

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



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Briefing Notes for Meeting January 25th 2022 (Prepared on the 23rd Jan 2022)

1. **Apologies** - none received prior to meeting
2. **Declarations of Interest** – All Councillors were asked at the Dec meeting to complete the Register of Interest form and bring with them to Jan meeting (Completed forms received via e-mail from Cllrs.Tigwell and Geen)
3. **Acceptance of minutes** – as previously circulated
4. **Reassigning Powers of Delegation to the Clerk** – In the absence of a Clerk, Powers of Delegation were assigned to Cllrs Geen, Tigwell and Worth at the Sept 2022 meeting. These need to be rescinded and reassigned to the new Clerk.
5. **Housing Needs Survey** – 20 minute presentation from Alex Rehaag West Devon BC with opportunity to ask questions.
6. **VZSW Partnership** grant distribution
Update from Cllr.Tigwell - I am 2-3 weeks behind where I had hoped to be in terms of progress, owing to the pressures of other commitments. I have contacted all key players I intend to invite to the steering group and those who have responded so far have been positive. My aim is to have a paper detailing the outline proposals circulated within 2 weeks and hold the first meeting by Zoom shortly thereafter. Once we have gauged peoples reactions and considered any other ideas put forward, we can move into procurement and installation. Work must complete by July to qualify for the grant and at present there is no reason why this should not be achieved.
7. **Play Park Zip wire**
 - a. Update from Cllr Tigwell - the replacement seat identified by Alison has been procured and passed to Phil for installation. The cost was £75+VAT which seems expensive, but the alternatives were even more costly. Thanks are due to Alison for putting in the time to find this one.
 - b. Clerk has received notice that inspection of Play Park by RoSPA Play Safety Team has been arranged to take place in March. No actual date specified. Cost for Non-Commercial Play Areas is £70 + vat (up to 5 play items) £3.50 +vat per additional item.
They can also provide a checklist/template specifically tailored to the site to assist with the Council inspections for £30 +vat.
If the Council wish to accompany the Inspector during the inspection there is an additional fee of £42 +vat for an appointment.

8. **Play Park Lighting** – no update received from Cllr. Worth
9. **Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service CRMP** – See letter 16th December 2021 https://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk/data/uploads/774_370570672.pdf (see Appendix 1)
10. **Parking issues** (Princetown) – Councillors to update on any ongoing issues, visits from CEO or new areas of concern
11. **Fundraising for St Michael’s Churchyard** - Cllr Geen has produced a poster for the porch and asks for Council feedback/approval. (see Appendix 2)
12. **Jubilee fundraising and souvenir**

From Cllr. Stones who Chaired Jubilee meeting at school on Jan 12th.
Everyone voted for mugs with P.C. crest on back for children/youth 0_18yrs.
Sheila to gather numbers of children in village.
Wendy to email Alison and Wendy for numbers in Hexworthy and Postbridge
Phil to check cost with discount

Clerk forwarded email to Cllrs. Stones and Henson regarding potential supplier of Jubilee Mug, with Jubilee Logo and space for DFPC logo. Cllr. Henson to investigate further.
13. **Climate Change declaration** – Council is asked to propose future actions to undertake
14. **CCTV system repair and UPS** – (see Appendix 3) for progress to date
15. **Purchase of memorial bench** –

From Cllr. Tigwell - I emailed Burrator PC Clerk asking for a copy of their ‘public seating standard’ but have had no response. I intend we form our own standard and proceed. Do councillors have any preference between wooden and metal seats? I have not yet drafted a grant application to put on the shelf, but can do so quickly if the opportunity should arise.
16. **Dartmoor Speedwatch**

From Cllr. Manning - As you know I started Speedwatch in 2016, did all the legwork and recruiting and have managed it ever since, over 370 sessions. This also included me personally getting a lot of flack from a very small group of local people who do not believe that there is anything wrong with speeding across the moors even though they are a danger to the animals. Admittedly when I was allegedly seen speeding by another vehicle who was racing to catch me up and filming his own speedo this did not help matters.

