

Minutes of the Dartmoor Forest Parish Council meeting held at 7:05 pm on 22nd September 2026 at Princetown Community Centre Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Cllr M Williams (Chair)
Cllr L Edis
Cllr A Geen
Cllr C Murray
Cllr E Smerdon
Cllr M Rickman
Cllr W Watson
Cllr H Williams

Mrs A Horn, Mr Cole Lengthsman, 1 member of the public

75 Chairs Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

76 Apologies for Absence

Cllr M Fife Cooke (DCC) sent apologies (personal)

77 Public Forum

None

78 Declarations of Interest

None

79 WDBC, DNP and DCC Reports

WDBC- emails have been circulated

DNP- more meetings happening in the next few weeks

DCC- No report

80 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 25th August 2026.

81 Princetown ward vacancy

No applications

82 Finance

82.1 Finance Report

On the proposition of Cllr M Williams and seconded by Cllr Murray it was **RESOLVED** to agree the budget monitoring report and the bank reconciliation dated 30th August 2026 and which was signed by Cllr Edis

82.2 National pay increase

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the implementation and backdating of the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for the 2026/27 financial year in accordance with the pay scales published by NALC for employees (pro-rata) from 1st April 2026

82.3 Payments

On the proposition of Cllr M Williams and seconded by Cllr Geen it was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments as set out on the payments list

82.4 Bank Signatories

It was agreed to add Cllr Murray to the Unity Trust Bank Account as a signatory.

82.5 Budget planning

The budget was looked at and would be reviewed again before being set in January.

82.6 Unity Trust Bank

It was noted that the switch over from Lloyds is taking place and was completed on 22nd September.

82.7 2025/26 External Audit

On the proposition of Cllr M Williams and seconded by Cllr Murray it was **RESOLVED** that the notice of Conclusion of Audit, published on 11th September 2026, remaining in situ until 20th October 2026.

83 Local Government Reorganisation

It was noted that the Local Government Reorganisation has been paused by the government and elections for West Devon Borough Council will go ahead in May 2027 with their current boundaries and warding.

84. Remembrance Day

It was agreed that Councillors would attend Remembrance Day at both Princetown and Postbridge. Mr Cole would clean the war memorial and cut the grass before the day. It was agreed that the Council would donate £20 to the RBL for a wreath for Princetown which the Clerk would organise, and a wreath would also be laid at the indoor memorial in Postbridge.

85 Projects

85.1 Sensory Garden

The Vision

Two years ago, DFPC felt that it was time to further develop the Play Park by adding sensory, inclusive aspects.

Following consultation with the school, Venville House and others, it was agreed that a Sensory Garden would be beneficial to the village, and the school were particularly enthusiastic for a Sensory Garden.

Following our later, unexpected discovery that DFPC are the lessees of the green at the top of Bellever Close, we quickly realised that this would be a much better location for a Sensory Garden. This was due to restricted access into the Play Park for wheelchairs, and the cost implications. The National Lottery grant that we obtained has already upgraded the Play Park with three picnic benches and two new swing seats and chains installed.

The main lottery funding, however, was for the Sensory Garden at the top of Bellever Close, which will benefit the whole village.

A further community engagement session was held on 16th September 2026, offering the community opportunity to comment on the Sensory Garden design and to become involved in specific design aspects. This was led pro bono by Nat Palin from Filament, a highly talented facilitator, who we gratefully thank. Documented feedback from this session will be available in due course.

Beyond the basic design, completed by the Sensory Trust, it is now down to the community (especially key users such as the school, Youth Club, and Venville House) to further develop elements within the garden and ensure it reflects what they want.

This will be a superb legacy for the village, given by the National Lottery, for the enjoyment of both the community and visitors alike.

Works have now begun, with the installation of a water supply well underway.

3 councillors and the clerk, as well as a dozen members of the public and the Tavistock Times came to the drop in session in the Community Centre.

85.2 The Plot

No update

85.3 LOVE Project

No update

86 **Reports**

86.1 Tidy Princetown Sessions

The next session was 3rd October meeting outside the shop and more volunteers were needed.

86.2 Defib Checks

All the defibs were reported as working and available

86.3 Playpark and Litter Picking

New volunteers were needed and the clerk would investigate ways of sharing the inspection sheets.

86.4 Gardening in the Grounds

Cllr Edis reported that the wood had mostly gone in exchange for a donation. Next session was 4th October.

87 **Lengths man Report**

Mr Cole reported that there were complaints about bramble coming out over the wall near Tor View causing cars to move into the centre of the road,

Were the council putting up a Christmas Tree again this year as it would need to be sourced and a star and more lights were needed, and a budget line added. The Clerk would investigate.

88 **Items Brought Forward**

Christmas tree

Dog waste bin for Jubilee Field

Drain by Tor Royal and Sunnyside- wall collapsed over pipe Duchy.

New London wall collapsed

89 **Date of Next Meeting** 27th October 2026

90 **Part Two**

On the proposition of Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Geen it was **RESOLVED** that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as they involve the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information.'

91 **Staffing Committee**

On the proposition of Cllr H Williams and seconded by Cllr Geen it was **RESOLVED** to follow the recommendation from the staffing committee and finish the Clerks probationary period.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm