

# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council Parish



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## Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 via Zoom meeting

Present:

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

6 members of the public attended.

- 1. Apologies.** Cllrs Watson, Greatrex, 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 error in the previous month's minutes whereby the position of a blocked drain had been mis-recorded. It was agreed that the minutes would be altered before signing.
- 4. Presentations from potential Councillors:**

Each of the new councillors was invited to give a short presentation giving their reasons for why they wanted to become members of Dartmoor Forest Parish Council, and what they felt they could bring to the role. The prospective councillors were invited to speak in alphabetical order with a vote to be held by the existing councillors in a closed session to select the successful candidates. After each prospective councillor had spoken, the Councillors were offered the opportunity to ask questions of them

Emma Byrom – Spoke of how her role as Head of Princetown Primary School meant that a link between the School and the Parish Council was important because issues decided upon by the Council would affect the children at the school.

Phil Henson – Wished to make a contribution back to the village having moved there six years ago and having been made welcome. Related how his previous business experience could come in useful to the Council. Has spare time and enthusiasm to dedicate to the Council.



Stephen King – Had served with the Council before and wished to do so again. Has now retired and has more time to dedicate to the Council. Expressed a strong interest in supporting the Youth Club and generally helping the village.

Roger Petit – Wished to improve the state of the Parish both locally and further abroad. Has experienced many issues recently that he felt should be better dealt with by Dartmoor National Park and is keen to engage with them. Expressed a keen interest on the matter of speeding throughout the Parish.

The candidates were thanked for their interest and were invited to stay for the rest of the meeting until the closed session.

**5. Government Planning White Paper.** Councillors have been made aware of the White Paper concerning changes to the Planning system. A detailed response to the proposals is requested and it is required to be submitted to the Government before the deadline of the 29<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Action.** Cllr Geen to look into subdividing the Paper for Councillors to focus upon and a response to be agreed upon at the Council's next meeting.

**6. Princetown Xmas tree lights.** Cllr Worth reports that he has sourced a suitable set of replacement lights for £139.19 online for the Princetown village Xmas tree to replace the failing sets the Council currently has.

**Action:** Cllr Worth to arrange the purchase of the selected set.

**7. Siting of accessible sandbags for emergency situations.** The council has a small supply of sandbags for emergencies kept under lock and key in the Council's garage. The council had previously received a supply of bags and sand from West Devon Borough Council. The number of bags available has diminished.

**Action.** The council agreed to source more sandbags and would approach WDBC. Cllr Worth to approach DNPA in reference to finding a storage area adjacent to the DNPA Information Center for the sandbags that would allow them to be available to the public at all times.

**8. Two Bridges Road, Princetown – increase in traffic and lack of pavement.** Cllr Stones reported that she had received a communication from a resident concerned at the speed of the traffic passing through Two Bridges road. Concern was also raised that there was no pedestrian pavement along the road past Oakery Crescent. The resident requested that the Council looked into installing a speed bump to reduce traffic speed along the road. A speed bump has been requested in this area in the past but permission for installation has not been granted. Devon Highways policy is for speedbumps only to be installed on roads within a 20mph limit. Cllr Manning reported that Speedwatch were unable to monitor Two Bridges Road due to a limitation on the sites that could be utilised under Health and Safety limitations. Cllr Worth suggested asking for the installation of a system similar to the one between Whitchurch and Horrabridge whereby the road is reduced to a single lane with Give Way signs at each end, narrowing the road this way would also allow the installation of

a pavement. Cllr Manning opined that Devon Highways would require evidence for a problem to be investigated.

**Action.** Cllr Manning to investigate an evidence capturing solution.

## 9. Planning

The Council noted that it was in receipt of a decision notice regarding Planning Application 0300/20, 8 Blackbrook Avenue, of assent with conditions applied. The Council voted to support Planning Application 0420/20, Wall at HMP Dartmoor. Additional information was been received regarding Planning Application 0358/20, Yellowmeade Farm in the form of plans for the proposed barn. The Council voted to continue to object to this Application on the grounds of siting and loss of green space.

