

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Mr S J Cox,

Middle Woodley, Sydenham Damerel, Tavistock, PL19 8QU

Telephone: 018217292 258549, 07775 561855

Email: clerk@dartmoorforestpc.net

Website: www.dartmoorforestpc.net

28 August 2019

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 27 August 2019 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. Ian Bishop
	* Chair, **Vice-Chair	

10 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies.** Cllr Wendy Watson and the Clerk. In the Clerk's absence, Cllr Worth took the minutes.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Worth declared an interest in item 17. The person providing the quotation for repair of the Parish notice board being a distant relative.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** The minutes of the last meeting were signed as being a true record.
4. **Bellever Forest Camping and Public Toilet situation.** This matter was drawn to the attention of the Council by Mr. Chetan and other members of the public living in the Postbridge area. The Council's attention was drawn to the amount of litter including in particular human waste accumulating at this site.

a.) An email from Tim Powles of Forestry England was read out to the Council. In his communication he stated that the toilets at Bellever are now open seven days a week, that the Cleaner employed by Forestry England at the site had been recently verbally abused, and that there were a large number of campers on the Duchy of Cornwall land in this area. He added that there was an increasing amount of refuse at this site, some of which was being carried in by longer term campers. Forestry England are looking into locking the car park at night and several options to facilitate this are being investigated.

b.) Maria, the cleaner employed by Forestry England, confirmed that she had been verbally abused for 'not opening the toilet earlier'.

c.) Serina Rouse, Dartmoor National Park Ranger, spoke as to the position on the ground encountered by DNP staff. She explained that the situation has become a 'free for all' one. These sort of problems have been escalating all over the moor since a change to the DNP by-laws in 1985. There has been a general increase in anti-social behaviour and reduction in respect of DNP authority. The Rangers were pressing to get the bye-laws

27 August 2019

Signature of Chair



changed in an effort to ameliorate the situation at Bellever and elsewhere. It was felt that pressure needed to be applied to DNP upper management to effect the changes. Changing the bye-laws is a slow process and the legal wording of them has to be quite specific. More information boards at the site may effect an improvement. The page on the DNP website explaining where wild camping is allowed was viewed as being extremely unhelpful by DNP staff and they were hoping to get it removed. In view of the increasing number of visitors expected on Dartmoor and the policy of reducing car park sizes it was likely that this sort of situation would be repeated elsewhere.

Cllr Stones asked if there could be a joint meeting of the relevant organisations to help resolve the situation.

Cllr Tigwell suggested a three stage letter be written to the DNP Authority asking for, the map page to be removed from the website, asking for the status of Bellever to be changed with regard to the relevant bye-law, and that the bye-law be re-written to cover situations like this.

Cllr Renders agreed that more signage may help.

Mr. Chetan asked if the car park could be locked and unlocked by a resident.

Action. Dartmoor Forest Parish Council to write to the head of DNPA to ask if the changes suggested by Cllr Tigwell could be effected. Cllr Tigwell also offered to write to West Devon Borough Council concerning a risk to public health. Cllr Geen to write the letter to the DNPA Chief Executive. This item to be carried over to the next meeting.

5. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Consultation. The Council discussed the consultation and the proposed reduction in coverage available. It was noted that the online consultation process was an extremely confusing and time consuming process. Cllr Bishop pointed out that it would take several hours to complete the whole questionnaire.

Action: Cllr Geen to draft a letter in response to the consultation with the intent of relaying to the fire authority the Council's opposition to the plan, in particular the planned proposal to close Ashburton Fire Station.

6. Parish Council Meeting Night. Cllr Stones reported that the Neighbourhood Watch meeting had been moved to Monday night and would therefore no longer be in conflict with DFPC meetings. No communication has been received from Cllr Sanders. It was agreed that there would be no further discussion on this matter.

7. Princetown CCTV Project. A detailed report into progress in this matter was provided by Cllr Manning. Further quotations were being sought from other suppliers to establish a better understanding of the financial commitment that DFPC will be undertaking. Cllr Renders will in the immediate future be showing a potential new supplier around the site.

Cllr Tigwell asked if there was a recommended specification for such CCTV systems. It was noted that a suitable specification had been provided to DFPC in the recommendations for such a system provided by the Devon and Cornwall Police Commissioners Office.

Action: Moved forward to the next meeting. Awaiting specification and quotation from new potential contractor.

8. Appearance and tidiness of Princetown. The Council discussed this matter in response to representations made at the July meeting by Princetown residents and in the light of an invitation to meet with representatives of West Devon Borough Council to discuss a plan for improvements to the fabric of the village. Cllr Renders has had a meeting with Jo Rumble from DNPA and discussions are ongoing with that body. It was agreed to meet with Tom Jones of WDBC with respect to village rejuvenation. There was an appetite to encourage by example in respect to the tidiness of the village. Devon County Council was identified as the body who had responsibilities for street weeding.

It was suggested by Cllr Worth that a similar model be adopted to the Council's Snow Warden scheme for managing volunteers on a 'Weed Patrol'.

Action. Cllrs Bishop and Druett agreed to take some of these ideas forward.

LiveWest were reported to be carrying out refurbishments to some of the houses in Hessary Terrace.

