

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Vacant

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Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 26th October 2021 at Princetown Community Centre

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	

5 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies.** None. In the Clerk's absence, Cllr Worth took the minutes.

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

3. **Acceptance of Minutes.** The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as a true record.

4. **Developments regarding the Sitka plantation adjacent to Bellever Close.** Tom Stratton, the Duchy of Cornwall agent has agreed to hold a meeting regarding this matter to which any Princetown resident may come. The timetable for the meeting has yet to be resolved with the DOC preferring a December meeting and DFPC preferring January. Initial work to make the existing plantation safe has been carried out. A member of the public reported that the tree felling had left a lot of shredded material that was causing the stream adjacent to the site to get blocked up. Also, that there was a considerable amount of other debris left in the plantation and that at least one tree had been set on fire. There was a concern that children had been playing in the area. A Brown Long-Eared Bat had been found injured in a garden near the plantation and a concern was raised over where it would be re-released if the plantation were to be felled.

Action: DFPC to continue arrangements for public meeting.

5. **Recruitment of new Parish Clerk.** The wording for the advertisement for the recruitment of the new Parish Clerk was agreed. The advert will appear in the Tavistock Times Gazette



for two weeks. Initial contact will be via Cllr Tigwell. The position will also be advertised with the Devon Association of Local Councils, via the DFPC website, and Facebook.

Action. Advertisement to be placed.

6. Recruitment of new Councillor. With the resignation of Cllr King, a new Councillor will be sought. The Chair thanked Cllr King for his efforts as a Councillor and wished him well for the future.

Action. Cllr Tigwell agreed to take the recruitment process forward. A notice will be published, and if after ten days there is no requirement for an election, the Council will commence the Co-option process.

7. Reply to Dartmoor National Park Bylaw consultation. Cllr Geen requested a change of wording with regard to the question of Landholder authority.

Action. Cllr Tigwell agreed to amend the wording and forward the response.

8. Delegation of powers to Councillors in the absence of the Clerk. In the absence of the Clerk, it was agreed to revert to the previous position of delegating functions to the relevant Councillors. Due to receiving expenses under these arrangements, Councillors Tigwell, Geen, and Worth recused themselves from voting.

Action. Councillor Manning agreed to carry on with updating the Council website. It was agreed that another Councillor should be able to update the website.

9. Creation of Employment Committee. Cllr Tigwell has suggested that in order to better handle questions of employment that a standing committee was created. This was agreed upon unanimously.

Action. Councillors Watson, Tigwell, Geen, and Worth were appointed to the Committee.

10. Council cheque signatories addition. Cllr Tigwell actioning. Cllr Henson has signed to become cheque signatory.

11. Road Safety measures including Two Bridges Road speeding actions. Cllr Manning reported that little further can be done at this time. 85% of the traffic was reported to be travelling within the speed limit. It was agreed that the situation would be revisited in 2022.

12. Princetown Parking problems update. Cllr Geen reported that the missing 'No Parking' sign for the road adjacent to the DNP car-park was being worked upon by Andrew Watson at DNPA. One of the two damaged VAS signs is to be repaired and the other will be replaced after consultation with Speedwatch. It was noted that the white lines need repainting outside the Princetown Post Office.

13. Snow Tourism progress update. None at this time.

14. Lengthsman training. Cllr Geen to find out dates. Cllr King indicated that even though he will have left the Council, if the dates are suitable he may still be able to attend on the Council's behalf.

15. Purchase of Uninterruptible Power Supply for DFPC CCTV system. Cllr Manning explained that on two occasions the CCTV system had failed due to a power outage. A UPS system could have prevented an outage. It was agreed that a budget of £200 should be put towards the purchase of a UPS system.

Action. Cllr Worth to progress.

16. St. Michael's Churchyard upkeep. Cllr Geen reported that an offer of a donation of £500 had been made by Walkhampton PCC towards the costs of upkeep for this year. It was agreed to accept this with thanks. The question of soliciting donations from the public towards the upkeep of the Churchyard was raised, and also the matter of where fees for the use of the Church are going. The offer of a donation from the Princetown Charity shop was still available. Cllr Renders agreed that donations could be made via Princetown Post Office. Cllr Tigwell suggested that a sign was erected at the Church indicating that donations could be made.

