



Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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28th November 2022

Minutes for the Council Meeting at 1930 on 22nd November 2022 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:	
Cllr Alison Geen	Cllr Stephen Butterworth	1 Vacancy
	Cllr Phil Henson	
Postbridge Ward:	Cllr Mark Williams	* Chair
Cllr Julian Greatrex	Cllr Gregg Manning *	** Vice Chair

Abbreviations used: **DFPC**: Dartmoor Forest Parish Council, **DCC**: Devon County Council, **WDBC**: West Devon Borough Council, **DNPA**: Dartmoor National Park Authority, **DoC**: Duchy of Cornwall, **PCSO**: Police Community Support Officer, **PCC**: Parochial Church Council **PCMF**: Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Fund

Cllr Manning chaired the meeting.

There were 1 member of the public present, plus Cllr Mark Renders (WDBC)

- 1. Apologies** – Cllr Steele, Cllr Watson and Cllr Byrom**
- 2. Declarations of interest** - none declared
- 3. Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 25th October 2022. Council resolved to approve the minutes which were signed by Cllr Manning.
- 4. Urgent decisions since last meeting** - none
- 5. Proposed Closure of Princetown Visitor Centre** – Council discussed at length the DNPA proposal as outlined in the letter from Kevin Bishop Chief Exec 8th Nov 2022, expressing extreme concern for the future economic viability of the village if the Centre were to close. Residents have approached Councillors also expressing their concern. Council resolved to write to Kevin Bishop expressing the concerns and asking for the proposal to be reconsidered. Also to write to Cllr Philip Sanders (DCC) MP Geoffrey Cox. and Tom Stratton (DoC) to ask them to support the interests of the village in whatever way available to them. Cllr Manning encouraged all Councillors to write personally also, and to encourage residents to do the same. Action: Clerk to write letters to DNPA, DCC and DoC as above.
- 6. DNPA Byelaw Revision** – Council discussed the latest proposed revisions to Byelaws and agreed no further response or action to be taken although concerns raised again about who will ‘police’ this, and Council were previously concerned about wild camping, but this is currently the subject of legal proceedings, so not included in the most recent Byelaw revisions. [Comparison of current and revised Byelaws](#)

13th December 2022

Signature of Chair



- 7. Parking issues (Princetown) -** Standing item to cover issues arising since the last meeting – none raised
- 8. Residents' issues or concerns -** Standing item to cover issues raised at or since the last meeting –
- a) Parking spaces and erection of shed - Heather Terrace. Council acknowledged the concerns raised regarding the shed being unsightly and potentially adding to the parking issues on the road, however, stated that it is not within its powers to take any action against the occupants. Action: Clerk to respond to the resident, suggesting they contact the Housing Association and DNPA Planning. Clerk to also make both aware that Council has received a complaint regarding of the situation.
- 9. 1st PUBLIC SESSION -** Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on agenda items, or raise issues for future consideration
- a) Cllr Renders attended a recent meeting of the Rural Crime Initiative who reported there had been three raves at Soussons on three consecutive weekends. Residents are encouraged to report any activity early, so the Police have the best opportunity to take action.
- 10. Planning –**
- a) **0425/22 Land at Fernworthy Forest** for a 35m lattice tower, associated solar panels and HVO generator. [0425/22 Land at Fernworthy Forest](#) Council resolved to recommend APPROVAL. Council expressed concerns about the number of masts being applied for and questioned whether more co-operation between phone providers would reduce the number required. Action: Clerk to respond to DNPA Planning
- b) **Proposed Tree Works 22/0050 -** Princetown Conservation Area (around Prison) Council resolved to recommend APPROVAL. Action: Clerk to respond to DNPA Planning
- 11. Fire Service Consultation –** Council discussed ongoing concerns regarding the lack of a 4wd vehicle which is capable of negotiating the narrow lanes and bridges and rough terrain in all weathers. Councillors expressed disappointment that no response was received from the Fire Service following the letter sent Dec 2021 on this matter. Action: Clerk to resend the letter from Dec 2021.
- 12. Financial management -**
- a) Payments approved by Council, cheques signed by Cllr Manning and Cllr Henson

Ref	Chq No	Date	Payee & Details	Amount
1584	1797	22/11/2022	J Bennetts - Clerk Expenses toner, gloves, donation boxes, paint	£ 98.29
1586	1798	22/11/2022	DALC 'CiLCA Support Programme' (Clerk Training)	£ 360.00
1587	1799	22/11/2022	DALC Training 'Budget for Clerks and Finance Staff'	£ 36.00
1588	1800	22/11/2022	David Cole Lengthsman Pay	£ 528.00
1589	1801	22/11/2022	Jackie Bennetts Clerk Pay	£ 328.55
1590	1802	22/11/2022	Jake Cook - litter picker fee	£ 45.00
1591	1803	22/11/2022	HMRC Clerk Tax	£ 82.20

- b) Invoices to be approved; none
- c) Bank reconciliation; correct to 19/11/22
- d) Online Banking – no further progress. Awaiting confirmation that Cllr Byrom has online access before moving to BACS transfers instead of issuing cheques.
- e) Financial Report – see report for full details.

