

NORTHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

**BYELAWS**

with respect to Westerleigh Common in the Parish of Westerleigh,  
in the County of Avon.

THE COMMONS ACT, 1899

Under and by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972 the following byelaws made by the former Rural District Council of Chipping Sodbury remain in force, the expression "the Council" contained therein meaning Northavon District Council in substitution for the Rural District Council of Sodbury, the successor to the said Rural District Council of Chipping Sodbury:

1. Throughout these byelaws the expression "The Council" means the Rural District Council of Chipping Sodbury, and the expression "the Common" means the piece of land with the ponds, paths, and roads thereon commonly known as Westerleigh Common, situate in the Parish of Westerleigh and referred to as "the Common" in the scheme approved under the Commons Act 1899, on the Seventh day of November, 1903, by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.
2. A person shall not wilfully or improperly remove, or carelessly or negligently deface, any notice-board, plate, or tablet, or bill, or notice, or any support, fastening, or fitting of any such board, plate, or tablet put up or maintained by the Council on any part of the common.
3. A person shall not wilfully, carelessly, or negligently remove, or carelessly or negligently deface or injure any fence or seat or other thing put up or maintained by the Council on the Common.
4. A person shall not without lawful authority turn out or permit to remain on the Common any cattle, sheep or other animals; and if any person, after being required by any officer of the Council to remove any such cattle, sheep or other animals so turned out or permitted by him to remain upon the Common, shall refuse, fail, or neglect to so remove such cattle, sheep or other animals, such officer may forthwith remove the same from the Common.
5. A person shall not without lawful authority, draw upon any part of the Common other than any road or cartway on or across the same (and then only for the purpose of passing over the same), any cart, caravan, barrow, truck, or machine, or any other vehicle; and if any person, after being required by any officer of the Council to remove any such cart, caravan, barrow, truck, or machine, or other vehicle so drawn upon the Common, shall refuse, fail or neglect to so remove such cart, caravan, barrow, truck, machine, or other vehicle, such officer may forthwith remove the same from the Common.
6. A person, other than a person acting under the authority of the Council, shall not paint or post any bill, placard, or notice to or upon any tree, or fence, or notice-board on the Common.
7. A person shall not at any time, without lawful authority, take, dig, or cut any gravel, sand, sod, clay, turf, or other substance on, or from the Common, or carelessly or negligently injure any timber, brushwood, gorse, heather, or furze thereon.
8. A person shall not wilfully, carelessly, or negligently soil or defile any part of any building, or of any fixed or movable seat, or post, or of any other structures or erection, on the Common, or throw or deposit any filth, rubbish, or refuse, or cause or suffer any filth, rubbish, or refuse to fall or to be thrown or deposited upon any part of the Common.
9. A person shall not wilfully, carelessly, or negligently throw or discharge on the Common any stone or other missile to the damage or danger of any person; nor discharge any firearm on the Common.
10. A person shall not at any time, without lawful authority, exercise or break in, or cause to be exercised or broken in any horse on the Common.
11. A person shall not light any fire on the Common, or wilfully carelessly, or negligently do any act which might cause any timber, wood, brushwood, gorse, heather, furze, fen, earth, paper, rubbish, or other substance to take fire or be burned on the Common.

12. A person shall not, without the consent of the Council or other lawful authority, erect any post, railing, fence, pole, tent, booth, stand, swing, building, or other structure on any part of the Common.
13. A person shall not frequent and use the Common for the purpose of betting or wagering or of agreeing to make any bet or wager.
14. A person shall not on the Common use any indecent or obscene language to the annoyance of any person
15. A person shall not wilfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt, or annoy any other person in the proper use of the Common, or hinder or obstruct any officer of the Council in the proper execution of his powers, or duties under the scheme hereinbefore referred to or under any of these bye-laws.
16. Every person who shall offend against any of the foregoing bye-laws shall be liable for every such offence to a penalty of TWO POUNDS. Provided nevertheless, that the justices or court before whom any complaint may be made or any proceedings may be taken in respect of any such offence may, if they think fit, adjudge the payment, as a penalty, of any sum less than the full amount of the penalty imposed by this bye-law.
17. Every person, who, within the view of any officer of the Council, shall commit an offence against any of the bye-laws, or against the Vagrancy Act, 1824, or who shall reasonably be suspected by any such officer of the Council of committing any such offence, may, after due warning be removed or excluded from the Common by such officer.

**F.MAUDE,**  
**Clerk & Chief Executive Officer**

Council Offices  
Thornbury  
Bristol

February, 1978.