

# KINGSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



## **Minutes of the Downs meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at The Downs.**

**Present:** Cllrs. M. Haines (Chair), A. Hartley, P. Hartley,  
**In attendance** (for update on work): D. Poole (KNHS)

The Chairman opened the meeting at the car park entrance at 10.00am

### **1. KNHS**

Members were pleased to see a number of KNHS volunteers working on the Downs that morning. Work was occurring in an area where orchids were emerging. Mowing in this area may have occurred previously were it not for the continued wet conditions (but this area will be avoided now due to the orchids). They were also intending to clear some minor obstruction of footpaths. A report had recently been sent to the Parish Council from KNHS.

### **2. Monitoring of recent damage**

Members walked along many of the main footpaths through the Downs. A number of trees that had been damaged/fallen during the past couple of months were noted. Cllr. A Hartley took photographs of the unsafe trees adjacent to the paths in order to identify to TDC tree officer where urgent safety works are required (in line with the recently introduced notification agreement).

Now that ground conditions are becoming better, the contractors will be returning to site to finish their works. They will also be asked to attend to the newly identified unsafe trees (those identified and photographed during this site meeting).

Members noted the increased diversity of vegetation in the areas of recent works. The new oaks planted in the 'telecom' clearing may need to be staked. The stump of an oak felled in recent safety works was inspected, the presence of disease was clear.

Overall it was felt that the Downs were looking good, despite the recent prolonged wet weather.

### **4. Thinning Licence**

Cllr. A Hartley reported on his recent conversation with the Forestry Commission. An application for a thinning licence will be made shortly.

### **3. Car Park**

The fence at the foot of the steep slope has not been repaired yet. DCC to be contacted. It was noted that loose debris on the slopes by the car park is being deliberately dislodged.

**KINGSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Downs Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

**4. Date of next meeting:** To be agreed.

Chairman Cllr. Haines closed the meeting at 11.35am.

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