



# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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28th March 2022

## Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:</b> Cllr Alison Geen*	<b>Princetown Ward:</b> Cllr Phil Henson Cllr Wendy Stones	
<b>Postbridge Ward:</b> Cllr Julian Greatrex Cllr Wendy Watson	Cllr Emma Byroms Cllr Gregg Manning Cllr Mark Williams	* Chair

Cllr Geen chaired the meeting.

There were 2 members of the public present.

- 1. Apologies** Cllr Tigwell and Cllr Worth
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - None declared
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting** Council resolved to accept these as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.
- 4. Vision Zero SW Grant** - Cllr. Williams gave a short report of progress to date. He confirmed that James Anstee DCC Highways has approved the three elements of the project, which will allow the release of the grant. The road signs needed to be modified in order to comply with Highways requirements, and Cllr Williams is awaiting confirmation of the costs of the road signs and the Vehicle Activated Sign.

A meeting with graziers who have livestock along the stretch of the B3212 was held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, where Cllr Williams outlined the project to them. Those who attended gave valuable input into the longstanding issues and were supportive of the aims of the project. Cllr Williams has been contacted by Jenny Mashford, Beat Manager Tavistock Police, who are currently looking to run a similar project on other roads on Dartmoor, which is encouraging.

Cllr Williams stated the next stage is to call a meeting of all stakeholders (hoped to take place in second week of April). He asked if it is possible to obtain accurate data relating to how many animals are injured/killed on the road. Cllr Manning stated that this information is available from the Dartmoor Livestock Protection Officer Karla McKechnie. Cllr Williams also enquired who collects the data from the VAS. Cllr Manning stated that DNPA have that data. Cllrs Manning and Williams will obtain the information prior to the next project meeting.

Cllr Manning queried whether the project would be completed by the end date of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Cllr Williams confirmed that he felt the project was on schedule to do so, but that James Anstee had also indicated that there would be no problem with a slight over-run.



Cllr Geen thanked Cllr Williams for taking the project on.

**Action:** Cllr Williams to convene the next meeting and continue to progress the project

- 5. Sitka Spruce Plantation (Princetown)** - Cllr Geen confirmed that the public meeting will take place at 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 and has been circulated to all households in Princetown advertising meeting. Councillors are invited to attend if possible, and the meeting will be chaired by Cllr Geen. Cllr Manning sought reassurance that any discussion regarding the felling of the plantation remains separate from the Skate Park, which would be subject to a separate public consultation, before any further action would be taken on that matter.

Cllr Geen expressed her thanks to Joules DeRosa and her partner who delivered the leaflets.

- 6. Climate Change declaration** – Queen’s Green Canopy Tree planting - Cllr. Geen explained that the original site chosen for trees on the bank outside the community centre was deemed to be too close to the building. Council agreed that an alternative site within the Play Park is considered suitable provided the tree is adequately protected with a metal tree guard. The Duchy has suggested they may be able to supply as a suitable tree. Clerk has identified an online supplier if the Duchy is unable to provide a tree.
- Action:** Cllr Geen to contact Tom Stratton with regard to sourcing the tree.

- 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 and is awaiting their response.

The ‘Public Seating Procedure’ has been e-mailed to Cllr Mark Renders WDBC, 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.

Cllr Manning queried the cost of obtaining new benches and why there were so few available for visitors to the village. Cllr Geen reminded council that Parishscapes funding (or similar), should it become available again in the future, could be applied for to provide additional benches in and around Princetown.

**Action:** Clerk to follow-up on quotes, and monitor funding opportunities for the provision of additional benches.

## 8. Planning -

### 0073/22 Snider Park Plantation Telecoms mast

Cllr Geen and Cllr Greatrex attended the site on 17/03/2022 and Cllr Greatrex provided a short report to the Council, in which he stated there was a proven need for enhanced mobile communications signal which would be provided by the mast, and that he and Cllr Geen supported the application with recommendations for forestry management to retain screening after clear felling, and a Devon hedge to be constructed on the Northern side.

**Resolution:** Council was then asked to vote and resolved to support the planning application with the recommendations as stated above, with one objection.

