

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



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7 March 2024

Minutes for the Council Meeting on 27th February 2024 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:
Cllr Alison Geen	
Postbridge Ward:	Cllr Gary Easton
Cllr Julian Greatrex	Cllr Gregg Manning
	* 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 was 1 member of the public in attendance.

- Apologies** – Cllr Hazel Williams, Cllr Mark Williams, Cllr Watson, Cllr Clarke-Major, Cllr Wood, Cllr Byrom
- Declarations of interest** – None declared
- Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 23rd January 2024. Minutes accepted by all present as a true record of meeting, and signed by Cllr Manning
- Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
- Snow Warden Procedure** – Cllr Easton gave a brief summary of why he had raised this matter, questioning whether since its adoption in 2017, the procedure had ever been actioned and whether it was still needed in its current form. Council agreed that the document needed to be reviewed. Action: Councillor Easton agreed to review document and make changes to be approved by Council at a later meeting.
- BT Phone Box Tavistock Road Princetown** - Council discussed BT plan to remove the phone box. Council agreed to respond to WDBC expressing concerns and asking BT to maintain the phone box as mobile coverage in the area continues to be patchy, visitors may lose mobile phones or battery power making the phone box essential for communication. Council felt that the fact that two 'helpline' calls had been made from the box in the last twelve months should be sufficient evidence of the need to retain it. See Briefing Notes Appendix 1. Action: Clerk to respond to WDBC by deadline 4th March.
- 31st May 2024 –Princetown Firefighters Charity Event** - Council considered an informal request received from a retained Fire Fighter via Cllr Manning for the village to get more

26th March 2024

Signature of Chair



involved in the event. Council expressed concerns regarding the timescale, who would organise/co-ordinate this, and therefore who would provide public liability cover. Council agreed that it was a good idea, but there were many issues for the village as a whole to consider, not just Council. Action Cllr Manning agreed to respond to the request explaining the situation.

8. **Princetown Pots and Plants** – Council considered draft action plan as submitted by Cllr Hazel Williams. See Briefing Notes Appendix 2. Clerk informed Council that an application had also been submitted to National Lottery funding for this project. Council approved the action plan. Action Clerk to inform Cllr Hazel Williams who will take the project forwards.
9. **Play Park – Council to consider and agree actions regarding**
 - a) Council considered the latest Duchy proposal to increase rent from April 2024 to £80 p.a. Council again expressed disappointment that Duchy were increasing the rent, given the recent financial investment Council had made to repair the play equipment and the ongoing efforts by Council to maintain the area. Action Clerk to respond to Duchy reluctantly accepting the increase from April 2024, and to ensure they are aware of the investment Council has made over recent months
 - b) Repairs – Clerk outlined the recent work to replace the grass matting under the zip wire, and other repairs which were due to be actioned, some weather dependant. Council Lengthsman is aware of the work to be done and has the necessary resources. Expenditure has been slightly over the previously agreed £1600, but will be covered by the VAT reclaim on items purchased.
 - c) Inspections – Cllr Wood was not in attendance, so unable to report on Feb inspections. Cllr Byrom on rota for March.
10. **Residents' issues or concerns** – Cllr Geen reported that she has received a text from a resident expressing concern that the BT phone box in Princetown may be lost.
11. **Parking Issues: Princetown** – Council agreed to defer this item to the next meeting as Cllr Williams or Cllr Clarke-Major were not in attendance and they had submitted the initial report for consideration. Council agreed that any plans needed to be put out for public consideration. Action: Clerk to put on March agenda.
12. **1st PUBLIC SESSION** – nothing raised.
13. **Planning** – Council discussed the following applications.
 - a) [0195/23](#) Notification of Amendments - 1 Hessary View, PL20 6RA0
Council resolved to 'Support' this application whilst still being concerned that the surface water run-off from North Hessary Tor could be compromised by the driveway being built across the existing storm drain
 - b) [028/24](#) Land at Lakehead Hill, PL20 6TW
Cllr Greatrex provided a verbal report following the recent site meeting which he attended along with Cllr Watson. Council resolved to 'Support' the application.
 - c) [040/24](#) Dartmoor Brewery Ltd, Station Road, PL20 6QX
Council resolved to 'Support' this application.
 - d) [0379/23](#) The Forest Inn, PL20 6SD Appeal [w/23/3333819](#) as discussed at a previous meeting.
Action: Clerk to respond to DNPA and Appeal.
14. **Financial management** - Payments approved by Council, to be authorised by Cllr Genn and Cllr Manning. Clerk expenses were higher this month due to the purchase of materials

for the Play Park repairs and replacement pads and batteries for Hexworthy Defib.

