



Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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2nd December 2025

Minutes for the Council Meeting on 25th November 2025 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:	* Chair	** Vice Chair
Cllr Alison Geen**		Cllr Martin Grover	
Postbridge Ward:	Cllr Brenda Cotterill	Cllr Mark Williams *	
Cllr Wendy Watson	Cllr Lian Edis	Cllr Hazel Williams	

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: 2

- Apologies** – Cllr Smerdon & Cllr Easton
(Cllr Mark Renders WDBC & Cllr Michael Fife-Cook DCC)
- Declarations of interest** – Cllr Geen Items 11b & 11c (knows and has business relationship with both applicants), Cllr Grover Item 11a (he lives on junction of Station Road and Tavistock Road) Cllr Mark Williams Item 11, a,b,c (as DNPA Member unable to comment)
- Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
- Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 28th October 2025. Council approved the minutes which were then signed by Cllr Mark Williams.
- Updates from Devon County Councillor and West Devon Borough Councillor** – neither in attendance.
- Princetown Vacancy** – As no applications were received Council agreed to move this forward to the January meeting. Action: Clerk to update posters, webpage & FB.
- Residents’ issues or concerns** –
a) Drainage/ Surface water running down road, into resident’s field from Hexworthy phone box - request received for Lengthsman to clear ditches to prevent run off. Council agreed to ask Lengthsman to prioritise the ditching work in Hexworthy which includes clearing these. Action: Lengthsman to clear ditches/drains as requested.
- Policy Review** – Council agreed to adopt revised documents as circulated prior to meeting

	Proposer	Seconder	Agreed by:
a) Financial Regulations	Cllr Geen	Cllr Mark Williams	All
b) Burials Procedure & Prices	Cllr Watson	Cllr Grover	All

Signed by Chair:

16th December 2025

Council agreed to increase all Cemetery fees by 100% effective from 1 st April 2026.			
c) Safeguarding Policy	Cllr Geen	Cllr Edis	All
d) Equality Diversity & Inclusion	Cllr Geen	Cllr Hazel Williams	All
e) Whistleblowing Policy	Cllr Geen	Cllr Grover	All
f) Assets Register	Noted as accurate –		

Action: Clerk to update/publish policies on website and publicise Cemetery price increases effective from April 2026.

9. **Princetown Community Centre** – Council discussed ongoing concerns as raised by residents, and agreed to contact Trustees to raise these concerns and find out what if anything Council can do to assist. To include invitation for Trustees to meet with Council in early January. Action: Clerk to email PCC trustees.

10. **1st PUBLIC SESSION** –

- a) Resident/applicant from Huccaby House gave brief summary of the planning application 0376/25, and invited questions.

11. **Planning** – Council considered, discussed and agreed response regarding the applications listed below

- a) [0168/25](#) Notification of Amendments - Land Adjacent to Moorland View, PL20 6QZ HW - I have looked at this amended application. Whilst it is extremely in depth, I can see no evidence that the Material Considerations as previously raised have been addressed in any meaningful way. These include:
- Overshadowing/loss of outlook to the detriment of residential amenity
 - Overlooking and loss of privacy
 - Highway issues: traffic generation, vehicular access, highway safety
 - Capacity of physical infrastructure, e.g. in the public drainage or water systems
 - Adverse impact on nature conservation interests & biodiversity opportunities
 - Effect on conservation area

Cllrs Geen and Grover attended DNPA site visit 21/11/25 – they expressed their disappointment and frustration at being refused the opportunity to speak, and questioned whether correct protocol had been followed at the site visit. Clerk had spoken earlier in the day to Dean Kinsella, DNPA Director of Spatial Planning, who said he would look into the matter.

Proposed by Cllr Grover, seconded by Cllr Geen, agreed by 6 (One abstention). Council agreed to send a representative to speak at the Development Management Committee meeting on 5th December to voice the concerns about the application directly to DNPA Members. Action: Cllr Grover offered to attend and will draft statement for Council to approve prior to that meeting. Clerk to make request to DNPA to speak at meeting on the 5th December 2025.