**Action:** Clerk to respond to DNPA Planning

**0072/22 Fernworthy Telecoms mast –**

Clerk has emailed both Chagford and Gidleigh parish clerks (01/03), to ensure they are aware of the planning application due to its proximity to those parishes. Cllr Watson stated that it may also have an impact for some residents in Postbridge.

**Resolution:** Council was asked to vote, and again with one objection, resolved to support the application.

**Action:** Clerk to respond to DNPA Planning

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

**9. Play Park –**

- i. Muddy Entrance – Cllr Stones reported that the Lengthsman has laid concrete slabs just inside the pedestrian gate.
- ii. Report from Cllr Stones that the chain on the top gate has been vandalised 16/03 – Lengthsman has been authorised by Clerk to source and fit a replacement. Cllr Stones has reported the vandalism to PCSO. **Action:** Lengthsman to source a replacement chain and fit.
- iii. Signage – At the July 2021 meeting, £200 was approved for the replacement of signs in the Play Park. Cllr Stones recently queried the progress on this. Clerk asked for clarification on what signs are required and for where. **Action:** Clerk to source the following signs: 2x 'No Dogs', 1x Ownership of Playpark (with telephone number), 1x 'Please use the lower gate'. Lengthsman will be asked to fit them.

**10. Station Cottages –** Cllr Stones received a letter from a resident who has ongoing concerns regarding signage. Members of the public try to access the old railway track using the lane in front of Station Cottages, which is a private road and a dead end. Cllr Stones explained that there are currently two signs at the entrance of the lane to Station Cottages, one small (homemade) one which is in disrepair and one which has been obscured by safety fencing. This is an ongoing issue and the resident has, in the past, met with representatives from DNPA and the Parish Council which resulted in the larger sign being put in place.

**Action:** Clerk to reply to the resident stating the Council will contact the Duchy and DNPA regarding the signage.

**11.1<sup>st</sup> Public Session**

- a. A resident reported that recently the back of the bottle bank, in the carpark, had been opened, resulting in bottles spilling out. He reported it to WDBC who have cleared the bottles, but have left a lot of broken glass on the ground. **Action:** Cllr Stones will report the incident to the PCSO.
- b. Resident reported there are often sheep regularly straying onto the roads on fenced off stretches of road and suggested that farmers should put the sheep away, and mend fences to avoid accidents. **Action:** Clerk will write to Dartmoor Commoners Council to ask them to pass the concerns on to farmers.

- c. Resident enquired what tree would be planted in the Play Park. Cllr Geen explained that if the tree was provided by the Duchy, it would be whatever they could supply. A Golden or Weeping Beech was suggested.

## 12. Financial Management.

- a) Council approved the following payments;

Ref	Chq No	Date	Payee & Details	Amount
1499	1730	22/03/22	Josh Cook - Litter Picker fee	£ 40.00
1500	1731	22/03/22	David Cole - Pay	£ 686.40
1501	1732	22/03/22	Jackie Bennetts - Pay	£ 339.75
1502	1733	22/03/22	Steve Cox - Back pay	£ 27.30
1503	1734	22/03/22	HMRC - Tax for JB	£ 91.60
1504	1735	22/03/22	DALC Clerk Essentials 2 for JB	£ 36.00
1505	1736	22/03/22	Dartmoor Garden Machinery	£ 183.92
1506	1737	22/03/22	J Bennetts - Expenses - Zip Wire Seat - Garden Waste subscription	£ 244.00

- b) Bank reconciliation was correct – Statement date 28/02/2022  
 c) Clerk gave a brief report on the Councils finances, outlining a slight overspend which is attributable to the cost of replacing a faulty CCTV camera, purchase of a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) and the purchase of souvenir mugs for the Jubilee celebrations.

**13. Online Banking** – Lloyds have confirmed that the account held by Council (a Treasurers account) can be set up for online banking. Cllrs Henson and Manning agreed to continue as 'online signatories', Cllr Stones will remain a signatory for cheques only. Cllr Geen asked for another councillor to become an 'online signatory'. Cllr Byroms volunteered to take on the role. **Action:** Clerk to continue to progress this for the new financial year.