Ref	Payee & Details	Amount
1721	Jackie Bennetts - Clerk Pay	£ 488.95
1722	Jackie Bennetts - Clerk expenses	£ 2,063.23
1723	David Cole - Lengthsman Pay	£ 528.00
1724	Jake Cook - Litter Picker fee	£ 44.00
1725	Mark Williams - re-imburement	£ 28.69
1726	Bob Castle - CCTV annual service INV 1075	£ 210.00
1727	Duchy of Cornwall Inv 172374 rent Play Park Oct 23 > Mar 24	£ 42.00
		£ 3,404.87

See [Financial report](#) for details.

Council agreed to make an overtime payment of 20hrs to Lengthsman for additional hours worked cutting the football pitch and the churchyard in the past year. Council agreed to him working a maximum of 20 hours during March focussing on the play park and completing the ditching work in Postbridge.

15. **Postbridge Cemetery Trees-** This matter was raised by Cllr Watson at the January meeting. Cllr Greatrex has previously raised concerns regarding the trees planted on the boundary hedge, especially when it is windy. The contractors who did the tree work in the Cemetery last year keep an eye on the trees. Cllr Geen asked if the insurance policy requires Council to undertake regular tree surveys. Action: Clerk to check policy and report back.
16. **Venford Reservoir –** Cllr Geen raised concerns regarding the trees around the reservoir, near the road, following recent tree work. A tree fell across the road in January causing damage to the wrought iron fencing. Cllr Geen asked if Council could contact South West Lakes to raise concerns about the trees falling onto the road and asking them to repair the fencing. Action: Clerk to contact SW Lakes Trust.
17. **Old Prison Officers Mess –** Cllr Manning raised concerns about the building continuing to fall into disrepair, the fencing has fallen down, brambles are overgrown, the area looks unsightly and is potentially unsafe. Council agreed to contact Duchy to request the site is tidied and the fencing replaced. Action: Clerk to contact Tom Stratton.
18. **Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings -**
 - a) Removal of BT land lines 2025: Cllr Geen has looked in to this issue, particularly to find a poster which explains BT plans and what residents need to be aware of. Information can be found at [AgeUK](#), [BT](#), [Gov.UK](#) and [OfCom](#) but none have a poster explaining in simple terms.
 - b) Welcome to Princetown Signs: Order has been placed with DCC Highways. Cllr Williams has received cheque for the full amount from Princetown Charity Shop, and a commitment from the WI for a contribution also. Action: Clerk to write Thank you letter.
 - c) Additional dog waste bin – Princetown: Duchy have agreed and given permission for bin to be placed on grass at top of Burrator Avenue. WDBC have approved site for collection. Action: Clerk to place order for bin and notify WDBC to start emptying from April 2024.

- d) Hexworthy to Saddles Bridge – drainage issue/ice on road: following visit to site by resident, Cllr Geen and Lengthsman, Highways Neighbourhood Officer also visited site. Confirmed the drainage is not effective and agreed to look into previous works undertaken to identify the correct route the drainage water should be taking. Agreed for Lengthsman to clear the ditch following further investigation. Also noted drainage ditch further down the road in need of clearing.
- e) Letter from resident regarding overgrown gorse B3357 at Dunnabridge: Reported to DCC Highways by Cllr Geen and Clerk. DCC reported no problem found at site, so no action taken. Clerk has contacted DCC Neighbourhood Officer to see if action can be taken to remove gorse closest to road to improve visibility. Cllr Geen suggested that Duchy own the land and could be approached to remove the gorse and improve visibility on the corner and prevent livestock from hiding in and around it. Action: Clerk to contact Duchy.
- f) Mower service: Action - Clerk seeking quotes for mower service.
- g) Policy Review: See Briefing Notes Appendix 4 for proposed schedule to review policies over coming months.

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

20. 2nd PUBLIC SESSION - nothing raised.

21. Exchange of information – Around the table discussion for any matters to be shared for information or to request they are put on agenda for next meeting

- a) Clerk reported that a framed picture of King Charles III has been ordered.
- b) Defib pads and batteries have been replaced Hexworthy but the locking mechanism is sticking.
- c) Cllr Manning reported he had attended a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- d) Clerk has received a questionnaire regarding Postbridge Cemetery as part of rent review. Deadline 4 April 2024.
- e) Clerk reported a CCTV request from an insurance company to confirm a vehicle had been in the village at a particular date/time. Cllr Manning reviewed the footage and could not see the vehicle in question, however CCTV view is partially obscured by a tree and it does not cover vehicles arriving/leaving village from Tavistock Road.

22. Date of next meeting - 1930 on Tuesday 23rd April 2024
Princetown Community Centre

Meeting Closed 2140