13. Budget 2023/24 and Precept – Clerk presented draft budget v2 for Council to consider maintaining the precept amount. Key considerations and changes from v1 budget are

- a) the annual costs for and repair/replacement costs to Defibs
- b) the need to repair/replace elements within the Play Park, particularly the Cross Chains, quoted at £300 ex vat, and the Rope Bridge quoted at £1075 ex vat plus fitting costs
- c) increased staff costs due to recent National Pay agreement for Clerk salary, backdated to April 2022.

Note: Budget and Precept request to be approved by Council at the December meeting.

Action: Councillors to raise any queries with Clerk asap.

14. Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings -

- a) **Huccaby/Hexworthy overgrown hedges** - The Duchy have hired Dave Mudge (Huccaby Farm) to trim the verges belonging to them. He has done the road from Hexworthy to Saddlesbridge and from Slade Cross towards Sherberton. Cllr Geen has drafted a letter to land owners requesting they trim back the verges. Action: Clerk to send and email property/land owners requesting they arrange for the hedges/verges to be cut back.
- b) **Hexworthy Phone Box refurbishment and Defib** - Phone box has been painted outside with crowns being filled in in gold. Local volunteer is also going to spruce up inside. Electricity supply has been disconnected (In 2014 BT agreed to maintain connection for 7yrs) Council agreed the need to reconnect. Action: Clerk to investigate reconnection process and charges.
- Defib - A new insulated bag is required to protect the defib as the current one has fallen apart and is past repairing. Currently available for £120 ex vat. Action: Council to consider this alongside budgeting to replace one Defib in the coming year.
- c) **Play Park Memorial tree request** – Tom Stratton has requested a meeting with the Council and the person requesting the memorial tree. Cllr Williams has agreed to attend on behalf of DFPC. Meeting yet to be arranged – Clerk to action.
- d) **Refurbishment of War Memorial benches** – delays obtaining parts for equipment has unfortunately delayed this, so benches were not in place for Remembrance Service but should be completed and handed back to DFPC on Dec 2nd. Prison has also agreed to supply fixings.

Clerk currently has two families who would like to put memorial plaques on the refurbished benches and have agreed to make a donation to the Council in lieu of having to pay for a new bench/refurbishing an existing bench. Stainless steel plaques have been sourced at £60 each. Council agreed that £50 per year would be appropriate as a donation, with plaques being maintained for 5yrs minimum. Action: Clerk to contact families and advise of donation process.

15. Reports from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests:

- a) Youth Club – none as Cllr Byrom was not in attendance
- b) Princetown Primary School PTA - none as Cllr Byrom was not in attendance
- c) Speedwatch – Cllr Manning reported that no sessions have taken place recently due to his knee operation. He reported he now has a ‘letter of authority’ explaining the relationship between Speedwatch and D&C Police, copies of which can be handed to anyone enquiring



- d) VZSW – Cllr Williams reported that there was no progress on the new signage agreed by Devon Highways despite contacting James Anstee. One of the farmers has requested additional collars. Cllr Williams will apply for additional funding if it becomes available.
- e) ‘Tidy Princetown’ – last session was rained off. Cllr Manning suggested that the next session could focus on work in the churchyard. Council agreed that sessions should continue. To raise visibility of the sessions and highlight the work of Council Hi-viz waistcoats were suggested. Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for DFPC printed yellow Hi-viz.
- f) Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Fund (PCMF) – Cllr Williams reported on the initial meeting held recently to formalise the group and elect Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. A bank account is being opened and the constitution is being written. A facebook page has been created and the next (open) meeting is arranged for the 7th December at the Prince of Wales at 7pm.

16. 2nd PUBLIC SESSION - Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on agenda items, or raise issues for future consideration

- a) Cllr Renders recalled his understanding that DFPC agreed an annual budget would be allocated for the ongoing maintenance of Defibs, with any excess being placed in a reserve to replace them.
- b) Cllr Renders was approached at the Remembrance Service by residents who have relatives buried in the Churchyard who said they would be willing to make a regular donation to the maintenance fund.
- c) Cllr Renders offered to contact ‘Tidy Tavi’ to source the Hi Viz for the ‘Tidy Princetown’ sessions.

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

- a) Remembrance Service & collection – Council collected donations of £205 for Royal British Legion at the service which was well attended and a credit to the village. Action: Cllr Manning to deposit cash in Council account and Clerk to issue cheque to British Legion at next meeting.
- b) Cllr Henson reported that the gate from Woodville Ave onto the moor is broken, he will investigate further.
- c) Cllr Williams raised the issue of the Christmas Tree. He has received the lights from David Worth, and passed them to Dave Cole. Dave Cole will source a tree and put up.
- d) Cllr Williams expressed concern about the Cross Chains in the play park. Action: As this poses a safety risk to children using it Council agreed that Dave Cole remove asap.
- e) Cllr Williams has received the paint for the bus stop and will action when weather allows.
- f) Cllr Manning reported that a resident had recently walked between the posts of the ‘Welcome to Princetown’ sign hurting her face on a metal cross piece. The damaged sign has been removed and reported, to Devon CC. Cllr Manning arranged for hazard tape to be placed to prevent further injury.

18. Date of next ‘Tidy Princetown’ - 10am until 11am - Sunday 4th December 2022.

Meet outside Post Office.

19. Date of next meeting - 1930 on 13th December 2022 at Princetown Community Centre
Meeting closed 2125

