



Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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06 January 2021

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 15 December 2020
Held using Zoom remote video conferencing

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward: Cllr. Alison Geen*	Princetown Ward: Cllr. David Worth**	Cllr. Nigel Tigwell
Postbridge Ward:	Cllr. Stephen King	Cllr. Wendy Stones
	Cllr. Phil Henson	Cllr. Emma Byrom
		Cllr. Gregg Manning

* Chair, **Vice-Chair

There were 5 members of the public present, including Cllr. Philip Sanders (DCC & DNPA).

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. Julian Greatrex (technical issues), Cllr. Wendy Watson (technical issues), Cllr. Mark Renders (WDBC & DNPA).
- 2. Declarations of Interest** No further interests declared.
- 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 24 November 2020** the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.
- 4. Parking & Visitor Impact Issues – Two Bridges, Wistman’s Wood & wider Dartmoor** the council were joined by Alison Kohler, Director of Conservation and Communities – Dartmoor National Park Authority. Ms Kohler explained that the summer had seen significant increases in visitors which presented a challenge across the park. To help manage the parking at Two Bridges the cones had been re-laid out, with a longer-term aim to install double yellow lines. The installation of double yellow lines was supported in principle by the council. At Wistman’s Wood it was planned to install new, clearer installation boards to advise visitors what was permissible in the area and how sensitive the environment was. Ms Kohler advised that DNPA had applied for funding for four more rangers but had been unsuccessful. Longer term, to address the increasing visitor numbers, which has been exacerbated by the COVID crisis, DNPA are investigating green transport policies and also advised that other National Parks across the country were experiencing similar issues with high numbers of visitors.
Ms Kohler reported that the Dartmoor Inn, Merrivale had removed the wooden ‘pods’ that were at the front of the pub and were going to submit a planning application for the ‘pods’ remaining at the rear.
- 5. Community Fibre Partnership** this item was deferred to a future meeting, however in the interim the Clerk would follow up with WDBC for more information.
- 6. Princetown CCTV Project** Cllr Manning updated the council that advice had been received from DNPA planning that planning permission was not required and cameras could be sited on the Visitor’s Centre. The governance and data protection documents were progressing and specifically the Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) would need to be completed before the service could go live. It was agreed that



an extraordinary meeting of the council would be called in January to approve the DPIA. It was resolved that Cllr. Manning and Cllr. Worth would act as administrators of the CCTV service when it was operational.

FIRST PUBLIC SESSION

- A member of the public, Mr Mark Willcocks, enquired why the car park in Princetown had not been locked recently at night when the weather was snowy and icy. This is had led to anti-social behaviour in the car park. Cllr. Worth advised he would investigate. Mr Willcocks offered to assist the council if an additional keyholder was required.
- Cllr. Sanders reported that the problem of mobile homes parking overnight continued and advised that photos and number plates should be provided to DNPA for follow up action.

7. **Planning** no applications pending.

8. Financial Management

a) Cheques authorised this month were:

Ref	Chq No	Date	Payee & Details	Amount
1385	1626	15/12/20	Steve Cox - Pay	£ 397.75
1386	1627	15/12/20	David Cole - Pay & Expenses	£ 528.00
1387	1628	15/12/20	Josh Cook - Litter Picker fee	£ 40.00
1388	1629	15/12/20	DALC - New Councillor Training - Phil Henson	£ 18.00
1389	1630	15/12/20	Society of Local Council Clerks	£ 112.00
1390	1631	15/12/20	HMRC PAYE	£ 145.00

- b) Monthly Report of Accounts was considered and accepted. Key consideration remains the Princetown toilets which have not yet been invoiced by WDBC.
- c) Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice Bureaux have requested a donation towards the running costs. The council resolved to donate £60.00.
- d) Grant of £1,000 received from DNPA for CCTV project. (Increase of £250 from what was reported last month.)
- e) Donation of £500 received from former Parish Clerk, Ann Inman, for the CCTV project. A formal vote of thanks was passed by the Council and the Chair will write to thank Ms Inman personally.

- f) WDBC have advised that the Precept request must be submitted no later than 29th January 2020. Therefore, the Council will need to formally approve the final budget and Precept request at its meeting on 26th January 2020.
- g) WDBC have provided the Parish Calculator Tool for 2021-22 and the proposed Precept of £17,995, as discussed in November's meeting, results in a Band D parish rate of £48.81. This is an increase of 1.83% (£0.88 per house per year) and is slightly less than the estimated 2.13% increase in the Precept (£1.03 per house per year) that was reported last month. This is due to a small increase in the tax base in the parish.
- 9. Committees, Sub-Groups & Special Interests:** Cllr. Stones reported that the Princetown Youth Club will not be able to give presents to the elderly and vulnerable this Christmas due to COVID.
- 10. Reports from other meetings:** Cllr. Manning attended the 1st meeting of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Advocacy Scheme. Nothing significant to report as scheme has just started.
- 11. Other Issues Requiring Decisions** None.
- 12. Urgent decision since last meeting** None.
- 13. Exchange of Information** Limited to the exchange of information & items for next meeting:
- a) Councillor ID cards will be produced shortly.
 - b) The Duchy of Cornwall have confirmed they the long-term loan of another garage to replace one of our current garages which is not watertight due to storm damage.

SECOND PUBLIC SESSION no issues raised.

- 14.** The next meeting of the Parish Council is **19.30 on TUESDAY 26th January 2021 via Zoom Remote Video Conferencing.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.56