



# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Minutes for the Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:</b>	<b>Princetown Ward:</b>	* Chair	** Vice Chair
Cllr Alison Geen**	vacancy	Cllr Martin Grover	
<b>Postbridge Ward:</b>	Cllr Brenda Cotterill	Cllr Mark Williams *	
Cllr Elaine Smerdon	Cllr Gary Easton	Cllr Hazel 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: 1

- 1. Apologies – none**
- 2. Declarations of interest** Cllr Watson Item 10a
- 3. Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
- 4. Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Council approved the minutes which were then signed by Cllr Mark Williams.
- 5. Updates from Devon County Councillor and West Devon Borough Councillor** – neither in attendance.
- 6. Resignation of Clerk & actions to be taken to recruit replacement** – Clerk outlined proposed timeline and process for recruitment, updated Job Description, Person Specification. Council agreed process and closing date for applications will be 12<sup>th</sup> January, with view to holding interviews w/c 19<sup>th</sup> January. Proposed by Cllr Easton, seconded by Cllr Grover Council agreed the proposed recruitment process and to allocate a budget of up to £200 towards any recruitment costs. Employment Committee (consisting Cllr Geen, Hazel Williams and Cllr Watson) will oversee the recruitment process.

Cllr Mark Williams asked for it to be minuted on behalf of Council, thank you to Jackie as the outgoing Clerk for her service over the past 4 years.

- 7. Residents' issues or concerns –**
  - a) Stoneycliffe footpath (lack of) as raised at meeting in April 2025 –Cllr Grover updated on a recent meeting with Lisabeth Miller (Duchy of Cornwall) who has confirmed that the land in question is no longer owned by the Duchy, having been sold to the developers, who has subsequently sold of parcels of land to the adjacent householders. Duchy has tried several times to contact the developer on this, to no effect.

Signed by Chair:

27<sup>th</sup> January 2026

- b) Request from Hexworthy resident for ditches to be cleared between Sherberton turning and Saddlesbridge received 23/11/25. Council agreed that the Lengthsman should prioritise this stretch of road, to clear the culvert asap. Action: Lengthsman undertake work asap.
- 8. **Princetown Sensory Garden** – Cllr Hazel Williams updated on the successful National Lottery Funding Application which has awarded Council £46,000 to create the sensory garden over the next two years. Council was asked if it wanted to accept the funding, and form a working group to take the project forwards. Cllrs Grover, Edis, Cotteril and Mark Williams agreed to join Cllr Hazel Williams on a working group. All Council voted to accept the funding. The Chair expressed thanks, on behalf of Council, to Cllr Hazel Williams and the Clerk for their work in putting together the successful application and project budget.
- 9. **1<sup>st</sup> PUBLIC SESSION** – Lengthman raised concerns about the road at junction turning towards Sherberton, Hexworthy – road is being undermined.
- 10. **Planning** – Council discussed and agree on response regarding the applications listed below
  - a) 0390/25 Land at Greyhound Farm, Postbridge, Yelverton, PL20 6TH. Proposed by Cllr Easton, seconded by Cllr Edis to recommend supporting the application. Council then voted 5 in agreement, 1 against, 3 abstentions. Action: Clerk to respond to DNPA.
  - b) Update on 0168/25 Moorland View – Cllr Grover updated Council on his attendance at the DNPA Development Committee meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. He expressed his disappointment at how the site visit was conducted on the 21<sup>st</sup> Nov, and how the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> failed to address any of the objections raised by those present. It was felt that due process was not followed and due diligence was not exercised in considering the application and the objections received. Clerk had that day received correspondence from Dean Kinsella (DNPA) explaining that he was looking into how the site visit was conducted, and whether the meeting protocol was followed. Subsequent to the meeting a formal response from Dean Kinsella has been received.
- 11. **Cemetery Plot Purchase request by non-resident of Postbridge** - Council considered the request and agreed to approve the application from Marika Sadji. Proposed by Cllr Mark Williams, seconded by Cllr Cotterill, voted in agreement by all. Action: Clerk to proceed with sale of two adjacent plots B63 (Adolfo Meras as approved at November meeting) & B64 Marika Sadji
- 12. **PLOT** – Council has received a request from the PLOT team for a CCTV camera to be installed following recent damage to water butts. Council discussed how security of the site could be improved and agreed to put cctv signs up, and monitor the issue initially. Action: Plot team to source signs and replace water butts.
- 13. **Financial management** - see Financial Report for details
  - a) Payments approved by Council, to be authorised by Cllr Geen and Cllr Easton

