

# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



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

Email: [clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Website: [www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk)

8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Minutes for the Council Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:</b>	<b>Princetown Ward:</b>	
Cllr Alison Geen		Cllr Gregg Manning *
<b>Postbridge Ward:</b>		Cllr Mark Williams**
Cllr Julian Greatrex	Cllr Charmaine Clarke-Major	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 Steven Butterworth (Absent)
- Declarations of interest** – none
- Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Minutes accepted by all present as a true record of meeting, and signed by Cllr Manning.
- Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
- Princetown Food Hub** - Rachel Harrison-French from Feeding Devon give a brief overview of the Food Bank and how it is supporting local residents. More information can be found at <https://feedingdevon.org.uk/>
- Play Park Rent Review** – Duchy have written to Council stating that a rent review was due in March 2022, and have proposed an increase from £70 p.a. to £80 p.a. with effect from March 2023, with the next review in March 2026. Council discussed and were all in agreement that it would be beneficial to the Parish, if the rent was not increased. The Parish is responsible for maintaining the Play Park equipment and grounds for the benefit of the local community. In recent years Council has chosen not to increase the Precept request, to avoid charging residents more, whilst continuing to provide a beneficial and well used resource to the local community. The play equipment was purchased by Council some years ago and some elements are now in need of repair/replacement. Not increasing the rent, would assist in a small way with funding these necessary repairs. Action: Clerk to respond to Duchy.



7. **Dog Attacks on Livestock & WDBC Consultation on Dog Controls**– As raised by Cllr Manning at the Sept meeting, having received information from the Dartmoor Livestock Protection Officer regarding the number of dog attacks on livestock. Cllr Manning had recent meeting with Karla McKenchie who reported 90 dog attacks in the past year, which is about the same year on year. Over many years she has worked to develop a relationship with dog owners, whereby if their dog attacks livestock they are likely to report it to her themselves. She does not want any action taken that would jeopardise this relationship/situation. Cllr Manning therefore requested that this item not be discussed, and no further action taken.

Cllr Geen reminded Council that the WDBC [consultation into Dog Control](#) can be responded to as individuals and also covers restrictions to dogs being walked in areas, such as play parks, cemeteries etc.

8. **Request for donation to West Devon Citizens Advice** – Council considered a request from West Devon CA and agreed to make a donation of £75.00 Proposed by Cllr Geen, Seconded by Cllr Wood. Action: Clerk to action payment at the Nov meeting.
9. **1<sup>st</sup> PUBLIC SESSION** – member of the public raised a number of issues:
- a) Telephone box at Merrivale in state of disrepair– however this falls outside of the Parish boundary.
  - b) Footpath from Station Road to Old Railway is flooding – Cllr Geen stated that this is the responsibility of DNPA
  - c) The fact that Princetown is a historic village and should have brown ‘tourist’ signs to make people aware. Subject to be discussed at the next meeting. Action: Clerk to put on agenda for November meeting.
10. **Residents’ issues or concerns** –
- a) Improving Signage to Parking areas in Princetown – as raised by member of the public on behalf of the Princetown Business Network at September meeting Council considered the whether additional signage was needed to direct drivers to the DNPA carpark. Council agreed that signage could be improved to Carpark and to EV chargers but that it was outside of the remit of Council to place these signs. Action: Clerk to contact DNPS to request additional signs. Princetown Business Network also encouraged to write to DNPA.
  - b) Litter bins – as raised at Sept meeting Council to consider action to request WDBC provide dual bins for rubbish and recycling waste in Princetown village centre. Action: Clerk to follow up with WDBC to ask whether dual bins could be provided to encourage visitors to recycle more waste.
11. **Parking issues (Princetown)**–
- a) Parking on road opposite Old Smithy, Two Bridges Road – Council discussed a request to support residents in getting double yellow lines on road opposite entrance to their property. Council was supportive of the resident but were mindful of setting a precedent within the village, and displacing vehicles to other areas in the village. Cllr Williams suggested that perhaps a few Councillors take a look across the whole village. Action: Clerk to update the resident who raised the issue.
12. **Planning** –
- [23/0061](#) Tree Conservation Consultation Letter - The Copse Tavistock Road, PL20 6RE. Unfortunately, the extension requested to allow this to be discussed at Oct meeting was not granted, as it would have taken DNPA beyond the 6 week deadline for making decisions. E-

mail received from DNPA 18/10/23. The application has therefore been approved without comments from Council.

