



# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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7th January 2025

## Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting

### on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:	* Chair	** Vice Chair
Cllr Alison Geen **			
<b>Postbridge Ward:</b>	Cllr Gary Easton		Cllr Hazel Williams
Cllr Julian Greatrex	Cllr Martin Grover		Cllr Mark Williams*
	Cllr Gregg Manning		

Abbreviations used: **DFPC**: Dartmoor Forest Parish Council, **DCC**: Devon County Council,  
**DNPA**: Dartmoor National Park Authority, **DoC**: Duchy of Cornwall, **WDBC**: West Devon Borough Council

Members of the public in attendance: 2

1. **Apologies** - Cllr Byrom, Cllr Mark Renders (WDBC) Cllr Watson (absent)
  2. **Declarations of interest** - none
  3. **Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Council approved the minutes which were then signed by Cllr Mark Williams. He also signed the minutes from the October meeting, as approved at previous meeting.
  4. **Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
  5. **Governance Review** –
    - i. Princetown CCTV Policy – CCTV working group – Council was asked to approve and adopt the latest draft as circulated prior to meeting. Proposed by Cllr Geen, seconded by Cllr Grover, all agreed. Action: Clerk to publish policy on website.
    - ii. Council agreed revised schedule to review the remaining documents:
      - January meeting:
        - CCTV Data Protection Impact Assessment – CCTV Working Group
        - Play Park Inspections Procedure - Cllr Mark Williams and Cllr Grover
        - Community Engagement Policy – Cllr Hazel Williams & Cllr Easton
      - February meeting:
        - Lengthsman and Grounds Maintenance Procedures & Risk Assessment – Cllr Mark Williams + another
- See Briefing Notes Appendix 1 for revised schedule.



6. **DNPA Visitor Centre** – Cllr Mark Williams updated Council on the current situation, and actions taken to date.
- i. Statement issued to Tavi times see Appendix 2
  - ii. Letters sent to: DNPA, Duchy of Cornwall, Geoffrey Cox MP, Prince William
  - iii. DNPA meeting to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> January – DFPC can send one representative to speak on behalf of Council (3 mins) – need to register intent to send representative.

Council agreed it was important for Council to send a representative to the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January to represent the village and residents. Council agreed that the focus of the statement should be to:

- i. Delay the decision to close until at least Sept 2025, to allow other funding opportunities to be fully explored
- ii. To convey the negative impact on the village, residents, businesses if the Centre were to be closed
- iii. To encourage DNPA and Duchy to explore all possible options to reduce the cost of maintaining the building and keep the Centre open
- iv. To encourage DNPA to explore fully opportunities to generate income within the Centre

Cllr Geen agreed to attend the meeting on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Hazel Williams agreed to draft a statement on behalf of Council for Cllr Geen to read out.

Action: Clerk to register intent to speak at meeting.

7. **Parking Issues** – no issues raised at time of publishing the agenda or at meeting
8. **Residents' issues or concerns**
- a) Issue of Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue, Princetown not having a 4x4 vehicle, and the current vehicle not being fit for purpose. Issue was raised by resident, as emailed to Council prior to the meeting. Resident attended meeting and spoke on the matter. Council agreed to wait on the outcome of the investigation (resident to forward to Clerk) and put item on agenda for January meeting. Action: Clerk to put on January agenda.
  - b) Resident raised concern raised over the location and brightness of the lights on the Two Bridges Hotel sign, particularly when coming from Postbridge and turning right towards Princetown. Council agreed to write to Two Bridges Hotel and ask they adjust the angle of the lights to prevent blinding drivers turning right at that junction. Action: Clerk to write to Two Bridges Hotel.
9. **1<sup>st</sup> PUBLIC SESSION** – nothing further raised
10. **Planning** – none
11. **Financial management** - see Financial Report for details
- a) Payments approved by Council, Cllr Geen and Cllr Easton to authorise the payments.
12. **Budget 2025/6 and Precept** – Council was asked to approve 2025/26 budget v6 as proposed and circulated by Clerk. This would result in a 5% increase in the Precept amount, as agreed at the November meeting. Budget 2025/6v6 circulated by e-mail 15/12/24. Budget proposed by Cllr Manning, seconded by Cllr Geen, all voted in favour. Action: Clerk to submit Precept request in January 2025.
13. **Councillor Code of Conduct Training** – Cllr Hazel Williams gave a brief verbal summary of the DALC training she recently attended.

14. **Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings** - Clerk updated on the following matters
- Adoption of BT phone box – Princetown, awaiting issue of licence from Duchy
  - DoE Groups – awaiting response, Clerk to chase.
  - Proposed Housing Development – Princetown - Alex Rehaag has sent Clerk copy of presentation given on 26<sup>th</sup> November and has said the survey responses will also be made available. Action: Clerk to post these on DFPC website and publicise on DFPC FB page.
15. **Reports and Updates from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests:**
- Play Park Inspections and Action Plan and funding – Cllr Mark Williams
    - Action Plan - The playpark is in hand, Dave has a number of tasks to complete by the end of January This is to be in readiness for the ROSPA Annual inspection in March 2025. Universal joint for single point swing delivery due early Jan, to be fitted by contractor. See Appendix 3 for Action Plan
    - Funding- Emma Byrom has agreed to distribute consultation questions to school children and parents. Awaiting results
  - LOVE (Love Our Village Enthusiasts) Project – Cllr Hazel Williams - nothing to report
  - Tidy Princetown Sessions – Cllr Mark Williams
    - Tidy Princetown didn't happen this month (Dec) due to high winds.
    - January 4<sup>th</sup> is the next one, need a volunteer to lead please as Cllrs Williams are away. Cllr Easton agreed to lead the session on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan
  - The Plot - Community Garden - Cllr Hazel Williams
    - 5 apple trees from Woodland Trust arriving in January.
    - £250 funding received from Princetown Charity Shop.
    - Christmas drinks at The Prince of Wales held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, to encourage community engagement.
  - CCTV System Check & any requests – CCTV Working Group - no requests  
In line with the revised Policy Cllr Manning agreed to check system at beginning of Jan and Mid Feb. Cllr Hazel Williams agreed to check system mid Jan and early Feb.
  - Speedwatch - Cllr Gregg Manning reported that he has only 4 volunteers currently but sessions will continue when the weather permits.
  - Defibs – Cllrs Geen and Greatrex reported all functioning.
  - Primary School and PTA – Cllr Byrom – no report
  - Youth Club – Cllr Byrom – no report
  - Postbridge Cemetery – following storm Darragh, Lengthsman reported no apparent damage to trees, fallen branches etc.
  - Gardening the Grounds – Princetown Churchyard
    - Hazel re-elected as chair for 2025 at AGM.
    - Community Payback team are on pause due to long-term sickness.
16. **2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC SESSION** – nothing raised
17. **Exchange of information** –
- Cllr Hazel Williams – mentioned that the Princetown Business Group were also planning on attending the DNPA meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> January and hoped to speak.
  - Cllr Easton reported that the drainage on the footpath from Station Cottages had recently been cleared and improved, but wasn't sure if it was DNPA or Duchy who had actioned it.

- c) Clerk reported Devon Wildlife Trust donated crab apple tree for the play park is available for collection after Christmas. Cllr Mark Williams offered to collect.
- d) Clerk reported email received 14.12.25 from Visitor Centre regarding reports of overhanging trees on a path near the Community Centre. As no actual location was given unable to take action to contact relevant land owner.

18. **Date of next meeting** - 1930 on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Princetown Community Centre

Meeting Closed 2048