

**Hemyock Parish Council**  
**Commons Management Group**  
**held at Longmead at 7.30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. <u>Present</u></b>  Mr S Clist (Chair), Mr J Edwards, Mr I McCulloch, Mr S Major, Mr L Povah, Mrs D Evans (Parish Clerk), 5 Members of the public (Mr Allen, Mr Moon, Mrs Moon, Mr Venn and Mr Henville)  <u>Apologies</u></p>	
<p><b>2. <u>Declarations of Interest/dispensations</u></b> None declared.</p>	
<p><b>3. <u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u></b>  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> The Commons Management Group minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> March are approved.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr McCulloch  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr Edwards  <b>DECISION:</b> passed (all in favour) Mr Major &amp; Mr Povah abstained from voting</p>	
<p><b>4. <u>Matters arising from previous minutes</u></b></p> <p>4.1 Agreement Information – The working group has pulled together some information and is continuing to work on an agreement to formalise things between the gun club and the parish council. More news next month.</p> <p>4.2 Fire Breaks – Ed Hopkinson (Devon Wildlife Trust) has advised that the best time to make the breaks is at the end of the growing season. Rotavating the soil is not recommended as this is likely to allow birch seed to blow in and create more of a problem. The ideal width of the fire break is 3-5 metres. The Clerk was asked to add this to agenda for July's meeting</p>	Clerk      Clerk
<p><b>5. <u>Shuttleton Common</u></b>  The 'dogs on leads' sign hasn't been erected. Mr Clist will arrange. Ed Hopkinson confirmed nailing notices to trees should generally be avoided. If unavoidable then aluminum nails are preferred.</p>	
<p><b>6. <u>Hemyock Common</u></b></p> <p>6.1 Mr Allen erected the new signs at Hemyock Common on the arm at the entrance as agreed. The signs were removed/stolen the following day. Mr Allen kindly agreed to provide some Perspex and will erect new Perspex covered signs which may make them more difficult to remove.</p> <p>6.2 The Environment Agency (EA) met with the Chair at Hemyock Common, following a complaint relating to potential contamination and hazardous waste. The EA has confirmed that it found no evidence of improper disposal of waste, the waste management activities were compliant with regulations and the matter is now considered closed. The Chair was thanked for helping the EA to resolve the complaint.</p>	DA
<p><b>7. <u>Correspondence</u></b>  The group considered an email from a parishioner asking what the council intends to do to mitigate further land contamination from future shoots, including the use of biodegradable clays, no lead shot etc.  The group confirmed that at the full council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013 the council voted to take no further action with regards to potential contamination/pollution, as suggested by its advisers. The other issues raised will be considered as part of the work on the agreement. More information to follow, see 4.1 above. The parishioner was thanked for her comments.</p>	
<p><b>8. <u>Items raised by Chairman</u></b> none</p>	
<p><b>9. <u>Items raised by Councillors/Clerk</u></b>  Mr Clist and Mr McCulloch will attend the Blackdown Hills Rough Grazing Association AGM on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm in Smeatharpe Village Hall. This new landowner-led Association follows on from the 'Beef &amp; Butterflies' project last year, which gave advice and support to over a hundred landowners and managers across the Blackdown Hills who farm areas of rough, wildlife-rich</p>	IM/SC

<p>grazing land. The Association is a local, independent group which exists to promote the sharing of experience and support in the management of this type of land, to benefit both farming and wildlife. Clerk to forward details to Mr Venn for information.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>10. <u>Public Participation</u></b>  A member of the public asked for more information on item 4.1. The Clerk explained the group were looking to formalise matters between the gun club and the parish council over its use of Hemyock Common for shooting.</p>	
<p><b>11. <u>Summary of Recommendations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Dogs on leads' signs removed – Perspex will be used</li> <li>• Environment Agency - summary of waste contamination complaint</li> <li>• Creation of fire breaks - at end of growing season</li> </ul>	
<p><b>12. <u>Next Meeting</u></b> will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 at Longmead. The group agreed to meet bi-monthly after this meeting (July, September, November, January)</p>	

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

*Signed*.....*Date*.....