

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Jackie Bennetts,
Applegarth, Walkhampton, Yelverton, PL20 6JP
Telephone: 01822 859104

Email: clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk

11th October 2023

Minutes for the Council Meeting on 26th September 2023 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:	
Cllr Alison Geen		Cllr Gregg Manning *
Postbridge Ward:	Cllr Stephen Butterworth	Cllr Mark Williams**
Cllr Julian Greatrex		Cllr Hannah Wood
Cllr Wendy Watson	Cllr Gary Easton	* Chair ** Vice Chair

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

Cllr Manning chaired the meeting

There were 6 members of the public present.

- Apologies** – Cllr Byrom, Cllr Clarke-Major, Cllr Mark Renders (WDBC)
- Declarations of interest** – none
- Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 22nd August 2023.
- Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
- Promotion of the Parish** – Council agreed to contact Duke and Duchess of Cornwall to request a visit to Princetown as it has been a while since the last official royal visit. Action: Clerk to investigate the process for requesting a visit.
- Effect of Bank Closures in Tavistock** – Council expressed concerns over recent bank closures in Tavistock making it difficult for residents who don't use internet or telephone banking. It was noted that there are plans to create a banking hub in Ashburton, and potentially one in Tavistock also. Council agreed it was necessary to write to the main banks which used to have branches in Tavistock to encourage them to create a local hub, so that residents can have contact with bank staff. It was noted that there are areas with poor internet provision and phone coverage which makes it difficult to use internet banking. It was also noted that the Post Office can perform many banking functions. Action: Clerk to write to Lloyds, Natwest, HSBC and Barclays banks.
- Claremont House** – Carried forward from August meeting. Building is in a state of disrepair, looks unsightly and front window is cracked and therefore unsafe. At the last meeting Council agreed to write to the property owner regarding the safety concerns. The owner, Mr Harry e-mailed a response which was read out by the Clerk, where he confirmed that he

24th October 2023

Signature of Chair



was once again living in the property, with plans for its renovation. He has agreed to board up the shattered window until replacement glazing can be fitted and confirmed that repair to the chimney render would be undertaken when the weather allows, in early next year. He also raised the issue of cars being parked on the yellow lines at school drop off times which Council has raised with the PSCO previously. Council agreed that this was a satisfactory response and looked forward to seeing the property renovated.

8. **1st PUBLIC SESSION** – Members of the public raised a number of issues:
 - a) The missing Welcome to Princetown signs – ongoing issue
 - b) A lack of signs directing drivers to the car park behind the Visitor Centre – put on Oct agenda
 - c) Waste bins – bins for rubbish only no option to recycle - put on Oct agenda
 - d) Public transport links – lack of buses at times people need them, buses not stopping at the bus stop in the village centre, but turning early – ongoing issue
 - e) Princetown Directory/website under development by Princetown Business Network – for information
9. **Residents' issues or concerns** – none received before agenda published see Item 17 d) to be included in October agenda.
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
Cllr Geen has visited the site for a previous application (which was then withdrawn) Cllr Geen reported that there were no changes from the previous application. Council agreed to recommend Approval. Proposed by Cllr Geen, seconded by Cllr Wood.

[0409/23](#) Consultation Request - 7 Plymouth Hill, Princetown Cllr Easton reported on his site visit. Council agreed to recommend Approval. Proposed by Cllr Easton, seconded by Cllr Greatrex.

[0413/23](#) Consultation Request - Yellowmead Farm
Cllr Greatrex reported that he had visited the site and spoken with the owners and from what he was told felt there was no reason for Council to object to the application. However, Council had been unable to access the detailed plans of the proposal from the DNPA website. Council felt although it agreed in principle to the application it wanted to have sight of the plans before sending a response to DNPA. Subsequent to the meeting the detailed plans were made available and circulated to all Councillors. Cllrs Greatrex, Easton and Geen are all in agreement that Council should therefore recommend approval.

[0420/23](#) Consultation Request - HMP Dartmoor. Cllr Manning reported that the application was for Radon works within the perimeter of the Prison, but there was not much detail in the application. Council agreed that it didn't have sufficient information to either support or object, and asked the Clerk to respond to that effect.

