

# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



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## Briefing Notes for Meeting March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 (Prepared on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

1. **Apologies** - Cllr. Tigwell (ill health) Cllr. Worth
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Register of interest forms still required from Cllr Byroms, and Cllr. Greatrex
3. **Acceptance of minutes** – as previously circulated
4. **Vision Zero SW Grant** - Cllr. Williams held a meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March with graziers who have livestock on that stretch of road, to outline the aim of the project and seek their input and support. Those who attended gave valuable input into the longstanding issues on the road and were supportive of the project aims.
5. **Sitka Spruce Plantation (Princetown)**- Update from Cllr. Geen regarding the public meeting planned for 7.30pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> March at Princetown Community Centre (main hall). Tom Stratton, Duchy, has agreed to attend the meeting to explain the reasons for the planned felling. A leaflet has been produced, which will be circulated to residents in Princetown, inviting them to attend the meeting. See Appendix 1
6. **Climate Change declaration** – Update from Cllr. Geen regarding the proposed tree planting as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. The original site chosen for trees on the bank outside the community centre was deemed to be too close to the building. Alternative sites are to be considered. Clerk has contacted a number of suppliers who are able to provide suitable trees, cost is dependant upon the size of tree selected, but range from £1.25 for approx. 2ft, to £52.00 for 5-6ft for a Common Beech, as an example.
7. **Memorial Benches** – Clerk has offered one of the benches on Princetown Green to the family who made the most recent request, and they are very happy to accept. They will pay for the bench to be refurbished and a memorial plaque attached to the back rest. The clerk has invited four local joiners to quote for the refurbishment of the bench.  

The 'Public Seating Procedure' has been e-mailed to Mark Renders, as he had been approached by a family wishing to place a memorial bench in the Square. It was also suggested that they could refurbish another of the benches on the Green, should they wish to take that option.

Clerk has approached several local joinery companies inviting them to provide a quote for refurbishing the bench on the Green.
8. **Planning** - **0073/22** Snider Park Plantation Telecoms mast - Cllrs Geen and Greatrex visited the site on the 17/03  
**0072/22** Fernworthy Telecoms mast – Clerk emailed both Chagford and Gidleigh parish clerks (01/03), to make them aware of the planning

application due to its proximity to those parishes, and that it is likely to be of interest/concern to their parishioners

Applications can be viewed on <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning/search-for-an-application>

**9. Play Park –**

- a. Muddy Entrance - Lengthsman on visiting the play park suggests that paving slabs, rather than the rubber grass mats discussed at Feb meeting, placed on the outside of the gate would be a better solution. David Cole to source slabs and lay them.
- b. Report from Cllr Stones that chain on the top gate has been vandalised 16/03 – David Cole authorised by Clerk to source and fit a replacement.
- c. Signage – At July meeting £200 was approved for the replacement of signs in the Play Park, but it is not clear from the minutes the purpose of the signs. Cllr Stones recently queried the progress on this. Clerk would like to clarify what signs are required in order to progress the matter.

10. **Station Road** – Cllr Stones has received a letter from a resident who has ongoing concerns regarding signage. See Appendix 2

**11. Public Session**

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

- a) Payments to be approved;
  - i. Councillor expenses / allowances – none to date 19/3/22
  - ii. David Cole Pay
  - iii. Litter picker fee
  - iv. Clerk salary
  - v. Ex Clerk back pay due to national pay award 2021/22
  - vi. HMRC NI & tax
  - vii. Clerk expenses – Seat assembly for Zip Wire and Garden Waste subscription
  - viii. DALC Clerk Essentials 2 Training
  - ix. Dartmoor Garden Machinery – repairs to strimmer.
- b) Bank reconciliation;
- c) Financial report – End of Year

13. **Online Banking** – Lloyds have confirmed that the account held by Council (a Treasurers account) can be set up for online banking. Clerk to progress for the new financial year.

