



Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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

Telephone: 07508 330873

Email: clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk

5th August 2025

Minutes for the Council Meeting **on 22nd July in Princetown Community Centre**

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:	* Chair	** Vice Chair
		Cllr Martin Grover	
Postbridge Ward:	Cllr Brenda Cotterill		
Cllr Elaine Smerdon :	Cllr Gary Easton	Cllr Mark Williams*	
Cllr Wendy Watson	Cllr Lian Edis		

Abbreviations used: **DFPC**: Dartmoor Forest Parish Council, **DCC**: Devon County Council,
DNPA: Dartmoor National Park Authority, **DoC**: Duchy of Cornwall, **WDBC**: West Devon Borough Council,
PBN: Princetown Business Network

Cllr Mark Williams chaired the meeting

Members of the public in attendance:

- Cllr Michael Fife Cook (DCC)

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Geen, Cllr Hazel
2. **Declarations of interest** - Cllr Geen (prior to the meeting) declared interest in Item 8b – Planning applications for Babeny Farm, as applicant is employed by her. She therefore was not involved in the review of the applications.
3. **Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
4. **Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meetings on 27th May and on 22nd June. Council approved both minutes which were then signed by Cllr Mark Williams.
5. **‘Vision for Princetown’** – Cllr Mark Williams updated on the current situation, developments and actions taken since last meeting on 17th July. Emma Magee (Head of Communities and Nature DoC) has recently met with Kevin Bishop DNPA, and the group continue to work towards the Vision for Princetown. It is still the very early stages of developing the strategy, which will include consulting with local community, businesses and residents. Next meeting is the 21st August 2025 – Cllr M Williams and Cllr Cotterill will be attending. The Duchy is working on plans to utilise the Duchy Hotel building after DNPA withdrawal.
6. **Duchy of Cornwall Correspondence** – see e-mail 20/7/5
 - a) Licence for Phone Box in Princetown – Council agreed and the document was signed by the Clerk which will allow it to adopt the BT phone box in the centre of the village.
 - b) Rate Abatement Notice for Play Park, Village Green and grass area at top of Bellever Close – Council agreed and the document was signed by the Clerk. Council expressed thanks to the Duchy for reducing the rent to zero.
 - c) Implications arising –

- It has been confirmed that the northern and eastern boundary of the Play Park is the responsibility of Princetown Community Centre, not Council. Action: Clerk to approach PCC to discuss replacement of the fence as identified in the RoSPA annual inspection.
- It has been confirmed that the grass area at top of Bellever Close is included in the Duchy lease, and therefore is the responsibility of Council. We currently cut the grass regularly, but it was suggested this might make a better location for the Sensory garden, subject to approval by the Duchy. Cllr Hazel Williams will look into this, and discuss with the Duchy.

7. **Residents' issues or concerns –**

- a) As raised at April meeting – lack of footpath from Stoneycliff to Tavistock Road – Cllr Grover is awaiting a meeting with the new Land Steward (DoC), who takes up the role in September, to discuss this further.
 - b) Drainage issue – in periods of heavy rain, run off down road from Postbridge Cemetery into Drury Head Cottage and towards B3212. Council agreed for Lengthsman to undertake 2 hours of work, to clear the drainage ditch. Action Clerk to inform Lengthsman.
8. **1st PUBLIC SESSION** – Cllr Michael Fife Cook introduced himself to Council as the new representative for DCC and also a Member of DNPA. He outlined some DNPA funding and his Locality Budget which is available to support organisation within his constituency.
9. **Planning** – Council considered and discussed the application listed below
- a) [0230/25](#) Consultation Request Letter - Application at 5 Moor Crescent, PL20 6RF
Council voted 4 in Support of the application, with 3 abstentions. Action: Clerk to respond to DNPA.
 - b) Clerk had received email 21/07 re applications **0251/25 and 0252/25 Consultation Request Letter - Application at Babeny, Poundsgate, TQ13 7PS** but there was insufficient time for Council to consider the applications prior to the meeting and an extension was not possible on this occasion. Council agreed to look at the applications and inform Clerk by the end of 25th July if an extraordinary meeting was required to discuss the applications. No Councillor requested EoM, although several reported that upon looking at the applications they could see no material reasons for objecting.
10. **DFPC Committees** – Councillors are needed to fill vacancies on Fundraising Committee and Employment Committee See Appendix 2. Cllr Edis agreed to join the Fundraising Committee, and Cllr Grover agreed to join the Employment Committee.
11. **Policy Review** – Risk Register – Risk Assessments were considered and discussed. Council agreed to adopt the Risk Register/Assessments as circulated prior to the meeting. See Appendix 3 and email 20/7/25. Action: Clerk and all Councillors to ensure these are kept up to date and periodically reviewed.
12. **Play Park –**
- a) Update on Weekly Inspections - Cllr Grover reported no issues other than those already identified in the Action Plan, and that there was very little litter.
 - b) Action Plan – the wooden plank has been radiused, nylon bushes for the seesaw have been ordered for Lengthsman to fit.
Matting (34 squares) under rocking horse needs to be lifted, area cleaned and then mats replaced. Adhesive for matting will cost in the region of £86.40, plus Lengthsmans time (2-3 days approx). Council agreed to purchase the adhesive for the Lengthsman to affect the repair.
 - c) Replacement of Fence – currently on hold due to PCC responsibility for that boundary.
 - d) Funding Application Cllr M Williams reported that Cllr H Williams had received a phone call from the National Lottery team regarding Sensory Garden application. They are

exceedingly supportive of the cause, think it a strong application and will arrange a meeting on site to discuss going forward to stage 2 of the funding process.

