

Haresdown and Knowstone Moors Management Association

Report prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting 22.05.18

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 elected as Chairman at the AGM held in November 2017.

On-going maintenance of the moor continued in 2017 – 2018 with the gorse being strimmed back to prevent wild animals or cattle grazing on the moor emerging onto the road without warning. Rotten wooden fence posts have been replaced and the metal fence posts separating the moors from the A361 are currently being assessed to check for any necessary repair.

Firebreaks have been cut into the moor and, as part of our agreement with Natural England, a hedge has been created near Little Comfort Farm which will be completed in the autumn to prevent disturbance to nesting birds.

Swaling (a controlled burn of the moor) did not take place this year due to weather conditions.

The Association has also looked into the use of drones over the moors. It was reported that those using drones should have the landowner's permission but as it is classified as commonland the issue is not so straightforward with regard the moors. The Association advise that anyone seen flying drones over the moor should be reported to the Association especially when cattle are grazing on the moors.

On that issue cattle will soon be out on the moor (from May – September) as this is a key requirement of Natural England agreement. 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.

Finally the Association would like to ask that 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 / lfly 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.

Wendy Vigus

Secretary, Haresdown & Knowstone Moors Management Association Committee

01398 341159

Chairman

John Stanbury

01398 341546

