



DARTMOOR COMMONERS' COUNCIL

**Annual Meeting on Wednesday 8 August 2018 at the Two Bridges Hotel,
Princetown at 7.30 p.m.**

1. Chairman's Introduction
2. Apologies for Absence
3. To confirm minutes of meeting held 30 May 2018
4. Chairman's Report (Appendix A)
5. Elections:
 - 5.1 Election of Chairman
 - 5.2 Election of Vice-Chairman
 - 5.3 Confirmation of Honorarium
 - 5.4 Re-Appointment of DNPA Representatives to Council
 - 5.5 Re-Appointment of Veterinary Surgeon to Council
6. Matters Arising:
 - 6.1 BPS Update & RPA CSG Meeting Report
 - 6.2 Agri-Environment Agreements
 - 6.3 TB Regulations Meeting with APHA & Defra
7. Matters brought forward at the direction of the Chairman.
(The Chairman must be given notice in advance of matters, which Members wish to raise, and may decide that there can be no debate until a future meeting, when the background to the matter in question has been researched)
8. Update from Dartmoor Livestock Protection Officer
9. Loss of Livestock Update
10. Update from Dartmoor National Park Authority
11. Farm Share Agreements & Grazing Agreements
12. Stallion Scheme Autumn 2018 – Proposed Date Wed 24 October 2018
13. Sheep Clearance Autumn 2018 – Proposed Dates (Appendix B)
14. Local Commoners' Association Meeting – Wed 17 October 2018
15. Ten Tors Team Managers Training Day
16. Swaling / Insurance
17. Date of Next Meeting – 3 October 2018 (to include Accounts & Auditors Report)

Chairman's report to Council - August 2018

During the past twelve months, six Council Meetings were held and well attended. Council will continue to hold its regular meetings at the Two Bridges Hotel following a renegotiation of the beneficial terms they offer to Council.

In May, the Council's bi-annual elections were held. Mr Michael Mudge decided to step down as a small grazier representative and that position on Council remains vacant. All other members of Council, whose term of office ends at this Annual Meeting, were willing to re-stand and as there were no other nominees, all were re-elected to Council. Whilst it is useful to have continuity on Council, it is a concern that no other commoners are inclined to stand for election.

The Government's proposals post Brexit are beginning to form. The loss of the Basic Payment Scheme and other aspects of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will, in some cases, be offset by a land management scheme (NELMS). What this scheme will look like and who will benefit are still unclear but Council, together with the Foundation for Common Land and others, have been lobbying to ensure the proposals are suitable for common land. I continue to be a member of the Dartmoor National Park Authority's group to consider future land management options for Dartmoor, including preparing a submission to Defra to trial a new land management scheme on common land. There have been many occasions to press for common land not to be overlooked, including Defra's Secretary of State visit (August) and during Defra's Head of Agri-environment visit in September. Council has also been lobbying for existing agri-environment agreements (all Higher Level Stewardship agreements), that come to an end over the next three years, are allowed to be rolled over to avoid the complex and costly move to a Higher Level Countryside Stewardship agreement.