- b) [366/25](#) Upalong, Hexworthy, PL20 6SD
 MG - Whilst the amendment seems trivial, raising the ridge height has changed the roof pitch which, by their own admission, is still well outside the recommended angle. However, as the original application was granted consent, I feel that, overall, this will make little difference to the appearance and thus see no reason to refuse.
 HW - I have had a good look at these documents, and see no requirement for a site visit. There do not appear to be any Material Planning Considerations relating to this application.

GE - I've had a look at this and can't see any issues.

Proposed by Cllr Grover, seconded by Cllr Hazel Williams , agreed by 5 (Two abstentions) that Council recommend Approval. Action: Clerk to respond to DNPA

c) [376/25](#) Huccaby House, Hexworthy, PL20 6SB

MG - I have looked through this application and have no issues with it. I don't feel a site visit is indicated as there have been numerous 'contemporary' extensions/alterations over the years and the proposed changes are unlikely to be seen from afar or impact adversely any neighbouring properties. The necessary environmental effects have been covered in the proposal.

HW - I see no Material Planning Considerations relevant to this application.

GE - I've had a look at this and can't see any issues.

Proposed by Cllr Hazel Williams, seconded by Cllr Grover, agreed by 5 (Two abstentions) that Council recommend Approval. Action: Clerk to respond to DNPA

12. **Princetown Sensory Garden** – Cllr Hazel Williams gave update on the National Lottery Funding Application.

- Letter confirming security of lease for site for the next 5 years received from Duchy of Cornwall.
- Liaising closely with the National Lottery team regarding how the Sensory Garden will benefit the community. Four 'Group Community' workshops will be held within the first two years to garner feedback.
- All looking very positive and Council should hear in the next week if application is successful.

13. **Parish Calendar 2026** – Cllr Cotterill reported on sales to date; she plans to attend the Mini Market on the 6th. She will contact retail outlets in the next week to see if they need re-stocking.

14. **Play Park** –

- a) Update on Weekly Inspections - Cllr Mark Williams reported all OK, but road side of Hedge needs cutting back. Council agreed for Lengthsman to be tasked as a one-off to cut back early in New Year.
- b) Action Plan – no progress since last meeting, most jobs will be put off until drier weather.
- c) Litter Picking - Cllrs Grover, M Williams, Easton – continues to work well, less litter in the winter months.

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

- a) Payments approved by Council, to be authorised by Cllr Geen and Cllr Grover.

Ref	Payee	Details	Income	Expense	BACS amount
	Prince of Wales Pub	Calendar order x10	£ 80.00	£ -	
1994	Tavistock Information Centre	Calendar Order x10	£ 80.00	£ -	
1995	Brenton R - Forest Inn	Calendar Order x10	£ 80.00	£ -	
1996	Devon County Council	Urban Grass Cutting	£ 134.00	£ -	
1997	Two Bridges Hotel Warm Welcome Hotel	Calendar Order x6	£ 48.00	£ -	
1998	Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Group	INV 05/25 Cutting grass churchyard	£ 41.88	£ -	
1999	Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Group	INV 10/25 Cutting grass churchyard	£ 41.88	£ -	
2000	Plume of Feathers	Calendar x10	£ 80.00	£ -	
2001	DFPC	Donations from Remembrance Service 2025	£ 259.20	£ -	
2002	Lloyds Bank	Monthly Service Charge 10/9 to 9/10	£ -	£ 4.25	DD
2003	Information Commission	Annual Fee ZA153308	£ -	£ 47.00	DD
2004	DFPC	Donations collected from Remembrance Service 2025 for RBL	£ -	£ 259.20	£ 259.20
2005	Jackie Bennetts	Clerk Pay	£ -	£ 644.36	£ 760.71
2006	Jackie Bennetts	Expenses - Notice board - bus stop	£ -	£ 110.40	
2007	Jackie Bennetts	Expenses - Envelopes Calendars	£ -	£ 5.95	
2008	David Cole	Lengthsman Pay +13.5 contracting (Oct)	£ -	£ 658.13	£ 658.13
2009	HMRC	PAYE to Dec 2025	£ -	£ 106.15	£ 106.15
2010	Gregg Manning	Speedwatch Expenses New Tripod (Amazon)	£ -	£ 16.19	£ 16.19
2011	BT	Adoption fee for Telephone box 01822890201 PL20 6QF	£ -	£ 1.00	£ 1.00
Total			£ 844.96	£ 1,852.63	£1,801.38