Action. Cllr Geen to arrange for a sign to be erected, and for a paying-in book to be left at Princetown Post Office.

17. Climate Change declaration further actions. No action this month.

18. Warmer Healthier Homes next steps. Kate Royston has been contacted and a start to the project in November or December is anticipated. Cllr Henson agreed to take the place of Cllr King as the Council's representative. It was agreed that initial contact with households should be via post as opposed to an open meeting.

19. Planning. None for this month. Two applications to be considered at the Council's November meeting.

20. PUBLIC SESSION.

A suggestion was made by a member of the public that collection boxes were placed in the Prison Museum and Information Center for Churchyard donations.

A voucher scheme was suggested to encourage people to donate time to keeping the village tidy. Cllr Byrom reported that the school was already running such a scheme with success.

A 'Tidy Princetown' group could be supplied with equipment via Cllr Renders. A member of the public (Mr. Gary. Easton) agreed to look into the creation of a local group. A similar initiative was started in the past and it was suggested that Mr. Easton contacted the former Councillors who had involvement with it.

The dog waste bin on Ivybridge lane was reported to be overflowing. This was to be

checked.

The street lights approaching the Community Center were noted never to be lit during the evenings. It was asked if this could be rectified? DFPC to investigate.

21. Financial management. Payments to be approved; bank reconciliation; FOO. Due to the absence of the Clerk no full report could be made. Cllr Tigwell reported that the Council's cheques had been written, the income from the Football club was being processed, and no further liabilities had been identified. There was a requirement for a new printer to be purchased for the Clerk's use, but until a new clerk has been appointed this will be deferred. The donation from Walkhampton PCC to be used towards Lengthsman's wages. The Road Safety grant application request has been written and will be forwarded by the cut off date of November 1st. The decision on DFPC's precept will be taken at the Council's December meeting. A request was made for ideas to go forward for Parishscapes project ideas. It was agreed that a discussion by Zoom meeting would happen to discuss further progress.

22. Reports from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests: Princetown Skate Park update. Cllr Manning had sent out an update email on this matter. Little progress has been made, Cllr Manning will continue to lead, Cllr Stones agreed to continue to serve on the Skate Park group, Cllrs Byrom and Henson to join. The Council's Clerk would normally be expected to co-ordinate fund raising. Cllr Tigwell suggested that it may be necessary for the Council to lower its aspirations and re-think what can be provided due to budgetary limitations. Cllr Manning replied that the skate park was the natural progression of the Play Park project and should go forward as such. Any consultation on the future direction of the project would have to wait until such time as further meetings had been carried out with the DOC.

23. Urgent decisions since the last meeting. Cllr Geen reported that since the last meeting she had received and accepted the resignation of the Clerk.

24. Exchange of information:

Website update and completion. – Not all data from old website yet migrated to new website. In hand with Cllrs Manning and Tigwell.

Surface water drainage improvements update. - Works believed to have been finished.

Damaged VAS at Leedon Tor car park. - Previously discussed.

Local businesses registering on the DFPC website. – Cllr Manning progressing, a disclaimer may be a useful addition.

Additional defibrillator signs and replacement pads for Postbridge. – Pads on order, expected this week.

A burial plot has been requested in Postbridge. Cllrs Greatrex and Tigwell to progress with

the aid of Steve Cox who was thanked for his help.

Cllr Worth enquired which was the best way for a Parishioner to resolve a water drainage issue from a pavement into a private property. Cllr Renders replied that he was able to help in cases such as that.

A concern had been raised by a member of the public re: the signs approaching Bull Park from the direction of Tor Royal stating that the road was not a public right of way. It was explained that this was indeed the case and that the preferred route to reach Bull Park on foot was via the Sunnyside bridle way.

17th December noted as the date for the Xmas Carol Service around the village Xmas tree.

A vote was carried that there should be a second closed session for the Council to discuss Employment Matters.

25. SECOND PUBLIC SESSION

Apologies read from Cllr Sanders, who also reported that Devon County Council children's services were under great pressure.

Ali Kohler's successor at DNPA to be Richard Drysdale.

A letter was read from resident, Sue Murphy concerning the Council's plans for the skatepark.

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 23rd November at 19.30 at Princetown Community Centre.

Meeting Closed at 21:25