

**Minutes of the Dartmoor Forest Parish Council meeting held at 6:30pm on 23rd
June 2026 at Princetown Community Centre**



Council Members Present:

Cllr Mark Williams (Chair)
Cllr Brenda Cotterill
Cllr Alison Geen
Cllr Martin Grover
Cllr Carole Murray
Cllr Elaine Smerdon
Cllr Wendy Watson
Cllr Hazel Williams

In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk) Mr Cole (Lengths man) 1 member of the public

19 Chairs Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone

20 Apologies for Absence

On the proposition of Cllr M Williams and seconded by Cllr Geen it was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Edis (personal). Cllr Renders WDBC and Cllr Fife Cooke DCC apologies were noted.

21 Public Forum

None

22 Declarations of Interest

22.1 Declarations of Interest

None

22.2 Section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026

It was noted that from 29th June 2026, section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 removed the requirement for Members home addresses to be published in registers of interest, unless explicitly requested by a Member. However, the details must still be declared for internal council use.

**23 WDBC, DNP and DCC
Reports**

WDBC- None

DCC- None

DNP- Peatland restoration is being progresses

**24 Minutes of the previous
meeting**

On the proposition of Cllr Geen and seconded by Cllr H Williams it was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th May 2026

25 Princetown ward vacancy

None

26 Finance

26.1 Finance Report

On the proposition of Cllr M Williams and seconded by Cllr Grover it was **RESOLVED** to agree the bank reconciliation dated 31st May 2026 and the budget monitoring report, Cllr Edis would sign the reconciliation at a later date.

26.2 Payments

On the proposition of Cllr M Williams and seconded by Cllr Geen it was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment list totalling £2435.74 plus VAT noting that the payment for the defib pads had been made by delegated authority and the insurance payment had been agreed as per minute number 11.3

27 **Planning**

27.1 **26/0048**

The Oratory, Tavistock Road,
Princetown, PL20 6RP

Trees (Conservation Area):

T1 Ash - Dismantle down to hedge height, due to limb failing back in April. T2 Ash - To pollard down to point marked in photograph. Owners would like it down to a safe height and see if it would recover.

On the proposition of Cllr Grover and seconded by Cllr Geen it was **RESOLVED** to support the application.

28 **Projects**

28.1 Sensory Garden

South West Water have been paid and the Clerk is chasing up to get the work started. The benches have been ordered for the playground and the replacement swing parts are being sorted. It was noted that Cllr H Williams has stepped down from the lead of the project and it was agreed that there would not be a lead, the whole council would be involved.

28.2 The Plot

Cllr H Williams reported that the beds have been planted but they are short of volunteers. The project has received a cheque from Princetown Charity Shop to help kit out the Polly tunnel.

28.3 LOVE Project

Cllr H Williams asked the council to consider purchasing planters for the Welcome to Princetown signs if funds were available. It was agreed that more information was needed. It was suggested that the project apply to the Moorscapes Community Grant fund.

28.4 Telephone Kiosk

On the proposition of Cllr M Williams and seconded by Cllr Grover it was **RESOLVED** to paint the soldier and the phone box.

28.5 Community Emergency Hubs

On the proposition of Cllr H Williams and seconded by Cllr M Williams it was **RESOLVED** to contact the fire station and see if they are interested in hosting a box and register interest for a box.

28.6 Collision hotspot signs

On the proposition of Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Cotterill it was **RESOLVED** to order 2 signs to warn drivers of ponies' sheep and cattle in the road using the Vision Zero funds.

28.7 Snow Warden Scheme

It was agreed that the council would not be part of the Snow Wardens scheme as there were concerns about insurance cover. It was also agreed that the council would no longer be closing the snow gates as they did not belong to the council and it could pose a risk to councillors or the Lengthsman.

29 **Reports**

29.1 Tidy Princetown Sessions

It was noted that the last session was cancelled due to the weather and that more volunteers were needed. It was agreed to add to the next agenda discussing ideas to increase the numbers of volunteers.

29.2 Defib Checks

It was noted that the Defib at Venville was out of action due to use but the pads had been delivered that day and would be reinstated that evening.

29.3 Playpark and Litter Picking

It was reported that the playground is being used a lot at the moment and was looking good. The inspections were being completed but had no spreadsheet to report of which the clerk would look into.

29.4 Gardening in the Grounds

A combined event was held on 13th June with the Church conservation group. They did not gain any new volunteers.

29.5 CCTV System Check

The CCTV was working and if footage was required the Clerk should be contacted. The policy was being reviewed to make it compliant with legislation changes.

30 Lengths man Report

The Lengthsman reported that the trees in Bellever were overgrowing the road, and it was confirmed that it was in hand for them to be felled. He had also received complements for Postbridge Cemetery.

31 Items Brought Forward

None

32 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th July at 6:30pm

Meeting closed at 7:53pm