

# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Councillor Briefing Notes for Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 7.30pm in Princetown Community Centre

1. **Apologies –**
2. **Declarations of interest -**
3. **Acceptance of minutes -** As previously circulated for meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.
4. **Urgent decisions since last meeting –** none
5. **Promotion of the Parish –** to discuss requesting a Royal visit as proposed by Cllr Manning
6. **Effect of Bank Closures in Tavistock –** to consider the impact on residents and whether any action could be taken – to follow-on from last meeting and Sir Geoffrey Cox visit.
7. **Claremont House –** Carried forward from August meeting. Building is in a state of disrepair, looks unsightly and front window is cracked and therefore unsafe. Council to consider what action might be taken to get property owner to make necessary improvements. Letter sent to property owner (by hand and signed for) awaiting response.
8. **1<sup>st</sup> PUBLIC SESSION -** Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on agenda items, or raise issues for future consideration.
9. **Residents' issues or concerns –** none received before agenda published see Item 17 d)
10. **Parking issues (Princetown)-** Standing item to cover issues arising since the last meeting – none received before agenda published
11. **Planning –** Council to Consider and agree on response to the following applications.  
[0379/12](#) Consultation Request - Forest Inn Hexworthy Deadline extension to 28/9  
[0409/23](#) Consultation Request - 7 Plymouth Hill Deadline 3/10  
[0413/23](#) Consultation Request - Yellowmead Farm Deadline 5/10  
[0420/23](#) Consultation Request - HMP Dartmoor Deadline 6/10
12. **Financial management -** see Financial Report for details
  - a) Payments to be approved;
  - b) Update on additional bank signatories/online access – Cllr Manning is a signatory and has online access. Cllr Byrom is a signatory and now has online access. Cllr Easton is a signatory, awaiting online access. Cllr Geen has online access and is applying to become signatory.
  - c) Preparations for 2024/25 Budget and Precept request – Clerk suggests that the Finance Committee arrange to meet to agree on areas of expenditure, and strategy for agreeing budget for next year.
13. **Natural England Proposed Stock Reduction on Dartmoor-** Cllr Geen to update on the review process and Council to consider and agree on any action to be taken. Clerk to send letter to review (deadline extended to 16/10/23)
14. **Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings -**
  - a) Noticeboards – Hexworthy – new noticeboard is now in place. Thank you to Mark Wilkinson (Owner of Forest Inn) for putting it up and transferring notices across. Thank you also to Anton Coaker and Alison Geen for their donation towards the cost of the replacement.

- b) Dog Waste Bins – WDBC have agreed that the main road near St Michaels and All Angels Church yard is a suitable position for additional bin. Clerk to order bin and notify WDBC of location and emptying frequency.
- c) Defib at Venville – replacement pads and batteries were installed 7/9/23. Defib now listed on 'The Circuit', new notices put up on noticeboard and in doorway. Cllr Clarke-Major now doing weekly checks.
- d) Damage to verge opposite Church Postbridge – reported to Devon CC Highways, awaiting response
- e) Sir Geoffrey Cox visit – letter of thanks received – see Appendix 1
- f) Benches – letter of thanks sent to HMP Dartmoor Governor – response received 21/9/23 agreeing to official handover with press. Clerk to liaise with Michael Walker to identify suitable date and inform local press.

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

- a) Play Park Inspections and Action Plan – Fault with zip wire stop buffer reported by David Cole and repaired 3/9/23. September weekly inspections completed by Cllr Butterfield. Cllr Wood on rota for inspections on October. See Appendix 2
- b) Tidy Princetown Session -
- c) Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Fund – Clerk sent quote for grass cutting 12/9/23 Request made for Lengthsman to cut grass area (2.5hrs) asap, with a further cut in approx. 3 weeks time.

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

**17. Exchange of information -**

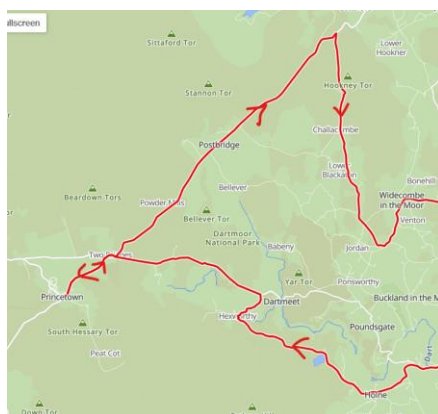
Round table discussion for any matters to be shared for information or to request they are put on agenda for next meeting

**a) Road Closures** [Map \(highway-iams.uk\)](http://highway-iams.uk)

**TTRO2351637** Road from Runnage Bridge to Grendon Cottage, Postbridge. 2-3<sup>rd</sup> October Cattle Grid works- Road Closed.

**TTRO2352570** Merrivale to Rundlestone Cross 10 – 15<sup>th</sup> October 0800 – 1700 for repairs to cattlegrid Temporary Speed Limit 10mph in place.

**Dartmoor Devil Cycle ride 29<sup>th</sup> October.** There will be a total of no more than 200 riders on the event and should be very well spread out to prevent bunching. Riders leave Bovey Tracey in two groups, at 8am and 9am, and will follow the route on the attached map. The first riders are likely to enter the parish at about 10.30am and the last of the riders is expected to have cleared the parish by 3.45pm or so after refreshments in Princetown.



