



# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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11 December 2018

## Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 22 November 2018 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:</b> Cllr. Alison Geen	<b>Princetown Ward:</b> Cllr. David Worth Cllr. Justine Colton Cllr. Mark Renders	Cllr. Gregg Manning*  Cllr. Wendy Stones
<b>Postbridge Ward:</b> Cllr. Julian Greatrex		
		<i>* Chair, **Vice-Chair</i>

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Gregg Manning.

There were 8 members of the public present.

Abbreviations used: **DFPC**: Dartmoor Forest Parish Council, **DNPA**: Dartmoor National Park Authority, **WDBC**: West Devon Borough Council, **DCC**: Devon County Council.

- 1. Apologies Received** Cllr. Suzanne Davies\*\* (work commitment), Cllr. Paul Turnbull (fire service), Cllr. Wendy Watson (work commitment).
- 2. Declarations of Interest** No further declarations of interest.
- 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 25 October 2018** the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.
- 4. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service** Representatives of the service attended the meeting including Group Commander Dale Durante, Group Manager Mike Porter and Risk Manager Paul Hawke to update council on Rapid Intervention Vehicle (RIV), and in particular to respond to council's concerns about reliability, lack of long ladder and 4 x 4 capability. The officers advised the council that a longer ladder had been installed, further comprehensive testing of the vehicle had been undertaken and 4 x 4 capability was being investigated for the whole of the Devon & Somerset area. Concern was raised about access on some of the narrow bridges in the parish. Officer Paul Hawke asked councillors and members of the public to contact him directly to ensure that the service was aware of these locations. It was also noted that Princetown fire station is recruiting retained firefighters and help with recruitment would be welcome. The RIV was parked outside and councillors and public were encouraged to view it and see its capabilities. The Chair thanked the officers attending and explaining the position of the fire service.
- 5. Public toilets costs – Princetown** West Devon Borough Council have confirmed the decision that they are asking parish councils to assume responsibility for the public toilets in their area, including assuming responsibility for the freehold or leasehold or to make a contribution towards the running costs of 75% in the next financial years, increasing over the following 3 years to 100%. In addition, WDBC have discussed this with DNPA and they have confirmed they will not be putting any further funds into public toilets.

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Signature of Chair



The Clerk presented an estimate of the potential for the parish council to run the toilets. This increased the precept by almost £13K and was an overall cost to the parish of approximately £16.5K. However, this was an estimate and further analysis was required of the potential costs and risks. WDBC had requested a decision by 14<sup>th</sup> December, however Cathy Aubertin, the lead officer for WDBC present at that meeting, confirmed that a decision could be provided after the next meeting of the council on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018. It was therefore resolved to defer the decision to the next meeting to enable a fuller analysis of the potential in-house costs to be completed and shared to the council.

- 6. Princetown Fair** Cllr. Colton provided an update on the Summer Fair, held in August. It had been difficult to get support and volunteers from the village to help run the show and therefore much of the work had fallen to Cllrs Colton and Davies. Approximately £350 had been raised which was to be donated to the skate park fund.
- 7. Update on Anti-social driving initiative:**
- John Ward, WDBC anti-social behaviour officer, confirmed the draft letter, that will be sent to residents on Community Protection Notices, was correct and appropriate. Council agreed that letter should be printed and hand delivered to residents in Princetown and made available in the Post Office in Postbridge for residents to collect. Clerk to organise printing as soon as practical.
  - Cllr. Renders met with Matt Austin at Fullstop Fire and Security who undertake CCTV work for the police at 10am on 8<sup>th</sup> November to discuss feasibility. Mr Austin preparing a quotation. Full review of benefits and risks of CCTV to be on the agenda for a future council meeting.
- 8. Play Area Inspection:** Lengthsman expected to complete the small number of repairs within the next 2-3 weeks. Memorial stone has also been knocked over and will be put back.
- 9. Provision of Local Housing in Princetown** Alex Rehaag, West Devon Borough Council, has proposed that drop in session is organised in Princetown after Christmas for residents to find out more about the proposal. Council resolved to support this proposal.
- 10. Dog Waste Bin – Station Road** Clerk has discussed with the owner of Knight Excavation Services; the issue of the damaged bin and he is looking into the incident.

**11. Planning**

- Following application(s) were determined this month:

Ref.	Description	Address	Received	Reply Due	Meeting Targeted	DFPC View
0602/18	4 Forestry Houses, Postbridge	Retrospective installation of Airband receiver (comprising 3 radios) on chimney	08/11/2018	26/11/2018	22-Nov	Application withdrawn. No decision required.
0607/18	land opposite Fire Station, Princetown	Erection of switchgear building	08/11/2018	27/11/2018	22-Nov	SUPPORT.

- Dartmoor Local Plan Parish Council Workshop – 5<sup>th</sup> December. Cllrs Geen and Watson to attend on behalf of the council.

**FIRST PUBLIC SESSION** No issues raised.

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Signature of Chair



## 12. Financial Management

- a. Cheques authorised this month were:

Ref	Chq No	Date	Payee & Details	Amount
1189	1459	22/11/18	Steve Cox (Clerk's Pay)	£ 405.95
1190	1460	22/11/18	David Cole (Lengthsman's Pay)	£ 559.60
1191	1461	22/11/18	Harry Hooper-Noulton (Litter-picking)	£ 63.96
1192	1462	22/11/18	Far Post Design (50% of phone box project)	£ 1,497.60
1193	1463	22/11/18	Steve Cox expenses - garden waste/admin/postage	£ 363.02

- b. Monthly Report of Accounts was considered and accepted.