14. **DNPA National Lottery Heritage Grant** – E-mail received 16/03/22 from Jennifer Manning DNPA Recreation Strategy Development Officer

*‘DNPA are currently in the process of developing a stage 1 bid to the National Lottery Heritage fund after a successful expression of interest. Our proposal is a wide ranging partnership programme that will work to address urgent societal needs (climate and ecological crisis, health and wellbeing, social deprivation) with a landscape scale focus on three of Dartmoors river catchments – Okement, Erme and Yealm and the Dart. Our proposal is organised under three themes*

1. *Connecting Dartmoor – community outreach and connecting people to heritage*
2. *Dynamic Dartmoor – restore and enhance natural systems in collaboration with farmers and land managers*

3. *Laying foundations for the future – developing opportunities for the next generation, new ways of funding and more opportunities for people to enjoy Dartmoor sustainably*

*Within the third theme we are including a project to pilot gateway towns, these towns are identified as town hubs in the recreation strategy that is included in the National Park Partnership Plan (Management Plan). Currently we are exploring the idea of including Ivybridge, Princetown and Okehampton in the bid as pilot gateway towns. This will mean different things for each town and will seek to address different issues or needs that are relevant to each location. Opportunities that we would like to explore in gateway towns are:*

- *Create tourism and economic opportunities for the towns through links to the natural heritage of the area*
- *More accessible to a wider range of people*
- *Sustainable modes of onwards travel*
- *Connecting people with nature*

*It would be great if we could have a discussion around this and if you have any evidence of need or community projects that have been developed that fit our proposals that we could look to include. I am on leave next week, do you have any time to meet either face to face or online the week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> April. I am available the rest of this week if that suits as well. (I think she means w/c 28<sup>th</sup> March - JB)*

15. **Parking issues** (Princetown) – Councillors to update on any ongoing issues, visits from CEO or new areas of concern.
16. **Fundraising for St Michael’s Churchyard** – Clerk has contacted DALC with regard to the Council receiving donations from the public. NALC suggested that it is trialled for the first year, to ascertain the value of donations received. After which the Council should consider reducing the precept demand by that amount, if it proves a substantive amount.
17. **Blackabrook Avenue** – Update regarding ownership of the land. Email from the Governor HMP Dartmoor Steve Mead 08/03/22  
*‘I am currently making enquiries about the abandoned vehicles and who is responsible for the land. It is my understanding that we are responsible for the land within 2 meters of our perimeter wall in this area and the horse lorry is outside of this. We have previously attached letters to the vehicles asking for them to be removed, but the letters remain on the vehicles and clearly they have not been removed. We are contacting the police to establish the owners and will follow up once we receive a response and have confirmation that we are responsible for the land.’*
18. **Nomination of Members to DNPA** – Email received 7/02/22 as discussed at the Feb meeting (Item 19) Councillors were asked to consider if they would wish to be nominated by DFPC to sit as a Parish Member on DNPA. Councillors were emailed additional information regarding the role on 28/2 and asked to let Clerk know if they were interested in being put forward by 15/03. None have come forward as of 19/03. Deadline for nominations 07/04/22.
19. **Reports from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests**
  - a. PTFA – Cllr Stones report in email 10/03 see Appendix 3

- b. Jubilee Committee – Cllr Stones report in email 10/03 see Appendix 3  
Cllr Stones has received a cheque from the Charity Shop for £200 as a donation towards the mugs.  
Clerk has received email from Zurich regarding insurance for Jubilee events. If numbers are expected to exceed 500 on the day, Clerk will need to inform insurers to arrange suitable insurance cover.
- c. Youth Club – Cllr Stones email 15/03 reported successful funding bid for £20,000 from the Youth Investment Fund for 2022 – 2028
- d. Speed Watch – Cllr Manning report in email 17/03 See Appendix 3

20. **Urgent decisions since last meeting -**

21. **Exchange of information**

- a. Garage No 10 Bellever – repair to door
- b. Veteran Referral - SSAFA

22. **PUBLIC SESSION**

23. **Date of next meeting -** at 1930 on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Princetown Community Centre