13. Financial management - see Financial Report for details

a) Payments approved by Council, to be authorised by Cllr Easton and Cllr M Williams.

Ref	Date	Payee	Details	Amount	BACS amount
1937	July	Lloyds Bank	Monthly Service Charge 10/04 to 9/05	£ 6.14	DD
1938	July	HMRC	PAYE to July 2025	£ 125.09	£ 125.09
1939	July	Western Web	Renewal Cloud Email Account 15/06/25 - 14/06/25	£ 86.40	£ 86.40
1940	July	Sutcliffe Play SW	TNB274 NBSS Polyethylene Bush x2	£ 50.30	£ 50.30
1941	July	Hazel Williams	Expenses - LOVE - Tank fittings IBC Amazon	£ 8.49	£ 228.47
1942	July	Hazel Williams	Expenses - LOVE - Planters -benchmakers	£ 219.98	
1943	July	Lian Edis	Expenses PLOT hose reel -my toolshed	£ 108.85	£ 224.21
1944	July	Lian Edis	Expenses PLOT fork/spade -my toolshed	£ 43.81	
1945	July	Lian Edis	Expenses- Litter Picking	£ 4.59	
1946	July	Lian Edis	Expenses - Gardening Tools - Screwfix	£ 66.96	
1947	July	Jackie Bennetts	Clerk Pay	£ 627.49	£ 627.49
1948	July	David Cole	Lengthsman Pay + Contracting work	£ 620.31	£ 680.31
1949	July	David Cole	Lengthsman Expenses	£ 60.00	
Total				£ 2,028.41	£2,022.27

- b) Clerk reported that Cllr M Williams is now added as full signatory, Cllrs Geen and Easton are now full signatory. Cllr Manning has been removed. Clerk to now add Cllr Grover and remove Cllr Byrom from August.

14. Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings

- Princetown Community Centre – grass cutting costs – meeting to be arranged with Trustees regarding this and replacement of fence.
- Drainage issue on track near Postbridge Cemetery – awaiting response from DNPA
- Bellever Notice Board – repairs – Cllr Easton has removed the notice board and feels it is beyond economic repair. Council to consider action to be taken. Replacement at Postbridge cost £252 in Oct 2024. Cllr Easton reported that having taken the noticeboard apart he felt that it could be repaired and may last another few years. This would allow Council to budget for its replacement. Cllr Smerdon stated that a local Bellever resident had expressed an interest in assisting with the repairs. Cllr Smerdon to contact Bellever resident and liaise with Cllr Easton.

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

- CCTV System Check & any requests – CCTV Working Group - System Checks completed: 01/07 HW, 15/07 HW, 20/07 JB – all working

Cllr Edis has been added to the system but is having difficulties accessing it.

No requests for footage received

- b) LOVE (Love Our Village Enthusiasts) Project – Cllr Hazel Williams - Two new large wooden planters purchased.
- c) Tidy Princetown Sessions – Cllr Mark Williams – next session Saturday August 2nd Cllr Edis is leading this session.
- d) The Plot - Community Garden - Cllr Hazel Williams - Entered RHS Growing Together Award 2025 for community garden. An RHS Assessor was due to assess The Plot recently but now postponed to the end of July.
- e) Litter Picking Play Park – Cllrs Grover, M Williams, Easton – is working well
- f) Defibs – Cllrs Geen, Watson, Grover – no issues reported
- g) Speedwatch - Greg Manning – no report available Action: Council to arrange a meeting with Greg Manning to discuss the way forward.
- h) Primary School and PTA – Cllr Byrom – no report available
- i) Youth Club – Cllr Byrom - no report available
- j) Gardening The Grounds - Big Meadow Count on 10th August at 10am. All welcome.

16. **2nd PUBLIC SESSION** – none raised.

17. **Exchange of information –**

- a) Cllr Cotterill – asked if it would be possible to increase signage recognising Princetown as a ‘Gateway to the High Moor’
- b) Cllr Cotterill – wondered if there was any merit in creating a Princetown Calendar (as they do in Brentor PC) to showcase Princetown, the High Moor and the wider parish. She agreed to investigate further and report to the next meeting.
- c) Cllr Grover - asked who is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Hessary Terrace. Council explained some houses, but not all, are Live West who have been made aware in the past of issues with rubbish and untidy gardens.
- d) Cllr Smerdon – asked Cllr Fife Cook (DCC) if funding might be available to support Postbridge Village Hall, to secure the new water supply
- e) Cllr Watson – reported that they had several incidences recently of gates being left open, due to the increased number of visitors to the moor.

18. **Date of next meeting - Council Meeting**
 1930 on Tuesday 26th August 2025
 Postbridge Village Hall

Meeting closed at 2113