

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council Parish



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Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 23 June 2020 via Zoom meeting

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward: Cllr. Alison Geen*	Princetown Ward: Cllr. David Worth**	Cllr. Nigel Tigwell
Postbridge Ward:	Cllr Mark Renders Cllr John Druett	Cllr Gregg Manning
	* Chair, **Vice-Chair	

One member 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.** None

3. **Parking Problems at Two Bridges.** Councillors discussed the previously circulated emails concerning this matter. It was felt that this problem is being exacerbated by Dartmoor National Park Authority policy and the current closure of the Two Bridges Hotel car park due to COVID-19 regulations. Better education of visitors in the Countryside Code was considered useful, as was better signage of permitted parking spaces. Better enforcement of existing regulations was desired. After a long discussion, the following actions were agreed:

Action: DFPC to make a presentation to the DNPA and Devon and Cornwall Police to try to encourage a more effective solution with regard to both legal parking and enforcement against illegal parking.

4. **COVID-19 Community support and recovery actions.** The volunteer scheme is still being run, but there have been no recent requests for help. Cllr. Worth expressed the viewpoint that he hoped that the current scheme's arrangements would be held in standby in case of another wave of infection in the future. Concerns have been raised by Parishioners concerning the appearance of Princetown, especially around the Information Centre. There was also a query on encouraging visitors back into the village post COVID. West Devon Borough Council's plan for business regeneration was viewed as fizzling out without much impact. Cllr Worth requested that the area around the Information Centre be weeded by DNPA. Cllr Tigwell queried the status of the Weed Warden scheme.

Action: It was agreed to put back discussion of the Weed Warden scheme until the July



meeting of DFPC. Cllr. Geen to contact A. Watson at DNPA to initiate weeding around the Information Centre.

5. Reopening of Princetown Playpark. A litter pick has been carried out and the grass has been cut in preparation for reopening. The Government has stated that Playparks may be reopened from the 4th of July 2020.

Action: Cllr. Geen to continue to monitor Devon County Council advice re the conditions of reopening. Cllr Tigwell to provide disposable gloves for the use of the litter picker.

6. West Devon Borough Council Dog Control Order. Dog fouling continues to be a nuisance across the Parish. The Council expressed limited support for the renewal of these orders.

Action. Cllr Geen to write to WDBC explaining the Council's reservations and the wish for there to be a greater level of enforcement.

7. Encouragement of greater public participation at DFPC meetings. It was generally agreed that there was a disappointing level of engagement between DFPC and the public with regard to attendance of the public at DFPC meetings. Cllr Geen now has access to the Council's Facebook page. It was agreed that there was a greater level of attendance when pressing issues of interest were under discussion. Cllr Manning suggested more timely advertising of the Council's meetings via social media.

Action. Cllr Geen and all members of the Council to consider approaches to encourage greater public participation.

8. New DFPC website. The new website is available for preview. Any changes to the website to be passed on via Cllr Worth. The old website will remain live until 31/3/2021. The Clerk will acquire a new email address connected with the new domain.

Actions. Councillors are asked to check their own personal details on the new website. Cllr Worth agreed to become the lead Councillor for the website.

9. Co-option of new Councillor to DFPC. A replacement Councillor is still sought after the resignation of Cllr Bishop. Some Councillors are still shielding and are therefore unable to attend physical meetings, this would cause a problem with the Council's previous plan to ask potential replacement Councillors to attend an interview in person. The Council's August meeting is likely to be the first face to face meeting.

Action. Due to the holiday period in August it was agreed to put back co-option until the Council's September meeting.

10. Camping problems at Bellever. Cllr Greatrex has carried out a site visit with a Bellever resident and found the area very busy with 'wild campers'. After a long discussion, the following actions were agreed:.

Action. Cllr. Geen to contact DNPA to continue to press the Council's concerns in this area

and ask for Simon Lee of DNPA to attend a DFPC meeting.

11. Postbridge signage issue. Cllr Greatrex has investigated this issue. A parking problem was caused due to the temporary closure of the Postbridge car park whilst the Visitor Centre was under improvement.

Action. This item to be carried over to the Council's next meeting.

12. Planning. The Council agreed to support Planning Application 0262/20 at the Visitors Centre, Postbridge.

Action. Cllr. Worth to forward the Council's decision to DNPA.

FIRST PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public expressed the opinion that there ought to be more free parking on the moor including making more spaces available on the side of the road.

A query was expressed re the parking area in front of the Duchy Creativity Centre and it was explained that this was a private piece of land.

Interest was also expressed in creating a clearway system through the Parish, though as ever, enforcement would be difficult, and the attitude of the DNPA would be problematic to overcome. Cllr Worth made the point that without directly elected representatives on the board of DNPA it was difficult to influence many of their decisions or attitudes.

The lack of progress in the repair of the wall outside HMP Dartmoor was raised again. Cllr Manning proposed to issue an FOI request as to the ongoing cost of the current situation.

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

Cllr. Geen offered thanks on behalf of the Council to Cllr. Tigwell for his ongoing service as temporary RFO for the Council.

Financial Briefing Notes to Councillors –

Cheques to be signed this month:

<u>Ref</u>	<u>ChqNo</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee & Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1338	1588	23/06/20	Alison Geen - Expenses and Allowances	£ 151.38
1339	1589	23/06/20	David Worth - Allowances	£ 18.00
1340	1590	23/06/20	Nigel Tigwell - Expenses and Allowances	£ 34.67
1342	1591	23/06/20	Steve Cox - Pay (sick pay at half rate)	£ 208.43
1343	1592	23/06/20	David Cole - Pay & Expenses	£ 580.32

The Bank Reconciliations for May and June are complete and correct.

Other Movements In-Month:

Receipt of HMRC VAT rebate £ 1691.56. I have placed this in the general reserve.
Award of DNPA Coronavirus Grant to cover Zoom subscription £119.90.

Other Liabilities:

This remains as briefed last month:

- a. The strimmer will need servicing and a new head fitted – cost to be determined.
- b. Play Area repairs and maintenance.
- c. New website – no change from last month – from reserves.
- d. Princetown notice board – quote £212 plus £18ph for any additional work needed.
- e. Bellever notice board – labour cost estimate £26.

Audit:

Work on the audit had been held pending the Clerk's return to work but, with the deadline approaching, Cllr Tigwell has prepared the necessary paperwork and submitted it to the Internal Auditor via a courier.

Report of Accounts:

The detailed report of Accounts has been provided to Councillors. The forecast for the end of the year is broadly on track.

Cllr Manning raised the matter that he had in the region of £1,300 held of Speedwatch funding and could this be held in DFPC accounts instead of in its own private account? Cllr Tigwell explained that funds could be held by the Council on behalf of other organisation but would be technically under the control of the Council. It was agreed to take advice on this matter and refer it back to the Council at the next meeting.

14. Urgent decisions since last meeting. Cllr Geen took out a subscription for Zoom meetings on behalf of the Council and successfully applied for a grant from DNPA to cover the cost of same.

15. Exchange of information

Cllr Druett reported that the Lengthsman was reported a lot of new dog fouling around the village particularly at the rear of one of the Princetown car parks. The exact area needs clarification.

Cllr Worth reported that the repair to the Parish notice board should commence shortly.

Cllr Geen reported that the pads for the Postbridge defibrillator were out of date and replacements had been ordered.

16. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 28th July at 19.30 via Zoom Meeting (subject to no

alternative system being selected)

Meeting Closed at 20:20