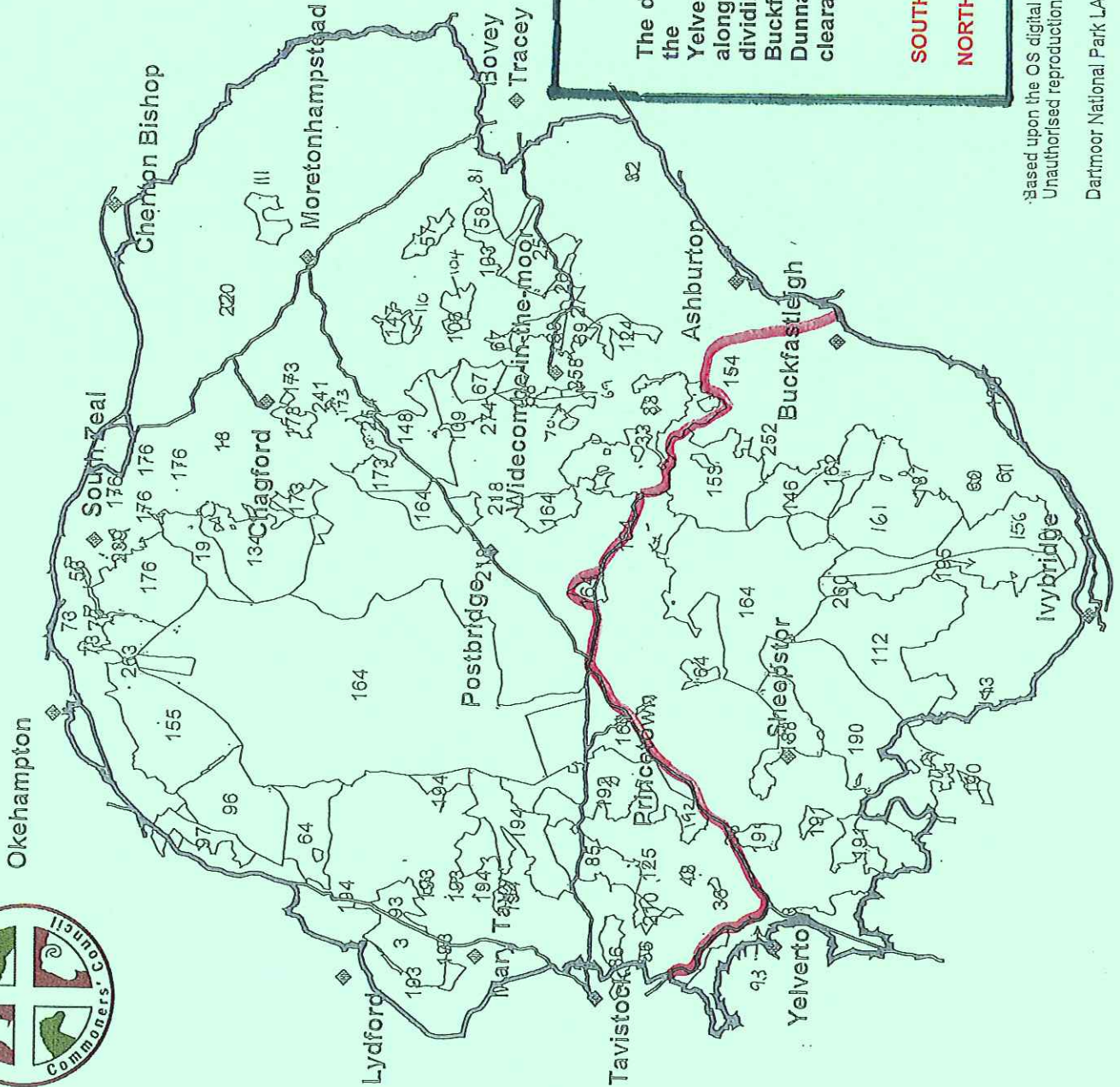
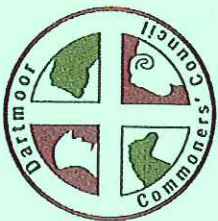
Council continues to be represented on the Devon TB Eradication Group, Defra's National Common Land Stakeholders Group (NCLSG), Rural Payment Agency's Commons Stakeholders Group and both the MOD's Working and Steering Groups on Dartmoor. The NCLSG eventually arranged for a meeting to discuss road traffic accidents involving livestock in May. Held in the New Forest, the meeting attracted good representation from all the relevant agencies and promoted the sharing of good practice, including a proposal to hold an annual summit on Dartmoor to discuss this issue.

The annual meeting with the Local Commoners' Associations was held in October. Again, it was well attended by representatives from the local associations. The issue of insurance to cover the activity of swaling remains unresolved despite the efforts of the office administrator, Sara Sloman. Sara continues to ensure Council's live register of rights is up to date and a copy was submitted to the RPA on time to help them carry out their duties. Sara is to be congratulated on her efficient management of the register and the complex issues that arise.

Ex-Council Member Roger Michelmore died on 1 November. His contribution towards the management of commons on Dartmoor was significant.

In July, Council hosted a visit from twenty two farmers and others connected to commons in South Wales. The visit proved very successful due, in no small part, to the contributions from members of Council.

DARTMOOR COMMONS – SHEEP PROHIBITION PERIOD



NORTH/SOUTH BOUNDARY

The dividing line between the North and South areas of the moor will run along the road from Yelverton/Princetown/Two Bridges (B3312), turning right along the road to Dartmeet (B3357); thereafter the dividing line will run along the River Dart to Buckfastleigh. The whole of Roborough and Dunnabridge commons will be included in the South clearance.

PROPOSED DATES FOR AUTUMN 2018

SOUTH moor clear period from 10 November to 24 November

NORTH moor clear period from 17 November to 1 December

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