Action. Cllr Stones to investigate extent and timescale.

9. Royal Court Residence application. Cllr Stones read out a submission from a parishioner who was applying for residence in Royal Court. The Council was supportive of the applicant. There some degree of uncertainty as to the current criteria for a successful application to become a resident in the facility and as to whether the original criteria were still being applied.

Action. DFPC to write to LiveWest to ask them to clarify what their current application rules were.

10. Former Princetown Pumping Station. The state of repair of this building was raised at the July meeting. Cllr Tigwell reported that since that meeting, the owners had secured and repaired the building.

Action. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.

11. Former Prison Officers Club building. The state of repair of this building has been raised many times in the past by both the Council and concerned residents. The most recent reply to concerns over the situation from the Duchy of Cornwall was read out. The DOC agent, Tom Stratton, reported that: A recent inspection had revealed deficiencies in the protection of the public from loose roofs slates and this was to be rectified as soon as possible. A planning application would be submitted for the conversion of this derelict building into housing would be submitted in late September or October. The DOC hoped that the Council would agree that its conversion to a residential one would be a significant improvement.

12. Planning. There were no Planning Applications for the Council to consider at this meeting.

FIRST PUBLIC SESSION

A number of comments were made by members of the public on a number of matters. A parishioner expressed their support for the application by the Parishioner who wished to move into Royal Court. The same Parishioner also indicated that he would be keen to participate in efforts towards improving the appearance of the village.

Another member of the public raised a number of points: That he was concerned over the appearance of a 'No Right Of Way' sign on the road approaching Tor Royal Farm.

Action. DFPC to investigate the situation.

The same Parishioner expressed surprise and dismay that the wall adjacent to HMP Dartmoor's water reservoir had not been repaired. The Chair sympathised and explained that DFPC is applying pressure wherever it can to resolve the situation. The lack of a finger post pointing towards Princetown at Rundlestone corner was raised and it was pointed out that such road signage repair requests may be made by any member of the public via the DCC website. Surprise and concern was also raised at the expected timescale and disruption caused by the repairs to the road between Two Bridges and Dartmeet.

13. Financial Management. In the Clerk's absence there was no statement of accounts. Cheques were signed as per the following:

Ref	Chq No	Date	Payee & Details	Amount
1251	1511	27/08/19	Steve Cox (Clerk's Pay)	£ 406.15
1252	1512	27/08/19	David Cole (Lengthsman's Pay)	£ 559.60
1253	1513	27/08/19	Harry Hooper-Noulton (Litter picker fee)	£ 66.73

14. Project Progress Reports

A statement was read by Cllr Manning concerning the number of accidents and injuries on Dartmoor's roads, and noted that the number of people injured on them was much higher than in Devon as a whole. Also an update as given on Speedwatch actions

a. Princetown Skate Park.

Cllr Manning confirmed that the DOC have agreed that the area of land will be cleared of trees some time shortly and that he will continue to apply pressure so that this takes place. He also noted that apart from securing the funding required there are no remaining hurdles.

Cllr Stones raised the matter of the extra hours that the Clerk had indicated that he would be prepared to undertake to deal with the CCTV Project. It was explained that this matter would be discussed during the closed session, Item 21.

15. Committees, Sub-Groups & Special Interests: No reports received.

16. Reports from Other Meetings: No reports received.

17. Other issues requiring decisions.

Princetown Parish Notice Board – The council agreed to proceed with the quotation to repair the board as provided by Tor Royal Joinery.

Action. Cllr Worth to progress.

Merchant Navy Day. Council agree to continue to mark this day.

Action. Cllr Stones to visit DNP Visitor Centre and ask for the flag to be flown.

18. Urgent decision since last meeting. None.

19. Exchange of Information. Limited to the exchange of information and items for next meeting:

a. **Corporate Governance.** Meeting of the Council group to discuss this matter moved to September.

b. **Local Plan Consultation.** Minuted for the Council to look at and comment upon in the September meeting.

c. **Community Energy & Climate Change.** Deferred until DFPC October meeting.

d. **Dogs being exercised in Princetown Chuchyard.** There is noted to be an increase in dog fouling in the Churchyard.

e. **Lack of Police presence in the village.** Requested to be added to next months Agenda.

f. **Anti Social behaviour in the village Playpark.** Requested to be added to next months Agenda.

g. **Stonycliffe Place.** Due to ongoing lack of progress, the Council has been informed that legal letters have been sent by some residents.

h. **Station Cottages.** Cllr Renders has received a letter from residents of Station Road concerning the condition of the road leading to these properties. To be added to next months Agenda.

i. **Princetown School Head.** Cllr Stones asked if this person had been invited to a future meeting of DFPC.

j. **Princetown Combined Church.** Cllr Stones asked if DFPC was aware of when and if this church is to reopen as there is currently nowhere in the village to hold a funeral.

SECOND PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public suggested that it might be beneficial to seek clarification of the specification of the CCTV system to be purchased. Could the Council ask other councils for their experience of the equipment as installed.

20. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council is 1930 Tuesday 24th September 2019 at Princetown Community Centre.

21. Closed Session. Employment matters.

The Chair closed the meeting at 22:00