

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 6:30pm on Tuesday 28th April 2026

Parish Councillors present: Cllr M Williams, Cllr Brenda Cotterill, Cllr Lian Edis, Cllr Alison Geen, Cllr Martin Grover, Cllr Elaine Smerdon, Cllr Wendy Watson, Cllr Hazel Williams

Also Present: A Horn (Clerk) Cllr Renders (WDBC) 8 members of the public

2026.1 Welcome and Introduction

Cllr M Williams welcomed everyone

2026.2 Minutes

It was agreed to approve the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on the 22nd April 2025

2026.3 Presentation from The Sensory Trust

A representative from The Sensory Trust visited Princetown and met with residents, teachers, and local business owners on site to discuss ideas and aspirations for the space.

Discussions focused on the hoped-for uses of the area, including:

- Opportunities for learning and curiosity
- Support for formal education
- Activities for children and young adults
- Space for group events and activities
- Creating a welcoming and accessible environment
- Horticultural activities
- Developing a colourful and uplifting space
- Community involvement
- Providing a safe, calm, and reflective place

The desired outcomes identified included:

- Accessibility and inclusivity
- A space for reflection, rest, healing, and wellbeing
- Encouraging conversation and social interaction
- Creating a comfortable and cohesive community space
- Helping to combat loneliness
- Supporting learning opportunities

The project will continue to engage with interested groups, including exploring ideas for mosaic artwork as part of the development of the space.

Questions received:

- What area is it?
- Water supply does it involve digging up the pavement?
- Who are maintaining it?
- Is it similar to Tavistock's Sensory Garden?
- Did the Parish get asked about the project? The money could be better spent elsewhere
- Is the area big enough?
- Concern about teenagers and antisocial behaviour

2026.4 Presentation from Encounters Shop

A representative outlined the ongoing work for the Vision Project. An artist has been brought in to support the placemaking work, helping to build a shared vision for Princetown based on the voices of the community. The aim is for the project to lead to meaningful action and change, rather than simply producing a report that sits on a shelf.

A pop-up shop was set up in November 2025, which attracted around 450 visitors. The shop included activities and opportunities for people to provide feedback on the future potential of Princetown. Residents and visitors shared memories, thoughts, concerns, frustrations, and ideas for the future. A report has now been created and will be shared with the community.

The next phase of engagement is now underway, with invitations being sent out for activities taking place between April and June. A community event is planned for May at the Community Centre. The team has also been visiting local community groups and meeting with residents directly. Engagement so far has included the youth group, two men's groups, crafters' groups, and a number of one-to-one conversations. These discussions have focused on what individuals and groups can contribute to the project.

A steering group continues to work alongside the project team, with a recent feedback meeting held last week.

Three co-design sessions, described as "hackathon-style" events, are planned for 22nd–24th May. These sessions will explore topics in more detail, including:

Food and growing

Transport and access

Youth provision and activities for young people

Further information is available at princetownvision.co.uk

2026.5 Presentation from The Duchy of Cornwall on the Vision for Princetown.

It was noted that, following the closure of the Visitor Centre, work is continuing to enhance the village and encourage visitors to return to Princetown.

An update was provided by the Duchy of Cornwall regarding the plantation behind Belliver Close. Tree surveys have confirmed that the plantation has reached the end of its commercial life. Ongoing issues with trees falling and repeated maintenance work by tree surgeons have led to the decision to proceed with felling works, and a felling licence application has now been submitted.

The project will take place in phases:

- **Phase 1 – August:**

Initial felling works will begin, with a Dartmoor horse logger carrying out the work. Two open mornings will also be organised to involve the community and allow residents to learn more about the process.

- **Phase 2 – November to March:**

Replanting will take place, focusing mainly on broadleaf trees alongside a smaller number of Scots pine.

- **Phase 3 – Community Ideas:**

The community will be invited to share suggestions for the future use and enhancement of the area. Early ideas discussed included a possible community orchard, along with the installation of owl boxes and bird boxes.

A further meeting will be held later in the year to discuss future plans and collate community suggestions.

2026.6 Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chairman

The Annual report form the Chairs would be available on the website

2026.7 To invite the public to raise any matters of interest.
The condition of Tavistock Road
What is happening to the Brewery?

2026.8 Close
The meeting closed at 7:28 pm