16. **2026/7 Budget and Precept Request** - Council discussed and agreed 2026/27 Budget as circulated prior to meeting, with 5% increase on Precept request. Proposed by Cllr Hazel Williams, seconded by Cllr Geen, agreed by all. Action: Clerk to submit Precept request to WDBC in January.
17. **Parish Thankyou's** – Clerk listed a number of individuals, and local businesses who had supported Council over the past year. Council agreed to write to thank them for their support contributions. Action: Clerk to write letters for distribution after next meeting.
18. **Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous**
- DCC Highways re B3357 cats-eyes Hexworthy junction to Dunnabridge – Council agreed no further action to be taken on this matter.
 - BT Phone Box – Princetown Village Centre – payment of £1 to be made 1/12/25, signed contract sent to BT by post 31/10/25. Awaiting final confirmation/paperwork from them. Phone equipment removed 20/11/25. Action: Clerk to arrange for a certified electrician to check electrical connection and light fitting is suitable going forwards.
 - Bin replacement/repair Princetown- Locations of damaged bins given to Cllr Mark Renders, along with request for additional bin to be placed near bus shelter at Woodville to reduce littering in that area.
 - Bus Shelter – Lengthsman tasked with making repairs to guttering, with view to replacing rotten fascia on three sides in spring/drier weather. Lengthsman reported that someone had tried to set fire to the wooden bench in the bus shelter by Woodville.
19. **Reports and Updates from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests:**
- CCTV System Check & any requests – CCTV Working Group –
System Checks completed: 01/11 HW, 15/11 LE, 22/11 JB – all working
No requests for footage received.

Signed by Chair:

16th December 2025

- b) LOVE (Love Our Village Enthusiasts) Project – Cllr Cotterill has purchased and planted spring bulbs, to be re-imbursed at Dec meeting.
- c) Tidy Princetown Sessions – next session 6th December. Recent high winds and faulty bins had led to an increase in litter.
- d) The Plot - Community Garden - Cllr Hazel Williams
 - Received trophy from Geraldine, RHS Rosemoor, for our success in the RHS Community Garden of the Year competition.
 - The Duchy have most kindly made extensive repairs to the perimeter fence at The Plot to make it stockproof, as sheep, cattle and ponies frequently access the area.
- e) Defibs – Cllrs Geen, Watson, Grover – all reported to be working
- f) Speedwatch - Greg Manning – Clerk to arrange meeting to discuss Council involvement in going forwards.
- g) Primary School and PTA – Josh Bullock (New Head Teacher) - no report
- h) Youth Club – Emma Byrom – no report
- i) Gardening The Grounds –
 - Well-attended Annual Quiz Night was held on 26th October, raising over £300.
 - Hazel stepped down as Chair of GTG at the AGM held on 20.11.2025, after two years in the role. The new Chair is Brenda Cotterill.

20. 2nd PUBLIC SESSION –

- a) Lengthsman reported the conifers at the top of Bellever Close were growing out over the pavement and need trimming back. Cllr Mark Williams reported that Emma Magee (Duchy) is aware and work is in hand to address this.
- b) Lengthsman asked for update on Duchy providing Christmas trees for Village and St Michaels. Clerk had been informed they would be delivered to Duchy Yard on Friday 28th.

21. Exchange of information –

- a) Cllr Geen – has been approached by Hexworthy resident asking for drain on right of road towards Saddlesbridge to be cleared to prevent water running across the road, and icing in cold weather. Lengthsman to look at this when in Hexworthy undertaking Council ditching work.
- b) Cllr Grover requested he update Council at the December meeting on the Stoneycliffe footpath issue (as raised at the April 2025 meeting) following recent meeting with Lisabeth Miller (Duchy)
- c) Cllr Mark Williams reported that the names on the War Memorial need to be repainted.
- d) Clerk notified Council of her intention to resign the position at the end of January.

22. Date of next meeting - Council Meeting

1930 on Tuesday 16th December 2025
Princetown Community Centre

Meeting Closed 2140