



Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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7th February 2025

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting on 25th January 2025 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:	* Chair	** Vice Chair
Cllr Alison Geen **	Cllr Emma Byrom		
Postbridge Ward:			Cllr Hazel Williams
Cllr Julian Greatrex	Cllr Martin Grover		Cllr Mark Williams*
Cllr Wendy Watson	Cllr Greg 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: 4, including Cllr Mark Renders (WDBC) and Simon Wallace (Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue – Princetown)

- Apologies** – Cllr Manning, Cllr Easton
- Declarations of interest** – Cllr Geen declared interest in Item 10a, Cllr Grover declared interest in item 10b
- Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 17th December 2024. Council approved the minutes which were then signed by Cllr Mark Williams.
- Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
- Governance Review** – Due to Clerk having no internet for several days in the lead up to the meeting, it was not possible to circulate revised documents to Councillors prior to meeting. Item to be held over to February meeting.
 - CCTV Data Protection Impact Assessment – CCTV Working Group
 - Play Park Inspections Procedure – Cllr M Williams & Cllr Grover
 - Community Engagement Policy – Cllr H Williams & Cllr Easton
 See Councillor Briefing Notes Appendix 1 for schedule
- DNPA Visitor Centre** – Cllr Mark Williams updated on the current situation, reporting that Cllr Geen had represented Council at the DNPA meeting on the 10th January, reading out a prepared statement. At that meeting DNPA Members voted to keep the centre open until October 2025. He also reported on the Princetown Business Network meeting which was held on the 13th January, and attended by Kevin Bishop (DNPA) Council agreed it is important for all interested parties to work together to find

28th January 2025

Signature of Chair



a way to retain the centre after October 2025. Council also felt it was important to have a point of contact with both DNPA and Duchy on this matter, especially as Tom Stratton is leaving on the 14th February. Action: Clerk to contact Duchy and DNPA to identify contacts going forwards, request direct communication on this matter and offer Council assistance, for example grass cutting around the centre. Item to be on February Agenda for further updates if available.

7. **Parking Issues** – no issues raised at time of publishing the agenda or at meeting
8. **Residents' issues or concerns** - no issues raised at time of publishing the agenda or at meeting
9. **1st PUBLIC SESSION** - Cllr Mark Renders (WDBC) expressed concerns around the possibility that Devon will be devolved with the current District Council structure changing.

Simon Wallace from Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue, Princetown gave a brief update on the possibility of the station getting a 4x4 vehicle, stating that the vehicle currently stationed in Yelverton might be re-deployed to Princetown. This carried additional capacity in terms of water and additional equipment. He stated he would keep Council informed of any developments. Action: Clerk asked to put item on Agenda for February meeting for update.

10. **Planning** – Council considered applications below and agreed on the response to DNPA.
 - a) 0004/25 Moorlands Farm, Princetown - Proposed by Cllr Hazel Williams, seconded by Cllr Grover, agreed by 4 (3 abstentions) to support the application.
 - b) 25/0003 Tree work at 1 Moor View Villas, Princetown – Proposed by Cllr Hazel Williams, seconded by Cllr Geen, agreed by 4 (3 abstentions) to support the application.

Action: Clerk to respond to DNPA.

For information only: 4181/19 – Housing at Woolwell, South Hams DC approved Jan 2025, DFPC previously objected in 2019.

11. **Financial management** - see Financial Report for details
 - a) Payments approved by Council, payments to be authorised by Cllrs Geen and Byrom.

Ref	Payee & Details	Amount
1847	Princetown Community Centre- Room Hire Jan - June 2025 Inv 1030	£ 120.00
1848	David Cole - Lengthsman Pay	£ 528.00
1849	David Cole - Lengthsman expenses	£ 20.00
1850	Jackie Bennetts - Clerks pay January	£ 565.00
1851	Jackie Bennetts - Clerks Expenses - office at home annual payment	£ 30.00

1852	Jake Cook - Litter Picker fee January	£	46.00
1853	CastleCCTV INV 1121 Service and Annual Support	£	264.00
1854	Hazel Williams - reimbursing LOVE and The Plot	£	32.35

