

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



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Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 28th September 2020 at Princetown Community Center

Present:

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

12 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies.** Cllr Greatrex, Cllr Phillip Sanders, the Clerk. In the Clerk's absence, Cllr Worth took the minutes.

2. **Declarations of Interest.** None declared.

3. **Acceptance of Minutes.** Cllr Stones pointed out an issue with the previous month's minutes whereby it was stated that she was willing to organise the Princetown Village Jubilee celebrations when she had only agreed to participate in the planning.

4. **Dartmoor National Park Bylaw Planning Consultation.** Cllr Geen asked for volunteers to participate in an online Zoom meeting to discuss the Dartmoor Forest Parish Council's response to the Dartmoor National Park Authority's proposal to make changes to the bylaws regarding wild camping and other visitor related issues. Cllrs Geen, Manning, Tigwell, Watson, Henson agreed to take part.

Action: Councillors to agree the Council's response and present it at the next meeting of the Council for approval and forwarding to DNPA.

5. **Princetown surface water drainage issues.** The Council received a verbal report of the work that has been carried out by the Duchy of Cornwall from Cllr Byrom.

6. **Felling of the plantation adjacent to Bellever Close.** Cllr Stones stated that there had been an ongoing tree management problem for several years with this plantation and a number of dangerous and fallen trees had been reported to the DOC. Cllr Manning read

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Signature of Chair



out a letter he had received from a parishioner that the trees in the plantation were in a dangerous condition and that the parishioner was glad that the trees were to be cleared. Cllr Tigwell recalled that the DOC had agreed to take down dangerous trees as long as 10 years ago. He suggested that long term issues such as these could be recorded and noted on the Council's website. Cllr Geen read out a letter from Tom Stratton, the DOC agent in which he explained that it was the aim of the DOC to address this long term issue with a multi phase approach. Some residents of Bellever Close had been approached to gather their views over they would prefer clear felling of the whole area or for a strip of trees to be left adjoining their gardens. Any broadleaf trees found would be left in place, and any new planting would be of broadleaf only. The feedback that the DOC had received was that there was a consensus for clear felling the Sitka Spruce. Initially the harvesting would be done manually, and then once there was enough space a harvesting machine would be used. Due to the lateness of the year, only necessary safety related felling and clearance would be carried out this year with the bulk of the felling being carried out in 2022.

Various members of the public raised issues relating to this response. These included a lack of transparency regarding the ongoing progress of this scheme, the appearance of the site once the felling has taken place, the decision making process generally including the fact that there was not a plurality in favour of clear felling. Given that the plantation was such a widely noted feature it was suggested that a meeting where the whole village could give their views to the DOC would be welcomed. A member of the public also suggested that there may be an educational opportunity related to the further management of this area and there may be some grants available to provide funding. Concerns were also raised with regard to the grass cutting carried out by the DOC in the area of the garages in Bellever Close.

Action: DFPC to arrange a meeting for the DOC to put forward their plans and for them to be discussed by the wider community. Also, for the Council to raise the issue of the condition of the Garage block in Bellever Close.

7. Funding of Princetown Churchyard grass cutting. A letter has been received from the PCC of the church at Walkhampton who are responsible for the upkeep of the Churchyard of St. Michael's at Princetown. An approach has been made to them in reference to a potential donation of funds towards the upkeep of the Churchyard. They have had a meeting and there is the possibility of some funds being forthcoming. DFPC to wait to see what firm proposals are offered.

8. Charity Shop offer of donation towards Churchyard upkeep. Decision deferred until discussion with Walkhampton PPC completed.

9. Devon Association of Local Council meeting. The Clerk has requested a donation of £10 towards his attendance fee. This was agreed by the Council.

10. Climate Emergency response. The Council's response to the Declaration was agreed at the previous meeting.

Action. DFPC to request car charging points in the DNP car parks at Princetown and

Postbridge.

11. Planning. Application for extension at 4 Fern Terrace, Princetown 0482/21. Majority in favour of granting application. 1 'no view' expressed.

Action. Clerk to inform DNP of DFPC's decision.

12. Public Session. A member of the public asked what the status of the proposed planned Skate Park was. Cllr Manning explained that little progress had been made in regard to funding and site selection. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the potential site selected and further discussions will be had at the October meeting. Any final decision will be taken in consultation with the public.

13. Financial management. Payments to be approved; Bank reconciliation; FOO

Financial Briefing Notes to Councillors – September 2021

Due to the absence of the Clerk there was no briefing to be received. Due to the Council's cheque book not being available, Cllr Geen made out cheques from her personal account for wages to be paid to the Lengthsman and litter picker. Cllr Geen to be re-imbursed from DFPC funds at the earliest opportunity.

14. Committees, Subgroups and Special Interests. Cllr Stones has sent out a PTFA report.

15. Urgent decisions since the last meeting. None.

Second Public Session

16. Exchange of information.

A query was raised as to how requests are handled in relation to cutting the football field. The procedure is that all requests should go via the Clerk with Cllr Worth acting as back-up.

The wreath has been purchased for the Remembrance Day service.

A request was made for extra defibrillator signs at Postbridge, this was agreed, and for the defibrillator pads to be replaced.

A report was received of Balaclava clad figures acting aggressively in the plantation behind the school, this has been raised with the PCSO. Matter to be discussed at the next Youth Club meeting.

Cllr Henson to be added to the cheque signatory list.

An update was received from Cllr Manning regarding Speedwatch and speeding reports on Two Bridges Road. 85% of the cars passing through were found to be at or below the speed limit. A request has been placed with the Police for a Speedwatch site on Two Bridges Road. It was noted that only one vehicle's driver has received a third letter of warning indicating

that the system is working

17. Second Public Session.

The issue of nuisance parking was raised outside the Old Police Station café, this matter was been raised previously and a request for more regular visits by Civil Enforcement Officers has been made. A member of the public raised the suggested of railings being installed to discourage parking by non-disabled drivers on this section of road.

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 26th October at 19.30 at Princetown Community Centre.

Meeting Closed at 21:03
