<u>Hemyock Parish Council</u> <u>Commons Management Group Meeting</u> <u>held at Longmead, Hemyock at 7.30pm on 20th August 2015</u>

| held at Longmead, Hemyock at 7.30pm on 20 August 2015 Subject | | |
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| <u>,</u> 1. | Present | |
| | Clist (Chair), Mr N Moon, Mr P Doble, Mr L Povah, Ms J Pritchard, Miss P Lawrence, Mrs D Evans h Clerk) and 1 members of the public (Mrs J Moon) | |
| 2. 2.1 | <u>Declarations of Interest/Dispensations</u> Mr S Clist declared he has a personal interest as he is a member of Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT). DWT provide advice on the management of the commons. | |
| 2.2 | Mr N Moon declared he has a personal interest as he is a member of the rough shoot syndicate which uses Hemyock & Shuttleton Commons. | |
| 3. PRO appro | Minutes of Last Meeting POSAL: The Commons Management Group minutes of the 16 th July 2015 meeting are oved. | |
| SECO | POSED: Mr N Moon DNDED: Mr P Doble ISION: passed (all in favour). Mr L Povah abstained. | |
| 4. Nothi | Matters arising ng to report | |
| 5. 5.1 | <u>Hemvock Common</u> The chair, clerk and representatives from the gun club and rough shoot syndicate met with Samantha Newstead, Firearms Officer, Devon & Cornwall police, at Hemyock Common. She was investigating concerns raised over public safety and also wished to survey the site and update the police records system. She was satisfied with the procedures of both groups and no further action is necessary. She informed the meeting there was a new PC, Johnny Haynes, replacing PC Jeff Howley. Clerk to invite him to attend a future council meeting. | Clerk |
| 5.2 | Devon Bio-diversity Records Office came and surveyed Hemyock & Shuttleton Commons. We await the formal reports. | |
| 5.3 | It was suggested that the gun club should be asked to top the grassland and bracken at the end of August as per Ed Hopkinson's recommendations. PROPOSAL : Gun Club to be asked to top grassland and bracken. PROPOSED : Mr S Clist SECONDED : Mr L Povah DECISION : passed (all in favour). | Full council |
| 5.4 | Several users of the common have reported to councillors their disappointment with the length of the grass. Formerly, the gun club used to cut the grass more frequently, improving accessibility for dog walkers and other users. The adoption of DWT's recommendations has had an adverse effect for some categories of visitors to the common, notably walkers and dog walkers. The group accepts that the management of the commons needs to be for the benefit of the whole community. It might be appropriate in future to compromise on some of DWT's advice. Group to meet on site on Sunday | |
| 5.5 | afternoon to assess. Complaint made by parishioner to Open Spaces concerning access, shooting, safety etc. Linda Bennett, manager, AONB, has liaised with Open Spaces and has asked the clerk to provide Open Spaces with some information. | |
| 6. Tom 1 | Shuttleton Common Brooke has topped the bracken and created firebreaks. | |
| 7. <u>Lickham & Ashculme Turbaries</u> DWT has sent a letter enquiring about renewal of the lease. Clerk has responded asking for more information and is awaiting a reply. | | |
| 8. This i | Owleycombe Common s being surveyed by the Blackdown Hills Natural Futures project early in September. | |
| 9. | Hemyock Community Orchard & Environmental Area hair has received some feedback on his initial business plan which the clerk shared. It was agreed that | |

| there is little point in exploring grant/funding options until the questions surrounding ownership of the site have been resolved and the land secured. The clerk has written to the owner asking him to note the council's interest in purchasing the land and asking him to contact her as soon as he is in a position to proceed with a sale. Clerk to enquire with Highways reference vehicular access to potential site. | Clerk |
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| 10. Items raised by ChairmanThe chair has joined the committee of the Rough Grazing Association. | |
| 11. <u>Items raised by Councillors</u> Nothing to report | |
| 12. <u>Public Participation</u> It was reported that a member of the public had contacted St Margaret's Hospice reference the charity shoot taking place on Saturday 22 nd August on land opposite Hemyock Common. A parishioner told the Hospice that sub-sonic cartridges had to be used in order for the shoot to be lawful. St Margaret's Hospice suggested the concerned member of the public contact Mr Andy Moon, coordinator of the charity shoot. The Commons Management Group notes that the use of sub sonic cartridges is not a legal requirement and regrets that a one off charitable event on private land should be disrupted in this way. | |
| 13. <u>Summary of Recommendations/Information</u> Gun Club to be asked to top grassland and bracken as per DWT recommendations. Devon Biodiversity Records Office has surveyed Hemyock & Shuttleton Commons. Community Orchard – need to resolve ownership issues before proceeding with any grant applications. | |
| 14. <u>Next Meeting</u> 7.30pm on 17 th September 2015 at Longmead | |

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed......Date.....