

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

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 25th August 2020 via Zoom meeting

Present:

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward: Cllr. Alison Geen* | Princetown Ward: Cllr. David Worth** | Cllr. Nigel Tigwell |
| Postbridge Ward: | Cllr Wendy Stones | Cllr Gregg Manning |
| * Chair, **Vice-Chair | | |

No members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies.** Cllrs Watson, Greatrex, Stones, the Clerk. In the Clerk's absence, Cllr Worth took the minutes.

2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr. Geen expressed a possible interest in the extension to St. Raphael's, Hexworthy carpark.

3. **Acceptance of Minutes.** Updated minutes had been sent out had not been reviewed by all Councillors and it was agreed that these would be signed at the next meeting.

4. **Parking Problems at Two Bridges, other sites and associated trespass issues.** Cones have now been placed at Two Bridges and this has improved the immediate situation in this area. Dartmoor National Park Authority and the Duchy of Cornwall are investigating further steps. The placement of boulders to deter parking is still the Council's preferred solution and a Clearway is being investigated by the DNPA.

Action: This matter is to be pursued further over the course of the next month.

4. **Wild camping issues at Bellever and other sites.** DNPA have taken action and the situation is improving. The Dartmoor Commoners have ratified the banning of wild camping at Bellever and Riddon.

Action: The situation will be monitored into the future to confirm that the measures taken continue to be effective.

6. **Repair of Princetown Playpark Zip Wire.** Cllr Tigwell supplied details of a replacement from the original equipment supplier (Sutcliffes). In the absence of any other supplier being willing to fulfil the order, the Council is in a position whereby it must purchase from



Sutcliffes. Cllr. Stones reported that the stile into the playpark is rotted and in a dangerous condition.

Action: The Council voted to purchase the replacement line from Sutcliffes, this money to drawn from the Council's reserves. It was agreed that the Lengthsman would take down the stile and instigate replacement.

7. Bushes and trees beside the road between Rundlestone Corner and HMP Dartmoor Museum. Cllr Stones reported that there were a number of trees and bushes that were overhanging the roadside that were forcing cyclists to have to ride out further into the road.

Action. Cllr Stones has reported this matter to the Duchy of Cornwall office, and it was also suggested that Cllr. Stones should send a follow-up email as a reminder.

8. New DFPC website. The builders of the new website have been in touch to request an update as to when the new site should go live. Contributions have been made by Councillors towards completing the new site. Cllr. Manning is continuing to act as co-ordinator but has been experiencing internet connectivity issues.

Action. Cllr Tigwell to forward outstanding issues to the web site builders. Mid-September is the desired date for the site to go live.

9. Replacement Xmas tree lights for Princetown. Cllr Worth has identified a new supplier of a replacement lights with a potential cost in the £200 region.

Actions. Cllr Worth to follow up and provide more details to Cllr Tigwell.

10. St. Raphael's Hexworthy, Car Park extension. The Wardens of St. Raphael's are seeking to expand the car park and are seeking pre-application assistance from the Council. Free pre-planning advice is only available to the owners of the property from DNPA. The proposal is for 7 extra cars and there is at least one local resident that has voiced an objection.

Action. Cllr Geen to pass on an explanation of the situation to the Church Wardens. The Council will be in a position to offer some financial support towards planning costs after the current financial year.

11. Planning. The previously noted application at Beardown Farm that the Council had not been aware of was discussed. It seems that this application was missed at the beginning of COVID lockdown. Planning Application 0358/20 Yellowmead Farm – Cllr Greatrex has performed a site visit. The siting of this planned shed was discussed at length and it was the Council's opinion that the building of the shed was unsuitable on this site. A query was also raised over the number of sheep planned to be housed in the unit. It was noted that there were no plans of the actual building included with the Planning Application.

Action. The Council voted to object to this application on the grounds of siting and loss of green space. Cllr Worth to inform DNPA of the Council's decision.

FIRST PUBLIC SESSION

**12. Financial management. Payments to be approved; Bank reconciliation; FOO
Financial Briefing Notes to Councillors – August 2020**

Cheques to be signed this month:

| Ref | ChqNo | Date | Payee & Details | Amount |
|------|-------|----------|---|----------|
| 1351 | 1600 | 24/08/20 | Josh Cook - Litter Picker fee (plus 1/4 period in June) | £ 50.00 |
| 1352 | 1601 | 24/08/20 | Pay (sick pay at half rate - non-contractual) | £ 208.43 |
| 1353 | 1602 | 24/08/20 | David Cole - Pay & Expenses | £ 606.00 |

The Bank Reconciliations for August is complete and correct.

Other Movements In-Month:

Invoice issued to Princetown Football Club for field grass cutting - £41.95.

