

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



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5th December 2023

Minutes for the Council Meeting on 28th November 2023 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:	
Cllr Alison Geen		Cllr Gregg Manning *
Postbridge Ward:		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 2 members of the public present, plus Cllr Mark Renders (WDBC)

- Apologies** – Cllr Byrom,
- Declarations of interest** – none
- Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 24th October 2023. Minutes accepted by all present as a true record of meeting, and signed by Cllr Manning.
- Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
- Resignation of Stephen Butterworth** – Clerk updated Council on the process for filling the vacancy by co-option at the next meeting. Poster to be displayed on the noticeboard, website and facebook. See [Briefing Notes Appendix 2](#) for the poster.
- Princetown Remembrance Parade and Service** – Cllr Williams summarised this years' event which was again well attended despite the wet weather, with the service shortened slightly as a result. This event happens every year, but no-one appears to co-ordinate the various aspects of it, such as service, sheets, the PA etc. Concerns were expressed that without co-ordination some of these elements might get missed. Action: Cllr Clarke-Major offered to liaise with Mr Wildgoose to find out who currently co-ordinates/does what, and find out how Council can support this in future years.
- Welcome to Princetown Signs** – Council once again discussed the missing signs and what it might do to try to locate them. Council agreed that one more attempt should be made to try to locate the signs, or gather information about the whereabouts. Action: Clerk to put a poster on Facebook, website and on noticeboard asking for information. Matter to be discussed again at the January meeting.

19th December 2023

Signature of Chair



8. **Additional Dog Waste bin Princetown** – Council agreed that the bin should not be located in the Churchyard and discussed a possible site on the grass at the junction of Tavistock Road and Burrator Road, which would provide a bin for that part of the village. Action: Clerk to contact Duchy (as landowners) and WDBC to check if this site is agreeable to both.
9. **Residents' issues or concerns –**
 - a) War Memorial Rust Staining –Cllr Easton reported on progress to remove the rust staining to date and asked Council to express thanks to Mr Doug Jenner for pressure washing the War Memorial prior to the Remembrance Service. Council discussed various options to display the wreaths, secure them in ways that reduce the chance of staining. Council felt that the decision to remove wreaths should be taken in consultation with the ex service personnel in the village. Action: Clerk to write to Mr Jenner. Cllr Clarke- Major to discuss with Mr Wildgoose as part of the discussion -see agenda item 6.
 - b) Princetown – 'Historic village' signage– as raised by member of the public on behalf of Princetown Business Network at last meeting. Cllr Manning summarised the process and costs of obtaining these signs. Council is supportive, but agreed that this was not solely the responsibility of the Parish Council, and that perhaps the Business Network could take the lead on this. Action: Clerk to respond to Princetown Business Network, Cllr Manning is willing to attend their next meeting to discuss this further.
10. **Parking issues (Princetown)-** Following the discussion at last meeting regarding a request from residents for Council to support double yellow lines opposite entrance to Old Smithy. Cllr Williams and Cllr Clarke-Major reported back on their site visit and consideration of other areas of the village. On looking at the village as a whole, they reported that very few of the road junctions had adequate road markings. Cars are often parked within 10m of junctions, where there are no single or double yellow lines. It was also recognised that people park on the road outside the school to drop-off/collect children. Cllr Geen suggested that Council put together a report covering the whole village and invite a representative of DCC Highways to a future meeting to advise on this issue. Action: Cllr Williams and Clarke-Major agreed to put together a report for January meeting. Clerk to agenda for January.
11. **1st PUBLIC SESSION** – Cllr Renders (WDBC) reported that WDBC has a new plan which will be circulated to DFPC in due course.
12. **Devon Highways – Road Closures** – As raised by Cllr Geen at the October meeting. Council to agreed to contact Devon County Council Highways to request early notification of road closures within the Parish. These had previously come via Cllr Sanders (DCC) but Clerk was not receiving them consistently, resulting in some road closures not being advertised on FB or DFPC website. Action: Clerk to contact DCC Highways.
13. **Planning** – Council to consider and agree on response to the following application.
[0472/23 Yellowmead Farm](#) – Cllr Greatrex reported on the application and site visit with Cllr Wood, recommending that Council support the application. Council then voted to support the application (one councillor expressed no view). Action: Clerk to respond to DNPA.
14. **Financial management** - see [Financial Report](#) for details

a) Payments approved by Cllr Geen and Cllr Easton;