Cllr Geen suggested that a lead Councillor be identified each month to co-ordinate planning responses, to ensure two Councillors look at applications in detail and report to Council.
12. **Financial management** - see Financial Report for details
 - a) Payments approved by Cllr Manning & Cllr Geen;

Ref	Chq No	Payee & Details	Amount	BACS amount
1676	0	Jackie Bennetts - Clerk Pay	£ 453.95	£ 1,073.35
1677	0	Jackie Bennetts - Clerks Expenses - Defib batteries & pads + Notice board Hexworthy +postage	£ 619.40	
1678	0	David Cole - Lengthsman Pay	£ 528.00	£ 608.00
1679	0	David Cole - Expenses - fuel	£ 80.00	
1680	0	Jake Cook - Litter Picker fee	£ 44.00	
1681	0	Duchy rent Play Park	£ 42.00	
			£ 1,767.35	

- 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 suggested that the Finance Committee arrange to meet to agree on areas of expenditure, and strategy for agreeing budget for next year. Cllr Williams agreed to join the Finance committee. Clerk to put together a draft budget and arrange a meeting before the next Council meeting.
- 13. Natural England Proposed Stock Reduction on Dartmoor-** Clerk reported that response has been sent to review (26/9/23), along with a copy of a letter previously sent in 2020 regarding a planned reduction of sheep grazing on the moor.
- 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. Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Mark Wilkinson for hosting the noticeboard and to all who have donated.
- 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, e-mail received from Highways Neighbourhood Team who stated that the ditch is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Clerk to confirm this, as the damage was caused by a vehicle parking too close to the edge of the ditch rather than a lack of maintenance.
- e) Sir Geoffrey Cox visit to Princetown 25 August 2023 – letter of thanks received – see Briefing Notes 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 Williams raised concerns about the number of dogs being walked in the Play Park and requested additional signage be provided. Cllr Wood on rota for inspections on October. See Appendix 2
- b) Tidy Princetown Session – Cllr Williams reported that it will be a litter pick only on 1st Oct. Clerk reported that DCC Highways had stated they no longer spray weeds. Cllr Easton asked that the Business network group share these activities to raise awareness and to recruit additional volunteers.
- c) Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Fund – Clerk sent quote for the Lengthsman to cut areas of grass 12/9/23. A request was made for Lengthsman to cut grass area (2.5hrs) asap, with a further cut in approx. 3 weeks time. Cllr Williams reported that a donation of £60 had been received from the recent Fire Fighters charity fundraiser. AGM will take place in November.
- d) Primary School PTFA – Sheila Manning reported the school now has 52 children on the role (up from 38 last year) The children are planning to make soup for Harvest and people are invited to join them. The gardening club will be planting spring bulbs around the village.

16. 2nd PUBLIC SESSION –

- a) Member of public asked how the activities such as Tidy Princetown and Churchyard maintenance were promoted as they don't use Facebook. Clerk requested contact details of the Princetown Business Networking group to share information to its members and various What's App groups.
- b) Member of the public raised the issue of the damage to the Phone box in village centre. Clerk has already logged it with BT and it is listed for repair. Member of public suggested that BT could do more by providing charging points for mobile phones. Clerk to investigate.

17. Exchange of information -

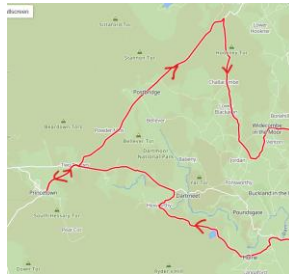
Round table discussion for any matters to be shared for information or to request they are put on agenda for next meeting

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

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

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

Dartmoor Devil Cycle ride 29th 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. Clerk to put on agenda for October meeting.
- e) Cllr Butterworth reported he had been approached by a cyclist who had concerns about potholes on the Two Bridges road. Council suggested that individuals be encouraged to report it themselves to WDBC or Devon Highways (link on DFPC website) Cllr Butterworth agreed to report it on this occasion.
- f) Cllr Williams stated that the bus shelter at the top of the village needs attention; repainting, new bench and a crack needs filling. Cllr Manning reported that the bench in the bus stop in the village centre also needs attention.
- g) Cllr Williams requested that the Clerk contact local media to raise awareness and promote safe driving across the moor going into the darker evenings, when more incidents involving livestock are reported.
- h) Cllr Greatrex reported that coaches are parking irresponsibly on the road in the village to unload passengers. Cllr Geen suggested taking note of the date, time and the coach firms, or photographing them to be able to contact them directly.
- i) Cllr Manning reported that he had received information from the Livestock Protection Officer regarding incidents involving animals, including dog attacks on livestock. Cllr Manning requested it put on the agenda in October for discussion.

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

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