sponsors' Open Day.
- c. Tavistock Golf Club – It was noted the Golf Club had a successful year which in part was due to the fantastic weather over the spring / summer months. The maintenance team would now schedule in essential work. It was advised the top of Down Road was now a Neighbourhood Watch area. A query was raised regarding the amount of tee litter on the golf course which was an ongoing concern. It was commented notices had been issued to Club members reminding them to pick up after use. The situation would be monitored.
- d. Plasterdown Grouped Parish Council – reported that the Parish Council was short of members and so were actively seeking interest. It was noted footpath, signs etc. which needed attention would be programmed in for maintenance over the coming months. The Parish have become owners of two obsolete phone boxes.

9. URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

None.

10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting is on Tuesday 7th April 2026.

The Meeting closed at 6pm.

Signed:

Dated:
CHAIRMAN