I do not want anything to change and I am happy to continue to organise it but as it has now become a cross border activity. We have five counties all feeding information into the national picture, all using the same database and with our own Police and Crime Commissioner helping to raise the profile. This was made evident by the recent success in our bid for funding for collars and cameras. I feel it should come under the umbrella of the Parish Council and not just be the remit of one person. It may also help in the future should the opportunity arise to bid for more funding for Speed Reduction resources. I have been feeding the numbers etc. into the Parish Council meetings since 2016.

I would like the council to consider taking this activity on board so it can become a Parish Council Initiative. This to me would seem the most appropriate way forward as it would increase its legitimacy.

17. **Sitka Spruce Plantation** (Princetown)- Cllr. Geen has emailed Tom Stratton (Duchy) reminding him that at the September it was requested by residents that Council facilitate a meeting between interested residents and a Duchy representative. Cllr Geen asked if a date had been set for felling, and if a meeting could be arranged. Due to the number of people potentially attending and the need to maintain social distancing within the small hall it was proposed that the meeting be separate to the regular Council meeting. It would also necessary time for discussion to take place.

Tom Stratton confirmed that no date has been set for felling and that a meeting before this takes place would be appropriate to engage and fulfil their commitment, as made to some of those who have contacted them directly.

Discussion is ongoing as to the date, time of such a meeting but Tom Stratton did make mention of a suggestion from one of the residents that the new planting is done as a Jubilee Woodland, which the Duchy are in support of.

18. **Planning**
0527/21 From Cllr. Tigwell 08/01/22 who attended the DNPA Management Committee meeting 07/01 where permission for the mast at Lake Head was refused by majority vote. Official notification of refusal received 19 Jan 2022.
0437/21 Approval notification email received 17 Jan 2022

19. **PUBLIC SESSION**

20. **Financial Management** Briefing notes to follow separately.

- a) Payments to be approved;
 - i. Councillor expenses / allowances
 - ii. David Cole Pay
 - iii. Litter picker fee
 - iv. Clerk salary
 - v. Clerk Training – DALC
 - vi. CAB request for donation
- b) Bank reconciliation;
- c) FOO

21. **Approve Precept demand 2022/23** - Item already dealt with at Dec meeting. See minutes below.

Precept 2022/23 The Council reviewed Cllr Tigwell's draft budget for the forthcoming financial year, the figures for which indicate that there should be no increase in the Council Precept (0% rise). The Council voted to accept the draft budget.

22. **Reports from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests**

23. **Urgent decisions since last meeting**

24. **Exchange of information**

- a) Old Prison Officers Club – Email from Anne Kelly 23/12/21 reporting that contractors have been out and netted the part of the roof and moved safety fencing out. They will return in the new year to do some more netting and put the fencing back so the pavement can be walked on again
- b) Blackabrook Avenue – Cllr. Stones to raise
- c) A Christmas card was received addressed to the Parish Council from the new Governor of the Prison– Cllr Geen
- d) Clerk has made contact with editors from ‘Parish Links’ and ‘Around and About’ and will once again be providing them with extracts from meetings going forwards.
- e) Road Closures – posted on DFPC Facebook page
 - **TTRO2243751** Temporary closure of B3212 - road from Two Bridges past Spaders farm to Postbridge.
Monday 31 January 2022 until Friday 4 February 2022 (both dates inclusive)
Long diversion unless you know the road through Bellever
 - **TTRO2243849** Temporary closure of road from Hexworthy (Sherberton turn off) to Venford Reservoir for drainage works.
Thursday Feb 3rd to Friday Feb 4th. (Dates inclusive)
The signed diversion is via Holne, Newbridge, Poundsgate, Dartmeet, along B337 to Hexworthy turn, Hexworthy and vice versa.
Emergency access will be maintained.
Please note that the diversion is not suitable for large/heavy vehicles due to having to cross Hexworthy Bridge.

25. **PUBLIC SESSION**

26. **Date of next meeting** - at 1930 on 22nd February 2022 Princetown Community Centre