

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



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Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 25 February 2020 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:	
Cllr. Alison Geen*	Cllr. David Worth**	Cllr. Nigel Tigwell
Postbridge Ward:	Cllr Mark Renders	Cllr. Wendy Stones
Cllr. Julian Greatrex	Cllr John Druett	Cllr Gregg Manning
Cllr. Wendy Watson		
	* Chair, **Vice-Chair	

4 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies.** The Clerk. In the Clerk's absence, Cllr Worth took the minutes.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None received. Cllr Tigwell declared that a near neighbour had submitted a planning application that the Council was to consider.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** Accepted as being a true record and signed by the Chair.
4. **West Devon Town Centres presentation – T. Jones** The Council received a presentation from Tom Jones of West Devon Borough Council. He outlined the strategy that WDBC are forming towards improving the position that towns are facing with regard to loss of trade due to the changes in footfall etc. This strategy is still evolving and no decision has yet been taken as to the best policies to adopt. Councillors raised a number of matters, including public transport, funding for Princetown Skatepark, and the potential closure of HMP Dartmoor.

Action. The Council agreed that it was interested in being involved in this project going forward. The Council's strategy would be drawn up as further meetings happened and would be an ongoing process.

5. **Princetown 4X4 Fire Appliance.** - Cllr Geen reported on progress in this matter. It was indicated that the Ombudsman did not consider the Council's complaint to be a valid one given that the complaint was given by a representative of the community rather than a member of the community.

Action: In the absence of further clarification of the situation or an indication of how the Council could progress its complaint further, it was decided to move on from this matter.

26th February 2020

Signature of Chair



6. **Drainage problem on Plymouth Hill.** Cllr Worth reported that the relevant authority (South West Water) were willing to carry out the work to resolve this problem but did not have a working digger to carry out the work. The Council discussed whether to pay for the hire of a digger to carry out these repairs.

Action: The Council resolved that it would wait for South West Water to carry out the work.

7. **Donations from DFPC** Shelia Manning has asked whether DFPC will be making its usual donation to Around and About this year. So far we have made no donations but have budgeted for the following:

Moorland Parish Link £75

Around and About £75

Citizens Advice Bureau £60 (briefly discussed in September)

Tavistock ring and ride bus £60.

The Council needs to decide whether to make any or all of the above donations.

Action: The Council agreed to continue making donations at the current level.

8. **Community Center hedge trimming** The Council has raised a concern over the upkeep of the fence adjacent to the playpark. The Council to receive any new information that may be available and decide upon the course of action it wishes to take in the future.

Action: Cllr Geen to approach the Duchy of Cornwall to check to see who's responsibility the upkeep of the hedge is.

9. **War Memorial wreath protocol.** Concerns have been raised over the handling of the wreaths left at Princetown War Memorial. The Council to draw up a formal protocol for the retention and disposal of wreaths. The Council to draw up a formal protocol for the retention and disposal of wreaths.

Action: The Council resolved that wreaths should not be removed from the memorial unless they had deteriorated to the point of no longer being legible. The wreaths will be checked after 2 months and monthly thereafter, and disposed of when they reach that state. Cllr Stones agreed to carry out the checking.

10. **Council representation on Youth Club board.** With the resignation of Cllr Bishop there is now a vacancy for another member of the Council to fill on the Board of the Youth Club. The Council to approve a replacement appointee.

Action. Cllr Druett has volunteered to carry out this duty and the Council approved his appointment.

11. **Station Cottages road problem.** A letter has been received from a resident of Station Cottages indicating that the changes made to the Dartmoor National Park Authority car park entrance have worsened the situation of the road. Cllr Geen to give a report. Further correspondence has been received from the resident pointing out concerns with road markings and signage.

Action. A ground meeting was agreed to take place between the resident, Andrew Watson of DNPA, and Cllrs Renders and Worth.

12. **Planning.** The Council has received a Planning Application 0033/20 for a Shepherds Hut at Yellowmeade Farm, Foggintor. Cllrs Druett and Greatrex have carried out a site visit. The Council to decide upon this Application, Cllr Worth to report the decision to DNPA.

Action. The Council voted to support this application.

FIRST PUBLIC SESSION.

A parishioner reported that the tarpaulin roof has been stripped from the roof of the old Masonic Hall and that fragments of it are blowing all over the village. Representation will be made to the DOC to ask for the roof covering to be picked up.

Concerns were raised as to the safety of the new distillery site with regard to the public having access to the site. This will also be passed to the DOC.

It was agreed that further discussions of the proposal by Mr. Jones would be discussed at the April meeting.

A report was received that there was another drainage problem in Tor Royal Lane. Due to budget restraints it is unlikely that the Council will be able to help alleviate this until next year.

