

DARTMOOR COMMONERS' COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Dartmoor Commoners' Council held at Two Bridges Hotel, Princetown on Wednesday 27 October 2021.

Participants:

Mr P French – Chairman
Mr L Branfield – Vice Chair
Mr P Abel
Mrs M Alford
Mr P Cleave

Mr J Cooper
Mr W Dracup
Mr K Edwards
Mrs C Faulkner
Mrs K Little

Mr G Mortimore
Mr M Radmore
Mr M Reddaway
Mrs P Warren

Mrs S Sloman

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Council Members to the Meeting & acknowledged that many Members had sent their apologies. He informed those present that John Jordan's wife, Diane, had sadly passed away. Our condolences go to John & his family.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received from Mr C Alford, Mr R Ashford, Mr A Coaker, Mr G Hill, Mr J Jordan, Mr S Lake, Mr R Leigh, Ms T May, Mr R Steemson, Mr T Stratton, Mrs A Willcocks & Mrs K McKechnie (DLPO).

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the last Council Meeting had been previously circulated to all Council Members requesting that any comments be made ahead of tonight's meeting. No comments were received & the minutes of the Meeting held 8 September 2021 were confirmed & signed.

4. Financial Accounts: Year Ending 30 June 2021

As previously reported, the threshold for audits has increased significantly since Council was established. The income & expenditure for Council is so simple that an audit (in today's terms) is extremely excessive. Following advice from Azets (Council's accountants), Council's Office Administrator & Charlotte French (MAAT qualified), the Chairman had proposed that an Independent Examination of the accounts (by a firm of accountants), which still meets the requirement of the Dartmoor Commons Act 1985, be undertaken instead of a full External Audit. The proposal was agreed by 16 votes to none & no abstentions.

A copy of the draft financial statements had been sent to all Council Members ahead of the meeting. The Chairman proposed that Council adopt the accounts for the year ending 30 June 2021. Several questions were dealt with & as there were no objections, the accounts were formally adopted by Council. Copies of the accounts are available from the Office.

5. Matters outstanding from previous Meetings:

5.1 News Article/Press Release

A further news article titled 'Animals Grazing the Moor' was circulated to local media outlets. It was agreed that Council produce similar articles in Jan, March

(end), June & September. It was also suggested that the media outlets be informed of these dates in advance so that forthcoming publications can be accommodated. The Chairman thanked Mary Alford, Charlotte Faulkner, Rob Steemson & Ann Willcocks for their input. He asked that future articles are prepared well in advance & circulated to all Council Members for comment. If anyone has suggestions on topics or wishes to write a small piece, please contact the Office.

5.2 TB Working Group meeting with APHA

This meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday 25 November 2021 & will still be held on Dartmoor. Council's TB Working Group was asked to arrange a venue & come up with suggestions for an itinerary & matters to be discussed. It was suggested that questions are sent to APHA in advance so that they can be answered on the day of the meeting. If anyone has any TB related matters they wish to raise, please contact Council's Office Administrator or a member of the Working Group.

5.3 Local Commoners' Association Meeting

This year's event was reasonably well attended with representation from 17 out of the 37 Local Associations. Feedback received has been positive with an overall consensus that the presentations & information given out was useful. A note of the meeting will be available & circulated shortly. The Chairman thanked those Council Members who attended.

5.3.1 FiPL

The Chairman reported that he had been involved in preliminary discussions regarding Council supporting a bid for FiPL funding to create a coordinated fire plan for Dartmoor.

6. Matters brought forward at the direction of the Chairman

None

7. Members representing Council at Meetings:

- **Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons Local Area Group***: 22 September 2021 – Mary Alford
- **Dartmoor Visitor Management***: 23 September 2021 – Philip French
- **Ten Tors Team Managers Training Day**: 9 October 2021 – John Cooper
- **Our Common Cause: Partnership Meeting**: 19 October 2021 – Philip French

*Notes available.

If any Council Member wishes to receive copies of any notes, please email office@dartmoorcommoners.org.uk

8. Update from Dartmoor National Park Authority

None

9. Dartmoor National Park Authority Byelaw Review

Will Dracup declared an interest & left the room.

The Chairman reminded Council Members that, at the end of last year, DNPA gave Council an opportunity to make comments on the byelaws prior to any

changes being formally proposed. Many of Council's comments have been incorporated into the draft set of byelaws that are now being consulted on. The Chairman reported that Council Members have been provided with a number of opportunities to comment on the byelaw review. He thanked Mary Alford, Tracy May & Ann Willcocks for helping him draft a coordinated response on behalf of Council which was circulated to Council Members for comment ahead of tonight's meeting.

It was agreed that once the consultation had closed (1 November 2021), a copy of Council's response could be shared with interested parties & would be available on Council's website & from the Office upon request.

Will Dracup rejoined the meeting

10. Meeting Dates for 2022

Council discussed the proposed meeting dates for 2022. Some amendments were suggested & venue availability will need to be confirmed for these. The revised dates will be presented at the next Council Meeting.

11. Pony Matters

Mary Alford stated that the Chagford Pony Drift Sale went well & thanked Charlotte Faulkner & the Dartmoor Hill Pony Association for all their hard work & determination which helped make the day a success. Charlotte Faulkner gave a brief report on the Sale & passed on her thanks to everyone involved.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 1 December 2021 at 7:30pm at Two Bridges Hotel, Princetown.

13. Other Business

13.1 Missing Livestock

Following a brief discussion, Council Members were reminded to encourage Commoners to report missing livestock by contacting the Police directly by phoning 101 or emailing <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/contact/contact-forms/101-non-emergency/> or contact Council's Office Administrator who will contact the Police. The Chairman advised that the Police are happy for any livestock missing to be reported but have requested that they are informed if the animals turn up or are found.

The Chairman thanked those in the public gallery for attending & declared the meeting closed.

A motion to go into a closed session was then proposed by the Chairman. The outcome of these discussions is recorded in the confidential section of the meeting minutes, available to Council Members only.

Signed: Philip French

Date: 1 December 2021