

DARTMOOR COMMONERS' COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Dartmoor Commoners' Council held at Two Bridges Hotel, Princetown on Wednesday 1 May 2024.

Participants:

Mr P French – Chairman	Mr J Cooper	Mr J Reddaway
Mr L Branfield – Vice-Chairman	Mr W Dracup	Mr J Shears
Mr P Abel	Mr K Edwards	Mr T Stratton
Mrs M Alford	Mr J Jordan	Mrs P Warren
Mr R Ashford	Mr S Lee	Mrs A Webber
Mr P Cleave	Mr R Leigh	Mrs A Willcocks.
Mr A Coaker	Mrs K Little	
Mrs S Sloman	Mrs K McKechnie (DLPO)	

1. Chairman's Introduction

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received from Mrs C Faulkner, Mr P Heard, Mr E Humber & Ms T May.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Council Meeting held 13 March 2024 were confirmed & signed.

4. Matters outstanding from previous meetings

None

5. Correspondence Received

A list of correspondence received had been circulated to all Council Members with copies emailed to some Members upon request.

6. Matters brought forward at the direction of the Chair

6.1 Personnel Matters

The secretary reported that she would be taking annual leave from 15-25 May 2024 & the office would be closed.

Council Members were advised that the arrangement with Laura Talbot as office administrator had now formally ended. The Chairman thanked Laura for her time with Council & wished her well going forward.

7. Meetings with Council Representation:

None attended since the last Council Meeting

8. Council's TB Working Group – Report to Council

Anton Coaker reported on the Group's annual meeting with APHA, held at the end of March. Discussions included the timeliness of APHA relaying clear test results following an outbreak, communications with commoners, flexibility with the 6 monthly interval tests & the 10 Mile rule. APHA will look at procedures & liaise with their TB Advisory Group. Concerns were also raised that alpacas & llamas are being used commercially on Dartmoor & crossing common land grazed by cattle. However, APHA advised that there

is no requirement for these animals to be tested for TB. It was also suggested that TB in deer is being under reported & this needs bringing to the forefront.

It was agreed that Council's TB Working Group continue to engage with APHA on all of these matters & a procedural problem that has recently been identified when a cattle grazier does not carry out all of their TB testing on one day. The Working Group will also take up the NFU TB Team's offer to meet & discuss advice & guidance on any TB matters & to lobby for intended TB outcomes.

9. Update from Dartmoor Livestock Protection Officer

Karla McKechnie reported on:

Sheep – there have been occurrences of louping ill & scab. Lambing is underway & with the awful spring weather some ewes & lambs haven't managed so well. There have been lambing difficulties with some big lambs being born & cases of Shmallenberg in lambs have been reported.

Ponies - Foaling has been challenging the last couple weeks with badly presented foals, deformed foals & mares dying giving birth. However, ponies are looking well. There are a number of unmarked ponies on the Clearbrook side of Roborough Down & a large bunch of unmarked ponies between Dousland & Princetown, which need to be dealt with. Russell Ashford requested that Council continues to address the unmarked ponies on the commons.

Dog Attacks – 45 have been reported to date, which is extremely high considering it's been winter. Karla has been out on the moors with the Police & DNPA patrolling and engaging with the public. DNPA have been handing free dog leads & asking the public to keep dogs on leads around livestock. Karla hopes to have an update on the DNPA dog byelaw soon. Please continue to report any dog incidents to Karla.

Road Traffic Accidents - 22 reported to date which is the lowest it's been for some years. DLPS have funded 1100 reflective collars for the cattle & ponies. Karla has delivered nearly 400 cattle collars in the last month, so it will be good to see the cattle that graze near the busy roads wearing them. If any pony keepers would like some collars please let Karla know before the autumn drifts.

10. Dartmoor Commoners' Council Elections – June 2024

The Election Meeting dates are as follows:

- **North Quarter: Tuesday 11 June at Belstone Village Hall**
- **South Quarter: Wednesday 12 June at South Brent Village Hall**
- **East Quarter: Thursday 13 June at Manaton Parish Hall**
- **West Quarter: Monday 17 June at Princetown Community Centre**

The administration of the election procedures will be overseen by the secretary,

Elections will be a ballot of those attending the Election Meeting in person. Postal votes, telephone votes & proxy votes **WILL NOT** be accepted.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 19 June 2024 at 7.30pm at the Two Bridges Hotel, Princetown.

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

Signed: Philip French

Date: 19 June 2024