Clerk reported that an application had been received for Yellowmead Farm [0472/23](#). An extension had been requested to allow Councillors to consider this at the November meeting. Cllr Greatrex and Cllr Wood agreed to review the application and conduct a site visit.

13. **New Premises Licence application** – Council to consider and agree on response to application for a new premises licence from [Princetown Distillers Ltd](#) for Dartmoor Distillery, Station Road, Princetown, Yelverton, PL20 6QY Sent email to Councillors 9/10/23

Council was concerned that this application may be premature, given that the building is not yet finished. Concern was also expressed about the timings within the application for consumption of alcohol both on and off the premises Monday to Saturday 10am-10.30pm, Sun 11am – 10.30pm, which is more akin to pub licencing hours. Cllr Geen proposed that Council Object to this application, seconded by Cllr Clarke-Major, agreed by all, on the grounds that it is not clear if the Distillery would only be selling Whiskey, or if it intends to sell other alcohol, and to seek clarification about why such extended hours were necessary. Action: Clerk to respond to WDBC.

14. **Promoting Tidy Princetown** – Cllr Williams reported that although the sessions have been successful in improving the look of the village, there were only a small number of regular volunteers attending the sessions. He proposed that the sessions be paused over the winter and restarted in the Spring, following a big push to promote the sessions and recruit additional people to help out. Council agreed. Action: Clerk to put item on January agenda for discussion about restarting from March.

15. **Financial management** - see Financial Report for details

a) Payments approved;

Ref	Chq No	Payee & Details	Amount
1686	DD	West Devon Borough Council Postbridge Cemetery Rates	£ 110.00
1687	DD	West Devon Borough Council - Inv no 8000357823 4x Dog Bin emptying, fortnightly 13 weeks summer	£ 190.94
1688	0	Jackie Bennetts - Clerk Pay	£ 453.95
1689	0	Jackie Bennetts - Clerks- Expenses No Dogs in Park signs	£ 12.45
1690	0	David Cole - Lengthsman Pay	£ 528.00
1691	0	David Cole - Expenses - fuel	£ 60.01
1692	0	Jake Cook - Litter Picker fee	£ 44.00
1693	0	Western Web INV 24049 Email domain and webspace, content management licence	£ 210.00
1694	0	PKF Littlejohn (external Auditor) Inv SB202232763	£ 252.00
1695	0	Princetown Community Centre Room Hire Feb24 - June 24 INV 40/23	£ 100.00

- b) Update on additional bank signatories/online access – Cllrs. Manning, Geen, Easton and Byrom are all now signatories and have online access to the account.
- c) Preparations for Budget 2024/25 and Precept Request – Cllrs Geen and Williams met with the Clerk prior to the meeting to discuss the 2024/25 Budget. They proposed that

the precept should be increased by 3%. Precept has remained the same for the past three years, whilst costs have increased considerably over that period. Council, although reluctant to increase the precept, agreed an increase of 3%, which would mean an increase of approx. £1 on the Council Tax for a household in Band D. Action: Clerk to draft a budget accordingly and circulate to the Finance Group before the next meeting.

