



Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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28th January 2026

Minutes for the Council Meeting on 27th January 2026 in

Princetown Community Centre

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:	* Chair	** Vice Chair
Cllr Alison Geen**	vacancy	Cllr Martin Grover	
Postbridge Ward:	Cllr Brenda Cotterill	Cllr Mark Williams *	
	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: 3 including Cllr Mark Renders (WDBC)

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Smerdon, Cllr Fife-Cook (DCC)
2. **Declarations of interest** – none
3. **Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
4. **Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 25th 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** – Cllr Mark Renders made Council aware that the public toilets in Princetown are likely to close in the near future. He will find out more information from DNPA, Duchy and WDBC and update again at the February meeting. Action: Clerk to put item on agenda for February.
6. **Clerk Recruitment Update** – Following a successful recruitment campaign the Employment Committee have offered the position to Duncan Swift, who was in attendance, at the meeting. He is due to start from the 2nd February, and will liaise with the current Clerk who will hand over responsibilities over the next couple of weeks.

Signed by Chair:

24th February 2026

7. **Co-option to fill Princetown ward vacancy** – Clerk reported that no applications had been received. Council agreed to look at broadening the reach of the recruitment. Action: Clerk to put on agenda for February meeting.
8. **Recent Snow and Ice Events/ Snow Tourism** – Council discussed recent events when UK Weather Chase have been using Plume of Feathers as a base and appear on Facebook to be encouraging people to come to Princetown to see the snow. [Great to see a little dusting from our... - UK Weather Chase | Facebook](#) This would be contrary to Council attempts to discourage 'snow tourism' and the antisocial driving which often accompany it. Council discussed how this appears to be contrary to trying to discourage ill-prepared drivers from coming to Princetown during snow/ice events with the resulting vehicles getting stuck, being abandoned and ultimately blocking the roads in and out of the village. Council agreed to contact UK Weather Chase to put its concerns to them regarding not encouraging people to come to the moors/Princetown in snowy conditions. Action: Cllr Grover offered to draft correspondence for Clerk to send to both the Plume of Feathers and UK Weather Chase.

Council also discussed locking the gates to the car park during snowy weather to discourage drivers from antisocial driving in the snow. Cllr Williams expressed concerns about just one person being responsible for asking vehicles to leave, so the gates can be locked. Cllr Mark Renders reminded Council there are notices in the car park warning drivers that the gates may be locked. Cllr Williams has sourced a chain which can be used to close the gates as post was frozen in situ, preventing gates from being locked in last episode of snow/ice. Cllr Easton raised issue of electric vehicle charging points which are now situated in the Car Park, and overnight campers who are permitted to stay for 24hrs. Action: Cllr Mark Williams will investigate further and report back to Council. Clerk to put on Agenda for February meeting.

9. **Devon Community Action Group Membership** – Cllr Hazel Williams outlines the reason why CAG membership would be beneficial to The Plot. Proposed by Cllr Geen, seconded by Cllr Cotterill, council voted in agreement. Action: Clerk to sign on behalf of Council and return the agreement to Devon CAG.
10. **Citizens Advice funding request** – Council discussed request and it was proposed by Cllr Hazel Williams, seconded by Cllr Easton, agreed by all present, that Council make a donation of £75.00. Payment to be made in the February payments. Action: Clerk to respond to Citizens Advice and include in February payments.
11. **Urban Grass Cutting Contract Devon County Council Highways** – Council agreed to accept the agreement for 2026/7 grass cutting at a value of £138.00. Proposed by Cllr Geen, seconded by Cllr Easton, agreed by all present. Action: Clerk to sign on behalf of Council and return agreement to DCC.
12. **Residents' issues or concerns** – Council considered issues below:
- a) Additional Grit Bin - Request from two residents for additional grit bin to be sited at the bottom of Burrator Avenue, Princetown, emails received 13/01/26. Residents have been unable to get to the grit bin at the top of the road during recent icy spell and have been purchasing and spreading salt themselves.