Ref	Chq No	Payee & Details	Amount
1700	0	Jackie Bennetts - Clerk Pay	£ 453.95
1701	0	Jackie Bennetts - Clerks- Expenses Toner, Paint, Gloves	£ 217.67
1702	0	David Cole - Lengthsman Pay	£ 528.00
1703	0	David Cole - Expenses - fuel	£ 20.00
1704	0	Jake Cook - Litter Picker fee	£ 44.00
1705	0	Torriddge, North And West Devon Citizens Advice donation Agreed at Oct meeting	£ 75.00
1706	DD	IOC annual fee	£ 35.00
1707	0	Reimbursing Cllr Wood - Wreath for Remebrance Service	£ 23.98
			£ 1,397.60

b) National Pay Award for Clerks Salary. Clerk reported on the National Pay Award which results in an increase of £1 per hr. Council noted the increase and accepted that it will be back paid to April 2023.

15. **Budget 2024/25 and Precept** – Clerk circulated the proposed budget for 2024/25 prior to the meeting. The budget was proposed by Cllr Geen and seconded by Cllr Easton, with Council voting to approve the budget with the 3% increase in the precept request.

16. **Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings** - See [‘Briefing Notes’](#) for updates regarding matters listed below, and ongoing matters being dealt with.

- Christmas Trees – Prison have agreed to donate two trees to Princetown. David Cole to liaise with Andy Steele for collection. Cllr Williams requested additional help from Council to put the trees in place, and decorate it.
- Effect of Bank Closures – Clerk has received responses from Lloyds, Barclays and Natwest, stating the closures were taken for business reasons and that banking could be done online, by telephone and using the mobile service from Ashburton hub. Council agreed that a letter should be sent to Sir Geoffrey Cox asking him to raise the issue of bank closures. Clerk to action.
- Cllr Geen reported that there are now EV charging points at Postbridge Visitor Centre in addition to Princetown Visitor Centre. Clerk to contact DNPA to ask for additional signage promoting the chargers.

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

- Play Park Inspections and Action Plan – Cllr Williams reported on inspections in November. The rope bridge is currently taped off as uprights need replacing. He also reported that work needs to be done to repair the ground under the zip wore (as raised in the RoSPA inspection in March). He offered to look into the cost of matting to make these repairs and will report to Dec meeting. Cllr Byrom on rota for inspections in December. Following resignation of Stephen Butterworth, Cllr Greatrex has volunteered to do inspections in January.

18. **2nd PUBLIC SESSION** – none 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) Cllr Williams has organised a meeting for stakeholders in the Vision Zero SW B3212 Project on Dec 4th, 2pm, to discuss results to date and future action. Seven new signs have been put in place on the B3212 alerting drivers to animals on the road, unfenced road. This is the final element of the current VZSW project.
- b) Cllr Geen reported that BTOpenreach is planning to withdraw the copper wire phone service by 2025, meaning that residents will be reliant on broadband/mobile for phone connectivity. This is concerning for the more rural properties and those with poor/no broadband. Action: Clerk to agenda for January meeting.
- c) Cllr Easton asked Council to put the Snow Warden Procedure on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting, to review the document and discuss whether it needs updating, is still relevant, what needs to happen for it to be effective. He has volunteered to act as Snow Warden, but needs assistance. Action: Clerk to put on agenda for December meeting.
- d) Cllr Greatrex suggested that after the next meeting Council could retire to the pub for a festive celebration.
- e) Cllr Greatrex reported that he has again reported the potholes on the road to Lydgate House. He has received an e-mail from DCC saying they have repaired the road, however they haven't filled them all. Cllr Greatrex will continue to report to DCC Highways.
- f) Cllr Manning raised the Sir Geoffrey Cox Parliamentary Petition regarding the state of rural roads in Devon See [Briefing Notes Appendix 4](#). Petition to be circulated in venues in the village, to be returned to Sir Geoffrey by the deadline is 29th January 2024.
- g) Response from Sir Geoffrey Cox regarding Parking enforcement – see [Briefing Notes](#) for details. Council felt it would be useful to have monthly report from Parking Enforcement Officers stating date/times they attended and their observations, tickets issued etc. Action: Clerk to request this information.

20. Date of next meeting -

1930 on Tuesday 19th December 2023
Princetown Community Centre

Meeting Closed 2125