#### 16. Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings -

- a) Noticeboards – Hexworthy and Postbridge – letters of thanks sent to businesses who have donated to the replacement at Hexworthy. Cllr Watson reported that the notice board in Postbridge had been refurbished. Action: Clerk to print new notices for noticeboard.
- b) Dog Waste Bin – Churchyard. Council expressed concerns about placing the bin inside the churchyard as this might encourage dog owners to exercise dogs there, which is not permitted. Placing the bin outside was considered but felt not a good option as it is unsightly against the historic wall of the churchyard. Matter for further discussion at the next meeting. Action: Clerk to put item on agenda for Nov meeting
- c) Damage to verge opposite the Church at Postbridge – DCC Highways have responded stating that a possible solution would be for the land owner to extend the culvert running under the driveway of adjacent properties, down the road, filling in the ditch to a point below the damage. This work is the responsibility of the land owner, not Parish Council.
- d) Promotion of the Parish – Royal Visit – information from Lord Lieutenant Devon <https://www.lordlieutenantofdevon.org.uk/royal-family/arranging-a-royal-visit/> Clerk reported that to request a royal visit there needs to be an event/anniversary to which they are invited. Council agreed to consider this at a future date.
- e) Effect of Bank Closures – Clerk reported that letters had been sent to Lloyds, Natwest, Barclays and HSBC expressing concern that closure of branches was making it increasingly difficult for some residents to access banking services without having to travel long distances.
- f) As raised at previous meeting Clerk contacted Plymouth City bus to request an explanation about why some services were turning early in Princetown and not stopping at the bust stop outside the Visitor Centre. Response from City Bus:  
*‘Thank you for coming through to Plymouth City Bus regarding the 98 service in Princetown. Owing to the size of bus that is required to run on the route now, the 1500 trip is unable to turn around at the mini roundabout so has to go up into the Car Park Ramp to turn which means it cannot serve the stop outside the visitor centre owing to the position of that stop after the ramp but buses do pull in further down by the post box/phone box for intending passengers.  
 It is only the 3pm bus as other buses continue through and have no need to turn around. This has been the same situation for almost 12 months now.’*  
 Council felt that as some of the 3pm services were in fact making the turn at the mini-roundabout, this caused confusion and a lack of consistency for users, which was not ideal. It was also difficult to people with mobility issues to have to wait at the roadside, rather than at the bus stop. Action: Clerk to contact City Bus to express these concerns.

#### 17. Reports from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests:

- a) Play Park Inspections and Action Plan - David Cole reported posts at one end of the rope bridge were a little loose. Council agreed these should be replaced. David Cole has also

re concreted the rubbish bin into position. Cllr Wood reported on inspections in October. Cllr Williams on rota for inspections November.

- b) Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Fund – Cllr Williams reported on recent sessions being well attended, and the work done well received. He requested the Council Lengthsman do one further cut of the main grass areas. Clerk issued invoice for the most recent cut, and will invoice subsequent cut at the Nov meeting.
- c) Princetown Primary PTA – Looking forward to the Christmas Fayre.

**18. 2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC SESSION – Nothing raised**

**19. 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) Remembrance Parade/Service/Wreath: Parade and Service Sunday 12 Nov - Cllr Wood offered to purchase wreath on behalf of Council. Cllr Williams reported that the PA system had been booked for the service.
- b) Notification of Road Closure - TTRO2351341 Two Bridges to Rendlestone Cross  
Monday 30 October – Wednesday 1 November for Drainage work
- c) Cllr Geen – reported that the gutters/ drainage ditch going down to Saddle Bridge (from Hexworthy towards Holne) is overflowing across the road. Local resident has expressed concern that this running water will freeze during cold weather and road will become dangerous. Lengthsman will take a look to see if any action can be taken to improve the situation. DCC Highways have already replaced gutters/drainage work but seems not to be effective.
- d) Cllr Geen reported that the recent road closure Two Bridges to Prince Hall, was not notified in advance. Signs were placed on the road two days prior to closure, but Council was not notified. She requested this be put on agenda for Nov meeting. Action Clerk to add to agenda.
- e) Cllr Wood – reported that the road from Prison to Rundlestone was flooding after heavy rain. Lengthsman agreed to take a look at the drainage and clear as necessary.
- f) Cllr Clarke-Major – reported she had a response from Sir Geoffrey Cox following her discussion when he visited regarding the need for more Parking Warden visits to Princetown.
- g) Cllr Easton – Asked if there had been any planning permission sought by the sewage works on Two Bridges Road as there is a lot of work being done there. He will try to find out more about what is being done.
- h) Cllr Williams – Stated that the Prison has historically donated two Christmas trees to Princetown, one for the village and one for the Church. He asked Clerk to contact Prison conform they were willing to do so again this year. Action: Clerk to contact to request two trees.
- i) Cllr Greatrex – reported that he has once again reported the potholes and deteriorating state of the road to Lydgate House to DCC Highways. This is an ongoing situation and will continue to be monitored.

**20. Date of next 'Tidy Princetown' -** Paused until the Spring 2024

**21. Date of next meeting -** 1930 on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Princetown Community Centre

Meeting Closed 2135