**Action.** Cllr Worth to report the Council's decisions to DNPA.

### Public Session.

The Clerk expressed his thanks to the Council for their support during his absence and reported that he would be imminently returning to his duties including the induction process for new councillors. The Council expressed their thanks and continued good wishes for his full recovery.

## 10. Financial management. Payments to be approved; Bank reconciliation; FOO

### Financial Briefing Notes to Councillors – September 2020

Cheques to be signed this month:

Ref	ChqNo	Date	Payee & Details	Amount
1356	1603	22/09/20	Steve Cox - Pay (sick pay at half rate)	£ 208.43
1357	1604	22/09/20	David Cole – Pay and Expenses	£ 607.00
1358	1605	22/09/20	Josh Cook - Litter Picker fee	£ 40.00
1359	1606	22/09/20	Alison Geen - Allowances	£ 6.00
1360	1607	22/09/20	David Worth - Allowances & Expenses	£ 55.48
1361	1608	22/09/20	Nigel Tigwell - Allowances	£ 18.00

The Bank Reconciliation for September is complete and correct

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

Other Liabilities:

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

Other Movements In-Month:

- a. Cheque from Princetown Football Club was returned as they were in the process of changing signatories. A replacement cheque has been issued and posted to bank.
- b. WDBC has deferred the increase in dog bin emptying charges until next year, which will free up £242.40 in the budget.
- c. The Speedwatch funds of £1336.45 were transferred on 15 September and have been placed in a new allocated reserve.

Other Liabilities:

- a. Play Area repairs £1844 – the new cable has been ordered and we are awaiting a delivery forecast from Germany.
- b. New website completion £290 – from allocated reserve.
- c. Princetown notice board £212 – additional costs waived by Chris Worth.
- d. Bellever notice board – labour cost estimate £26.
- e. Christmas tree replacement lights £139.19.
- f. St Raphael's Carpark Extension £117 – awaiting the church wardens.

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:

Clerk: underspend of £1248.

Litter picker: underspend of £104.

Forecast:

The mid-year forecast is distorted by the unplanned cable ride repair, but partially offset by the underspend on the Clerk's pay. Overall the Council is heading for an overspend of around £482, which can be covered by the general reserve and can be fully explained to auditors and parishioners.

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.

Cllr Manning reported that a request to St. Michael's Church for a donation towards cutting the graveyard grass has been referred to the Archdeacon in charge. Further news is awaited.

Cllr Tigwell reported that an anonymous donation from a local resident had been received towards the Lengthsman's voluntary extra cutting of the grave yard.

Cllr Worth reported that Chris Worth had offered to complete the refurbishment of the

Parish Notice board for the cost of the materials solely. The Council agreed that this was a generous offer and that it would be thanking him in an appropriate manner.

### **11. Urgent decisions since last meeting.**

WDBC Councillor Mark Renders had pointed out to Cllr Geen that the remaining Public Phone box in Princetown had been selected by British Telecom for removal. Cllr Geen had raised an official objection to the removal of the last public payphone in the village. The Council voted by a majority to retrospectively support to the objection being raised. (Cllr Worth declared an interest.)

### **12. Exchange of information.**

Cllr Manning raised the suggestion of sending out invitations to the Council's meetings via an email list. The Clerk opined that this would be a viable option that should be relatively easy to implement. It was agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

Cllr Worth reported that the old DPFC website was now no longer in use, but remained available to download previous minutes and agendas etc.

Cllr Tigwell reminded the Council that the Clerk's new email address ought to be promulgated going forward. The Clerk reported that the Council's PC was being updated to reflect these changes.

### Second Public Session

Cllr Renders from WDBC asked Emma Byrom about swimming lessons being taken by children at Princetown Primary School. Ms. Byrom replied that they had been using Kelly College but hoped to use Meadowlands upon its recently announced reopening.

The Council then moved to a second closed session for the selection of new Councillors.

The Council held a lengthy discussion on the merits of the Candidates and after a vote, agreed that the council would invite Emma Byrom, Phil Henson, and Stephen King to become new Councillors.

### **13. Date of next meeting.**

**The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 27th October 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 Induction of new Councillors.**

**Meeting Closed at 20:55**