Ref	Payee	Details	Income	Expense
2012	Flaherty	Calendar & PP	£ 12.75	£ -
2013	Ramblers Rest	Calendars x5	£ 40.00	£ -
2014	Devon Association of Local Councils	Hazel Williams - Managing Projects	£ -	£ 42.00
2015	Jackie Bennetts	Clerk Pay	£ -	£ 644.16
2016	Jackie Bennetts	Expenses - HMRC Payment 475PD002033472606	£ -	£ 144.54
2017	David Cole	Lengthsman Pay	£ -	£ 453.88
2018	HMRC	PAYE to Jan 2026	£ -	£ 75.71
2019	Brenda Cotterill	LOVE expenses - bulbs	£ -	£ 19.50
2020	Lloyds Bank	Monthly Service Charge 10/10 to 9/11	£ -	£ 4.25
Total				£ 52.75 £ 1,384.04

#### 14. Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings

- a) Parish Calendar 2026 – Cllr Cotterill to update on sales to date. See Financial Report for details of sales/income & expenditure.
- b) Bin replacement/repair Princetown – locations of all damaged bins have been forwarded to Cllr Mark Renders (WDBC) for the damage to be addressed/bins replaced. Cllr Grover reported that he had found replacement locks are available for the bins.
- c) Princetown Community Centre – Clerk has received out of office response from PCC stating the emails will not be monitored until 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Action: Clerk to forward initial email and response to other trustees.

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

- a) CCTV System Check & any requests – CCTV Working Group –  
System Checks completed: 01/12 HW, 15/12 LE, 10/12 JB – all working  
No requests for footage received.
- b) Playpark – Inspections and Litter picking - all up to date and working well with very little litter.
- c) LOVE (Love Our Village Enthusiasts) Project – Cllr Hazel Williams – nothing to report
- d) Tidy Princetown Sessions – Cllr Lian Edis – last session was attended by local residents. Next session planned for January 3<sup>rd</sup> weather permitting. Cllr Edis requested additional litter pickers, rings and hi viz. Cllr Mark Williams reported that he had pickers and hi-viz. Action: Clerk to order 2x litter picking rings.
- e) Defibs – Cllrs Geen, Watson, Grover – no issues reported.

#### 16. 2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC SESSION – nothing raised

#### 17. Exchange of information –

- a) Clerk attended recent AGAR Assertion 10 training session – which requires Councils to ensure Digital and Data Compliance: website accessibility, IT policy, .gov.uk emails, data protection and GDPR which will be included in AGAR from 2026. NALC has created a 'hub' for information, example policies, Data Protection Roadmap etc.
- b) Cllr Easton reported that the noticeboard in the bus stop in the village centre has been damaged again, along with the bus timetable.

- c) Cllr Hazel Williams stated that new bus timetables are required as there is a new bus provider, no longer city bus.
- d) Cllr Cotterill reported that a representative from the Masons had offered to assist with projects in the village. Action: to be discussed at January meeting.
- e) Cllr Mark Williams reported that new lights were needed for the Christmas tree, as one set had failed and it was looking poor. Clerk had also received correspondence from the Duchy on this matter. Council agreed to purchase replacement set, Cllr Mark Williams to source them.
- f) Cllr Mark Williams asked Council if it was necessary to communicate with residents before moving the WW1/2 memorial information to the phone box in the centre of the village. Action: Clerk to create a poster explaining the move.

**18. Date of next meeting -      Council Meeting**

1930 on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Princetown Community Centre

Meeting closed 2120