**14. Parking issues** (Princetown) –Cllr Geen recently asked the Clerk to chase up the No Parking Sign which should have been replaced at the entrance to the car park. Clerk emailed Andrew Watson DNPA on 11/03/2022 but has had no response to date. **Action:** Clerk to follow-up.

**15. 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. Cllr Geen explained that the purpose of requesting public donations was to cover the cost of the Lenghtsman cutting the grass in the churchyard. If it then transpires that the precept amount needs be reduced by that amount it negates the point. **Action:** Clerk to seek further clarification regarding the acceptance of public donations for the maintenance of the churchyard.

**16. DNPA National Lottery Heritage Grant** – Council received and E-mail 16/03/22 from Jennifer Manning DNPA Recreation Strategy Development Officer, inviting Clerk to attend a meeting to discuss the potential bid and present any evidence of community need for the third theme of the bid – Laying Foundations for the Future.

*‘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.’*

Council suggested that effective transport links for Princetown, particularly for students to get to college, school, workers to get into Plymouth/Tavistock and for workers to get to Princetown are priorities. Council requested more information regarding the nature of the bid and the potential amount available. Cllr Byroms agreed to attend the meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange a meeting to take place in Princetown, with Jen Manning and Cllr Byroms.

**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.’*

**Action:** Clerk to follow-up with the Governor, who is due to attend the April meeting.

**18. Nomination of Members to DNPA** – Email received from DNPA 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. Cllr Mark Williams put himself forward for nomination. The deadline for submitting the nomination is the 7<sup>th</sup> April.

**Action:** Clerk to email Cllr Williams the information/forms.

### **19. Reports from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests**

i. PTFA – Cllr Stones report in email 10/03 [See Appendix 3](#)

ii. Jubilee Committee – [See Appendix 3](#)

Cllr Stones has received a cheque from the Charity Shop for £200 as a donation towards the cost of the mugs. The mugs will be presented at 12.30 on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. The pre-school has arranged for a bouncy castle from 1pm-3pm. Some posters have been

put up around the village to publicise the event. Cllr Byrons asked if it had been advertised on Facebook. **Action:** Clerk to bank the cheque.

iii. Youth Club – Cllr Stones email 15/03 reported successful funding bid for £20,000 from the Youth Investment Fund for 2022 – 2028. Cllr Stones reported that the Lead Youth Worker has tendered her notice and will leave on the 12/04/2022 and that without a replacement Youth Club is unable to continue. **Action:** Cllr Stones will update Council on developments following the next YC meeting.

iv. Speed Watch – Cllr Manning presented a report [See Appendix 3](#)

## 20. Urgent decisions since last meeting - none

## 21. Exchange of information

- i. Clerk has received an e-mail from the Duchy regarding the repairs to the garage door Bellever No10. Repairs will be made and the work is currently out tender.
- ii. Cllr Geen reported that she had responded to an enquiry from Dartmoor Commoners Council.
- iii. Cllr Henson has completed the paperwork to obtain a refund of the zipwire seat which will be made to Cllr Tigwell (who originally paid for it) Cllr Tigwell will then refund Council.
- iv. Cllr Stones reported that Lengthsman had been approached by the Librarian who questioned why there was no bin outside the Community Centre. Referred the matter to Cllr Williams, as he sits on the Community Centre Committee.
- v. Cllr Stones wished to express thanks to Nicky Hirst, who organised the recent Bring and Buy Sale which raised over £3000 for Ukraine.
- vi. Cllr Stones also expressed thanks to Mrs Spooner who has collected supplies for both the foodbank and Ukraine.
- vii. Cllr Williams asked if Princetown Community Centre could use space on the Parish Notice Board to advertise 'What's On in Princetown. Cllr Geen agreed.
- viii. Cllr Stones reported that the Telephone box needs a clean, inside and out. Cllr Geen agreed that the Lengthsman should be tasked with cleaning it.
- ix. Cllr Manning reported that one of the CCTV cameras is currently not working. Contractor has today removed the faulty camera to be return to the manufacturer. Cllr Manning

## 22. 2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Renders reported that three vehicles had left the village the previous day (21/03/22), carrying supplies to Ukraine.

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 2120.