## 13. Project progress reports

- a. **Moorland Community Speed Watch** Cllr. Manning provided the following report: On the morning of the 21st November members of the Dartmoor Forest Speedwatch Group met up with a large contingent of the police as well as Revenue and Excise. The operation was called Aegis which in Greek means Shield or Protection. We met in the two laybys at Peek Hill at 07.30 for a briefing and the operation started at 08.00. Although the forecast was for snow we were lucky as the worst we had was a bit of sleet for a short while. It was bitterly cold but this is Dartmoor in the winter after all. The operation lasted six hours and during that time we were passed by 700 vehicles. Considering the time of year, on a Wednesday, on a B road we felt that was quite a high number. It was apparent that cars were flashing headlights to warn other drivers but we still dealt with quite a number of offenders. The very presence had made everyone drive a bit slower so this in itself was a success. There were a number of offences noted such as defective lights, speeding, no insurance, red diesel offences. I shall get the complete breakdown in a couple of days. During the day I was supported by ten of my volunteers on a rota basis and I think we all learnt quite a bit from the day. At the end of the day at the de-brief the police thanked us for our support and said the day had been very valuable to them. an update on Speedwatch's activities, notably whether Speedwatch was having an impact in reducing animal death and injury, compared to areas elsewhere on Dartmoor.
- b. **Princetown Phone Box Project & There But Not There** Feedback on both initiatives had been very positive. It was also agreed that the council should write to Jan Hayes, at the Prince of Wales public house, to thank him for producing the 'tommy' silhouettes for Remembrance Day.

## 14. Committees, Sub-Groups & Special Interests:

- a. **Postbridge Cemetery:** Clerk has asked Dart Forest Trees and Paul Greenhill – Greenhill Tree Services to provide costs for a tree survey and plan. Have discussed tree surgery for St Michaels, Princetown with Rev. Shutt and he has proposed that we ask for costs for both cemeteries together and split the cost. Dart Forest have re-

quoted for both cemeteries. They have quoted £595 for both compared to £375 only for Postbridge. Greenhill have quoted £420 for both cemeteries. Clerk to check that Greenhill survey is comparable to Dart Forest and if it was resolved to commission them to complete the work.

- b. **Emergency Planning:** Cllr. Worth reported: The most recent three-month weather forecast was issued by the Met Office on the 25th of October. The forecast predicted that for the months of November, December, and January there was a very small probability that temperatures would be higher than average. The closeness of the two figures (20% compared to 25%) for the lower or higher temperatures indicates that we could expect either outcome, and there is no sign of a prolonged and serious winter at this point. There is a small hint that temperatures are likely to drop to a lower than normal range at the end of January, but this would not be considered an out of the ordinary event for Dartmoor!

Rainfall is predicted to be higher than normal by a considerable degree, which ties in with an expected predominance of Westerly airflow patterns. The first part of November, however, has not really borne this forecast out, with only a few major rain events.

This brings us neatly to the rainfall report from the Environment Agency. According to their figures, the month of October was another one with below average rainfall. Of the last six months, only August had an above average rainfall, and that month only just scraped into that category. The regions reservoirs are now at 50% of their total capacity, that is nearly 30% down on the same time last year. As usual, I would stress that this figure is much better than the position in 1995, but it bears watching throughout the winter period where the reservoir levels should be returning to normal.

In the immediate future, the 30 day weather forecast shows no indication that there will be any need to call on our snow clearance volunteers, as a relatively benign period of weather seems to be indicated.

- c. **Princetown Primary School** Cllr. Stones has provided the following update:
- Meeting cancelled for the 18th Nov. rescheduled for 26th Nov.
  - Dates for Diary:
    - Nov.30th Chocolate Bingo.
    - Dec11th Christmas Play afternoon performance.
    - Dec13th. Christmas Play evening performance.
    - Dec.18th Christingle Service at Princetown Methodist Church 10.00am.
    - Dec.21st. Last day of school. Return Jan.8th.
- d. **Princetown Youth Club** No report.
- New Youth Leader, Ross Wheeler from Princetown.
  - Youth Helper, Claire Harris from Cornwall.
  - Police were called to Club on Nov. 8th due to abusive and threatening behaviour. Three youths were escorted home by police.

- e. **Fire & Rescue Service:** see Item 4.

**16. Reports from other meetings:** None.

**17. Other Issues Requiring Decisions:** None

**18. Urgent decisions since last meeting:** None

**19. Exchange of Information** Limited to the exchange of information & items for next meeting. **Issues for the Clerk to investigate need to be raised directly to the Clerk prior to the meeting.**

- a) Clerk has written to Tom Lee, Devon Highways for an update on the prison wall, Princetown and the wooden fencing from Merrivale. Mr Lee is trying to discuss with prison and find a date for the Merrivale fencing.
- b) Clerk has contacted Alan Jones about transferring ownership of dartmoorforectpc.net domain and has not received any response. Will need to consider migrating website and email address. Request assistance of Cllr. Worth.
- c) Clerk has been appointed Clerk of Lamerton Parish Council (home parish and where children go to school). Smaller council that meets every two months. Clerk to manage alongside existing responsibilities and monitor workload.
- d) Christmas Tree due to be delivered and lights installed early in December. Star to be added to the top of tree. Cllr. Worth to organise.
- e) Superlink meeting of all West Devon parishes – Cllr. Worth to attend.
- f) Duchy of Cornwall – proposed increase of £10 for village green. Council resolved to write to Duchy to object to increase.

**SECOND PUBLIC SESSION.** No Issues raised

**20.** The next meeting of the Parish Council is **19.30 on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at Princetown Community Centre.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 21.22.