Other Liabilities:

- a. Play Area repairs and maintenance – increased by zip-wire deterioration (see below).
- b. New website – no change from last month – from reserves.
- c. Princetown notice board – quote £212 plus £18ph for any additional work needed.
- d. Bellever notice board – labour cost estimate £26.

Play Area Cableway Repairs: Sutcliffe Play advise that the cable is bespoke and the replacement has to be custom manufactured by Kaiser & Khume in Germany. Precise measurements are required on ordering. Sutcliffe's sales manager can take the measurements when he is next in the area at no extra cost. They have given a second quote to include installation (see below). I have told them the council considers the price too high, but they insist they have already quoted a discounted price and no further reduction is possible.

Supply only:

- 1x Cableway Cable
- 1x Stopper (Starter)
- 1x Stopper (End)
- 1x Assembly Kit
- £ 1,204.00

Delivery £ 120.00

Total Cost £ 1,324.00 ex VAT

Supply and Install:

- 1x Cableway Cable
- 1x Stopper (Starter)

1x Stopper (End)
1x Assembly Kit
£ 1,204.00
Delivery £ 120.00
Installation of new cable £ 520.00
Total Cost £ 1,844.00 ex VAT

If we decide to proceed, this cost could be met by:

CCTV maintenance budget up to £ 391
Underspend on pay up to £1144
General Reserves (£10,756) Balance

St Raphael's Carpark Extension: DNPA advise that pre-application advice for St Raphael's carpark extension will cost £85 unless the land is transferred into DFPC ownership in which case it would be free. A planning application by DFPC will cost £117, which is a 50% discount.

Parishscapes Grant Fund and Other Similar Funds: The Council still has to agree on which minor projects to develop in order to be ready to apply for short notice grant opportunities. Ideas were circulated in February.

Report of Accounts:

Items to note are:

Pay.

Clerk: underspend of £1040.

Litter picker: underspend of £104.

Grass Cutting. An amended timesheet for June/July shows an additional 9 hours worked, totalling 146.5 hours. The timesheet for July/August shows 52 hours worked (plus Football Field – self financing). In total we have expended 70% of the annual budget so far. If we can constrain grass cutting over the next two months to the same level as this month, we will come in on budget with a 25 hour contingency for urgent ditching work over autumn/winter. We have previously agreed to reduce grass cutting in the churchyard to remain in budget. David Cole has indicated that he would be willing to trim around the graves at his own expense as a service to the village. This is a generous offer but as he is our employee, and he will be using our equipment, and we have formerly paid him to do this, This raises the question of allowing the Lengthsman to carry out unpaid work which the Council needs to discuss.

Action. The Council agreed that it would take up David Cole's offer with thanks. Cllr Manning will approach the new Vicar in charge of St. Michael's to inquire concerning a donation towards the cost of maintaining the graveyard.

Underspend.

The underspend on pay could be used to subsidise the cost of Play Area repairs.

Alternatively, it could cover any further essential grass cutting or ditching, but on a one off this year only basis.

The forecast for the end of the year for other areas is broadly on track.

13. Urgent decisions since the last meeting. Cllr Stones reported that the drainage ditch between Sunnyside and Oakery Crescent overflowed during the recent rainfall event and that the ditch needed clearing out urgently as it had contributed to flooding in Two Bridges Road. A temporary clearance had been carried out but it required more attention. Cllr Stones to follow up with the Duchy of Cornwall and photograph any future occurrence.

14. Exchange of information

Cllr Geen has reported the Council's to the potential removal of the Bellever Payphone removal.

A response has been received on the Council's objection to the Dog Control Order renewal decision which will be kept on file.

Postbridge Cemetery is reported to be becoming overgrown. Cllr Watson has been tasked to investigate and report to the Council.

An email has been received that the Superlink Parish Link are organising a Zoom meeting on the 17th of September. Suggestions for items for inclusion on the Agenda are requested.

The Council has been contacted by the enforcement agent of DNPA regarding land at the back of Blackabrook Avenue, Princetown which is being fenced in by the householders of the adjacent properties. A complaint has been received on the grounds of change of use without Planning Permission. Cllrs. Stones and Manning to carry out a site meeting with the DNPA officer and report back to the next Council meeting.

Cllr Stones has received an email that the path beside the Community Center is under investigation by the Duchy of Cornwall for repair.

Cllr Worth reported that the recent flooding event has highlighted the need for a publicly open store for sandbags in the event of an emergency. This issue to be discussed at a future meeting.

15. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 22nd September at 19.30. This matter of location and method of meeting to be decided upon after consulting Government COVID advice and availability of venue bearing in mind that this meeting will include the Co-option of new Councillors.

Meeting Closed at 20:55