13. **Financial Planning.** Cllr Tigwell supplied the following report:

From Financial Briefing Notes to Councillors – February 2020

Cheques to be signed this month:

Ref	Chq No	Date	Payee & Details	Amount
1302	1556	25/02/20	David Cole (Lengthsman's Pay)	£ 1,315.25
1303	1557	25/02/20	Steve Cox (Clerk's Pay)	£ 230.63
1304	1558	25/02/20	Harry Hooper-Noulton (Litter picker fee)	£ 66.73
1305	1559	25/02/20	Nigel Tigwell - allowances	£ 18.00
1306	1560	25/02/20	David Worth- allowances	£ 18.00
1307	1561	25/02/20	Alison Geen - allowances	£ 7.50
			Donations as agreed at the meeting	See Agenda item 7.

NB. An additional cheque was signed to replace a cheque that was incorrectly dated from January. An additional cheque was signed for the DOC for the play area rent. Other cheques were signed as per the donations agreed as per. Item 7.

Other Movements In-Month:

- Income from sale of Mountfield ride-on mower £500.
- Reduced forecast of outturn for Parish Clerk's pay as Steve has dropped to the half-pay rate for sick pay.
- Increase forecast of outturn for Parish Lengthsman to reflect ditching work (estimate only as timesheets have not yet been received).

It has been reported that WDBC will scrap the Council Tax Support Grant despite opposition during the consultation. This confirms we will be on the 'austerity' budget next year.

The budget for next year will also depend on the age and hence minimum wage of the replacement litter picker. The new litter picker has been selected, his age of 14 leads to an outlay in wages of £39.73, rounded up to £40 a month. His start day is the 1st of March. Equipment from the previous picker to be returned to Cllr Renders.

Other Liabilities:

This remains as briefed last month:

- a. The strimmer will need servicing and a new head fitted – cost to be determined.
- b. Election costs – no change from last month – from reserves.
- c. New website – no change from last month – from reserves.
- d. Possible replacement printer - no change from last month – from reserves.
- e. Trees surgeon inspection of Postbridge Cemetery – estimate £175 (in forecast).

A report has been received that the Clerk is recovered to the extent that he can resume his duties on a graduated basis. Discussions to place with reference to the Clerk taking back over the Council's finances.

14. Project Progress Reports. With regard to CCTV Cllr Manning asked for volunteers to attend a meeting with Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service with regard to a potential rented solution. No progress has been made with regards to the skatepark. Cllr Manning also gave a report on Speedwatch activities.

15. Committees. Sub-Groups & Special Interests. Nil

16. Reports from other meetings. Nil

17. Other matters requiring decisions.

a. DFPC had been mentioned in a newspaper article with reference to making a complaint re proposed new house building at Woolwell. It was agreed that from a traffic point of view that the proposed development was unwelcome.

Action: The Council to send a letter noting the Council's objection to this development.

b. **Grass cutting.** DNPA are putting a number of sites out to tender including areas within and outside the village.

Action: It was agreed to tender at cost price for the DNPA areas in the village.

Action. It was also agreed to extend this tender for the area in Postbridge.

c. Parishscapes Grant Fund:

The Council was unprepared in January for the late offer of grant funding with a short timescale for application submissions because it did not have any costed minor projects it could pull off the shelf. The Council needs to develop two or three such projects, based on the Parishscapes criteria such that it can take advantage of any similar opportunities in the future. Options the Council may wish to consider are:

- a. Bench seats and a 'chat bench' in Princetown village centre.
- b. The same but on a smaller scale at Postbridge.
- c. A chat bench in the Play Area (new bench or new sign on existing).
- d. Footpath restoration work – eg from Community Centre to Devonport Leat.
- e. Better footpath signposting before Station Cottages.
- f. Provision of seating in the bus shelters.
- g. Princetown/Parish Christmas lights.
- h. Any other good idea.

Action. Due to lack of time it was agreed to take this list of projects forward.

18. Urgent Decisions Since Last Meeting. None

19. Exchange of Information.

A funeral took place on the 24th of February at Postbridge. The Council thanked Cllr Greatrex, the Clerk and his son, and some volunteers from Postbridge for tidying the yard in preparation.

The Council's website developers wish to have a meeting with Councillors. Cllrs Tigwell and Worth will attend.

The Council has had a letter confirming that it may now co-opt a replacement for Cllr Bishop.

A ditch is reported to be blocked near the East Dart Hotel and one near Dart Cottage, Postbridge. This will be reported to Devon Highways.

SECOND PUBLIC SESSION

A query was raised if the Parish Lengthsman could be hired out for private use for grasscutting? This matter would be considered by the Council going forward.

19. Date of the next Meeting. 24th March at Postbridge Village Hall