

## *Haresdown and Knowstone Moors Management Association*

### Report prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting 28.05.19

During the course of the last 12 months the Haresdown and Knowstone Moors Management Association has held three committee meetings to which commoners with rights to the moors were invited. Mr John Stanbury was re-elected as Chairman at the AGM held in December 2018. The Association includes representatives from Knowstone Parish Council and the Devon Wildlife Trust who both own part of the moors.

On-going maintenance of the moors continued in 2018 – 2019, all of which is necessary to meet the requirements of the Countryside Stewardship scheme run by the Rural Payments Agency and Natural England. Swaling (a controlled burn of the moor) took place in March. The gorse and bracken has been cut back on agreed sites. The hedging near Little Comfort Farm has been completed.

Any rotten wooden fence posts alongside the road from the picnic site through to Roachill have been replaced by the Devon Wildlife Trust and more were replaced following the sighting of a van parked on the moor. Luckily it was only there for a day but emphasised that we needed to be vigilant to prevent people parking on the moors and using it inappropriately.

It is a key requirement of the Countryside Stewardship scheme that cattle are grazed on the moors from May to late September and on the 1<sup>st</sup> May the cattle were soon grazing the inaccessible areas as planned. The Association would remind pedestrians and vehicle drivers to take care when passing the cattle on the road. The cattle owner will endeavour that the cattle stay on the moor rather than the roads but they are free to roam and can do so up to all cattle grids.

The Association has been liaising with Devon County Council to repair the metal fence separating the moors from the A361 link road. Repair work is due to start imminently with potentially a new fence being erected in the autumn. The Association has also been exploring whether a cattle grid could be situated near the stone chipping layby to prevent cattle straying along the road toward the cattle grid near the Knowstone picnic site.

Dog fouling remains an issue and placing dog poo bins close to the concrete unused road which crosses part of the moor has been discussed with the Parish Council. It is hoped that progress will be made on this issue in the next few months.

Finally any persons with questions about the management of the moors or issues that need to be remedied (such as damaged fencing / overgrown gorse on the roadways / fly tipping) should contact the Secretary of the moors for discussion.

We hope that you continue to enjoy the moors and the difference they make to our parish landscape.

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John Stanbury (Chairman) - 01398 341546