Total £ 1,605.35

12. **Devon County Council – Highways Grass Cutting 2025** – Council considered the contract with DCC. Proposed by Cllr Geen, seconded by Cllr Grover and agreed by all to provide grass cutting of verges to DCC. Value of contract for 2025 is £134.00. Clerk signed contract on behalf of Council. Action: Clerk to return signed contract to DCC-Highways.
13. **VE Day 80 Celebrations - May 8th 2025** - Council discussed whether/how to be involved in this and agreed to be part of a working party (as happened for the Coronation). Cllr Byrom volunteered to lead on this.
14. **Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings**
- Co-option to fill remaining vacancy to be on agenda for February meeting Action: Clerk to advertise on website, FB and notice board.
 - Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue, Princetown not having a 4x4 vehicle as raised at December meeting - Issue to be held over to Feb meeting as resident is awaiting response from D&S Fire and Rescue. See Item 9.
 - Adoption of BT phone box – Princetown – ongoing
 - DoE Groups – ongoing
 - Two Bridges Hotel – illuminated sign - ongoing
15. **Reports and Updates from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests**
- Play Park Inspections and Action Plan – Cllr Mark Williams See Councillor Briefing Notes Appendix 3 for Action Plan. Cllr Mark Williams reported that he and David Cole would be focussing on completing the necessary actions in February (prior to the RoSPA inspection which will take place in March) Cllr Williams reported that a new bin is required. Action: Clerk to get prices and source replacement bin.
Funding bid - Emma Byrom has agreed to distribute consultation questions to schoolchildren and parents. Awaiting results
 - LOVE (Love Our Village Enthusiasts) Project – Cllr Hazel Williams
 - Cyclamen planted for winter colour. Photo to be taken on sunny day to promote LOVE for 2025 and gain further sponsorship
 - Tidy Princetown Sessions – Cllr Mark Williams next session Saturday 1st February Action: Clerk to advertise on FB.
 - The Plot - Community Garden - Cllr Hazel Williams
 - £250 donated by Water-Saving Community Fund to cover purchase of 3 rainwater butts Action: Clerk return signed agreement 21st January, now awaiting the funding.
 - Weekly sessions now Wednesdays 1400 – 1500 and Saturdays 1000 – 1100
 - Jo Grover nominated as Treasurer

- e) CCTV System Check & any requests – CCTV Working Group
System Checks completed: 04/01 GM, 15/01 HW, 26/01 JB – all working
Annual service completed by CastleCCTV on 20/01/2025
No requests received.
- f) Speedwatch - Cllr Gregg Manning – no report
- g) Defibs – Cllrs Geen and Greatrex – all working
- h) Primary School and PTA – Cllr Byrom reported just under 50 children on the role
- i) Youth Club – Cllr Byrom reported that a lack of people on the management committee, and a lack of funding meant the club could not continue. There is a drive to recruit people onto the management committee and to raise funds asap. Minibus will be sold to raise funds. Action: Clerk to put item on agenda for February meeting for update.
- j) Gardening the Grounds (Princetown Churchyard) – no update

16. 2nd PUBLIC SESSION –

David Cole reported that the benches by the War Memorial will need oiling when the weather is drier. Cllr Williams agreed to source suitable oil in readiness.

Cllr Mark Renders questioned progress on getting replacement locks for the snow gates on the DNPA car park. Locks have seized and gates therefore cannot be locked closed in snow conditions. He and Cllr Mark Williams both offered to follow this up with Andrew Watson DNPA, who has agreed to supply replacements.

17. Exchange of information – Around the table discussion for any matters to be shared for information or to request they are put on agenda for next meeting

- a) Duchy of Cornwall – New agreement has been issued for use of Bellever Garage No 11, to replace No 18 (door faulty) for storage of Council equipment.
Cllr Mark Williams expressed concerns that the garages do not offer a long-term solution and an alternative location for storage of equipment will be required in the future. Action: Clerk to approach Duchy to see if there is any alternative available in the village. Lengthsman to move equipment from No 18 into No 11.
- b) Cllr Greatrex reported that after recent windy weather the tress in Postbridge Cemetery were unaffected, although some stones had fallen out of the wall. These will need to be replaced by Lengthsman.
- c) Cllr Watson reported surface water flooding on the B3212 between the Bellever junction and Lake Head cottage. Lengthsman will look at this in the coming weeks whilst ditching.
- d) Cllr Geen reported that ditching work is needed on the top road to Sherberton. A contractor is being arranged, and paid for by local residents, who will work with Lengthsman in the coming weeks.
- e) Cllr Mark Williams reported he planned to plant the crab apple tree, donated by Devon Wildlife Trust, in the Play Park on Thursday 30th at about 11am if anyone wanted to help out. Council agreed this tree could commemorate VE80 day. Action: Clerk to arrange a plaque to be put in place on 8th May.

18. **Date of next meeting -** 1930 on Tuesday 25th February 2025
Princetown Community Centre

Meeting Closed 2038