- b) Contact with DCC Highways – Clerk emailed Neighbourhood Highway Officer Brad Elliott to report a number of issues (signage, weeds, brambles, ditch W2P sign). He mentioned Community Mobilisation Grants available for Snow and Road Warden schemes where communities take on responsibility for certain aspects. Clerk to investigate further.
- c) Planning [23/0061 Tree Conservation Consultation Letter - Application at The Copse Tavistock Road, PL20 6RE](#) came in after agenda published. Clerk has requested extension to enable Council to consider and discuss at Oct meeting.
- d) Resident Concern raised after agenda published. For consideration at the Oct meeting. Email received from Mike and Jane Cockman who live at the Old Smithy on Two Bridges Road. Cars parking opposite entrance make it difficult/dangerous for them to exit and enter their property. Have notified DCC Highways, who advised they need PC support to put forward proposal for double yellow lines.. Mike and Jane invited to attend Oct meeting.

18. **Date of next 'Tidy Princetown'** - 10am until 11am - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023.  
Meet outside Post Office.

19. **Date of next meeting** - 1930 on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Princetown Community Centre

# Appendix 1

Geoffrey Cox Q.C., M.P. for Torridge & West Devon



GC42536

11 September 2023

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Gregory Manning  
10 Devonshire Row  
Princetown  
Devon  
PL20 6QD

Dear Councillor Manning,

I'm writing to express my gratitude for your help and that of the parish council in organising and making my recent visit to Princetown a success.

From village hall bookings to social media posts, refreshments and the delivery of my flyers, these events could not succeed without your very kind help and support and that of the clerk and the parish councillors.

I much enjoyed my visit; I learned more about the village's concerns, and I was able to meet residents who needed my help that I and my team are now working on.

I will also be writing to you soon about several issues, from to potholes to broadband performance and the letter-post, with which I very much hope the parish council may be able to help me.

Finally, I know you are concerned about the dilapidated local youth centre. As you may have seen, the Government has established the Community Ownership Fund (COF) which will provide £150 million over four years to community groups across the United Kingdom; voluntary and community groups can bid for funding to acquire important assets and run them for the benefit of the local community.

Website: [geoffreycox.co.uk](http://geoffreycox.co.uk)  
Email: [tel@geoffrey@geoffreycox.co.uk](mailto:tel@geoffrey@geoffreycox.co.uk)



The COF provides an opportunity to help rescue the youth centre. I understand that the Fund will run until March 2025 and that the Government intends to run regular bidding windows throughout the year for applicants to submit a full application to the COF. Should you wish to find more information about the COF, this can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-ownership-fund-prospectus](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-ownership-fund-prospectus).

If there is anything further I can do to be of assistance regarding the youth centre, please do get back in touch and I will see how best I can help.

Thank you again, and I very much look forward to coming back to Princetown soon!

Yours sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Cox KC,  
Member of Parliament for Torridge and West Devon.

## Appendix 2

### RoSPA Play Park Inspection March 2023 – Proposed Action Plan

Cllr Williams, Clerk and Lengthsman met at Playpark on 13/4/23 to go through the report and identify actions to be taken to rectify issues raised.

When	Element	What	Who	Completed
Immediate Action (within 1 month)	A1 - Boundary A4 - General surface P1- Agility Trail	Make repairs to link fencing by swings To remove mole hills, when cutting grass Remove rotten timber from rope bridge and replace with new <b>(Need to plan for replacement of Rope Bridge due to extensive rot in wood)</b>	Dave Cole DC DC	YES YES YES
By end May	P9 – Multi-play P11 – Rocker P7 – Arches P8 – Cycle ramps	Clean off dirt and algae Clean off dirt and algae Dig out around uprights, fill with <del>postcrete</del> and replace turf Repair surface but replacing turf in front of ramps	DC DC DC DC	YES YES YES YES
Within 3 months	A2 Gate – Entrance A7 – Lower Bench P3 Cableway - seat	Lay slabs in entrance way (under gate to road) To lay slabs in front, to raise flooring level and eliminate mud Remove cover and check links in chain	DC DC DC	
By end July	P12 – See Saw P16 – Single Point Swing	Obtain quotes for checking/replacing bearings Obtain quotes for checking/replacing bearings	Clerk Clerk	
Within 6 months	P4 – Cableway	Smooth out ground and lay replacement matting and re-seed area Make repairs to matting, remove weeds and seal gaps	DC DC	
By end Oct	P11 – Rocker P15 - Swings P12 – See Saw P17 – Single Point Swing P20 – MUGA Goal end	Repair matting – re-glue and fill gaps and joints Replace bearings/centre axis as necessary Replace bearings as necessary Lay replacement matting and re-seed Dig out and replace area of turf	DC Contractor Contractor DC DC	

Turf to be removed from an area on the bank against the far wall, opposite the entrance, to be used to fill in gaps as above. Where turf removed it will be planted with wild flower seeds and the area protected until established, as part of the Coronation Celebrations

Two trees to be planted to replace the two damaged ones at the top of the park. Tree guards to be put in place to offer protection until the trees establish. Trees to commemorate the late Queen and celebrate the new King – Plaques to be arranged for both.