Prior to meeting Clerk contacted DCC Highways – their response: DFPC would need to purchase additional grit bin at cost of £350, which would be sited by DCC in an appropriate

location. Highways would then take responsibility for filling and topping up the bin as necessary. No further cost to DFPC.

Council is supportive of this request, as this is the steepest hill in the village, but have not budgeted for this expense. Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Fife-Cook to see if he might accept an application to his Localities fund. IF funding can be found, Clerk to contact Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Brad Elliot – to get site approved and place order.

- b) Dog mess in Jubilee Field, Princetown email received 18/01/26 Council is aware that dog mess is an enduring issue in the village which has become worse since dogs are not permitted on the Football Pitch. Duchy have recently placed dog poo bag dispensers in the field, but the issue of dog owners not picking up after their dogs continues. Cllr Mark Williams suggested that additional signs could be put in place. Action: Clerk to get cost of 10 additional 'bag your dog poo' signs, and revisit this issue at the February meeting.
- c) West Dart quarterly report – Cllr Geen reported that due to ill health this quarterly update would be the last one, despite the ongoing issues continuing. Action: Cllr Geen agreed to draft thank-you from Council for all the reports.

13. **Princetown Sensory Garden** – Cllr Hazel Williams gave brief update on the National Lottery Funding. Proposing that the project starts on the 1st May. Meeting to be arranged with National Lottery Funding Officer in next few weeks.

14. **1st PUBLIC SESSION –**

- a) Cllr Mark Renders reminded Council that Jubilee Field was gifted to the residents of Princetown, and is therefore not owned by the Duchy.
- b) He also reminded Council that the village had planned a Carnival event, which was unable to take place due to Covid, but that it might be a nice idea to re-kindle.

15. **Planning** – none at time of issuing agenda.

16. **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
2021	Brenda Cotterill	Calendar Sales (Cash)	£ 273.00	£ -	
2022	Adolfo Meras	Plot Purchase B63	£ 216.00	£ -	
2023	Marika Sajdi (payment form Adolfo Meras)	Plot Purchase B64	£ 216.00	£ -	
2024	Brenda Cotterill	Calendar Sales (Cash)	£ 88.00	£ -	
2025	Lloyds Bank	Monthly Service Charge 10/11 to 9/12	£ -	£ 4.25	dd
2026	Brenda Cotterill	Postage Cal01	£ -	£ 3.40	£ 3.40
2027	Mark Williams	Christmas Tree Lights	£ -	£ 37.98	£ 37.98
2028	Princetown Community Centre	Hall Hire - Clerk Interviews	£ -	£ 48.00	£ 48.00
2029	Tavistock Information Centre	Refund of unsold Calendars x5 credit to INV 13/25	£ -	£ 40.00	£ 40.00
2030	Jackie Bennetts	Expenses - Defib Pads Princetown (expire 19/10/28)	£ -	£ 170.40	£1,366.22
2031	Jackie Bennetts	Expenses - Magnolia Paint	£ -	£ 19.00	
2032	Jackie Bennetts	Expenses Plot - Plants Ashwood Nurseries	£ -	£ 78.58	
2033	Jackie Bennetts	Clerk Pay	£ -	£ 644.36	
2034	David Cole	Lengthsman Pay	£ -	£ 453.88	
2035	HMRC	PAYE to Feb 2026	£ -	£ 75.51	
Total			£ 793.00	£ 1,575.36	£1,571.11

- b) It was noted that the pads for the defib had increased in price, and that future budgets should be increased to accommodate this. Cllr Cotterill questioned whether another Defib in the village would be useful, given the one behind the Prince of Wales is no longer available. Action: Clerk to put this on the agenda for February meeting. Possible offer of funding from local organisation could be used to purchase.

17. Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous

a) Parish Calendar 2026

- Error found on April dates, Dartprint have re-printed 150 Calendars (at no cost to Council) They will reprint a further 50 if needed.
- Retailers have been contacted regarding Council issuing refunds on unsold calendars as agreed.
- Council agreed that retailers would be given replacements so they could exchange the faulty ones. Action: Clerk to replace Tavistock Info Centre and Forest Inn. Cllr Cotterill to replace others.

b) Bin replacement/repair Princetown – not further action, Cllr Renders will chase this.

c) Princetown Community Centre – Clerk in contact with Trustee to arrange meeting with Council to discuss concerns and agree how Council can support Centre. Meeting planned for Sat 31st at 0930. Cllrs Mark Williams, Grover and Cotterill to attend. Action: Clerk to confirm who is attending meeting.

d) Phone Box Memorial – Following recent damage the door and information has been removed and will be moved down to the phone box in the centre of the village. Lengthsman reported that two panes with names have been damaged and will need replacing. Action:

Clerk to source replacements, to be etched with names. Lengthsman to move memorial information to the phone box opposite the War Memorial, and use blank panes in the short term. Phone box at Woodville Junction to be on Agenda for February meeting – to discuss how it will be used.

18. Reports and Updates from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests: See 'Briefing Notes' for updates on issues listed below

a) CCTV System Check & any requests – CCTV Working Group –

System Checks completed: 31/12 HW, 15/01 LE, 22/01 JB – all working

No requests for footage received.

Clerk reminded Council that it needs to confirm power and internet supply, and security/access to the system after 1st April when DNPA move out of the building.

b) Playpark – Inspections and Litter picking RoSPA Annual Inspection has been scheduled for sometime in March. Cllr Grover reported very little litter, and no new issues to note, although there are outstanding items on the action plan.

c) LOVE (Love Our Village Enthusiasts) Project – Cllr Cotterill reported some work done to planters. And soil/compost was needed. Clerk confirmed there is £105.00 available in budget to purchase compost. Cllr Hazel Williams has ordered additional plants for spring display. New sponsorship will be invited from April.

d) Tidy Princetown Sessions – next session 07/02/26 Cllr Edis repeated request for additional litter picking equipment. Cllr Mark Renders said he may be able to source pickers, rings and hoops.

e) Defib Checks – new adult pads at Venville 30/12/25.

f) Speedwatch – Clerk has been in contact to arrange the transfer of their funds out of the Council account following advice from DALC.

19. 2nd PUBLIC SESSION –

a) Lengthsman reported that a gully/drain on the Tavistock Road, near Prison quarry, had been filled in with rocks and soil, causing flooding to road in recent heavy rain. He has cleared the blockage and will monitor in case it happens again.

20. Exchange of information –

a) Cllr Easton reported the Princetown drains which were blocked have been cleared. He will continue to monitor.

b) Cllr Geen reported that following the recent Clerk interviews Council received a complaint about marks being left on the floor from shoes. Issue to be discussed at meeting on Saturday 31st with PCC Trustee.

c) Cllr Mark Willaims questioned whether the Double Yellow Lines on the Oakery junction had been marked out correctly. He believes they are shorter than shown on the Traffic Order. Action: Clerk to contact Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

d) Cllr Grover asked about road markings which have appeared on Tavistock Road recently. Clerk has received notification of Traffic Order for April 8th – 16th for resurfacing.

- e) Clerk reminded Council about Open Reach webinar workshop dates – if Councillors wish to attend then need to respond to email sent by Clerk.
- f) Sir Geoffrey Cox is holding Connectivity session on 31st January at 10am. Cllr Mark Williams will attend on behalf of Council.
- g) Cllr Mark Williams expressed thanks on behalf of Council to the outgoing Clerk, Jackie Bennetts, and presented her with a gift of flowers and chocolates. Jackie thanked Council for its support during her four years in the role.

21. Date of next meeting - Council Meeting

1930 on Tuesday 24th February 2026
Princetown Community Centre

Meeting closed 2112.