



# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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28th April 2022

## Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

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

Due to the meeting not being called in accordance with the requirement for three clear days' notice, Council were unable to make resolutions, therefore an Extraordinary Meeting has been called, to take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022, at 6 pm in Princetown Community Centre, where proposed actions can be properly resolved.

The minutes below provide a record of the discussion and information sharing which took place during the meeting.

Cllr Geen chaired the meeting.

There were 2 members of the public present, including Cllr Mark Renders (WDBC)

- Apologies** Cllr Tigwell (Ill Health), Cllr Watson, Cllr Greatrex, Cllr Worth

Cllr Geen announced that Cllr Worth had resigned his position as Councillor on 24/4/22 with immediate effect. Clerk to take necessary action to advertise the vacancy.

- Declarations of Interest** - None declared
- Acceptance of Minutes meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Council deferred resolution on this matter until the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.**

- Guest Speaker** – Sandra Dodd – Pastoral Worker Tavistock Methodist Circuit  
Sandra has been in role since September 2021 providing pastoral care to people living Bere Alson, Yelverton, Princetown and Peter Tavy. The patch covers 8 churches. She has taken over from Phil Griffin with the only difference being that she is not ordained. She is employed for 15hrs per week and has a large area to cover, so is not able to commit to a regular activity in any one place, as she often has to respond to crises, and provides cover when Ministers are off. This month she is starting up a Womens group with the aim to support Ukrainiane refugees, or those taking them in.  
To contact Sandra e-mail [sandra@tmc.me.uk](mailto:sandra@tmc.me.uk) or Telephone: 01822 810343



Cllr Geen thanked her for coming and letting Council know about her role, and stated that we would publicise her contact details on the DFPC website. Sandra Dodd then left the meeting.

- 5. Vision Zero SW Grant** - Cllr. Williams held a meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, to which all stakeholders were invited. See Appendix 1 for full notes. In summary, those who attended gave valuable input into the longstanding issues on the road and were supportive of the project aims, but expressed disappointment that there were no representatives from DNPA or Devon Highways.

Cllr Williams reported to Council that the Hi-viz collars for ponies and cattle are on order, as is the VAS sign. The next meeting of stakeholders is due to take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 1400.

The grant payment has not yet been received in Council bank account although Cllr. Williams received notification that it was due to be paid at the end of March.

Cllr. Manning reported that while he was undertaking a recent Speed Watch session that he had been approached by a local farmer who was complimentary about both the work of Speedwatch and the VZSW Project.

**Action:** Cllr Williams to follow-up payment of the grant.

- 6. Sitka Spruce Plantation** (Princetown) - Cllr. Geen thanked all Councillors who were able to attend the meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> at which Tom Stratton gave a short talk on the felling of the plantation which was required because at least 2 forestry experts had deemed many of the trees unsafe. It is an area that residents/public can walk through so important that safety is considered. There was then a chance for people at the meeting to make statements or ask questions. Opinions were varied; some want the area left alone as the wildlife already there could be disturbed by felling and some wanted the area made safe. Tom concluded by saying that there seemed to be support for a bolder plan/vision and to explore the option of leave a strip/screening, fell the rest and develop a management plan for the redevelopment of the woodland – for community benefit.
- 7. Climate Change declaration** –Cllr. Geen reported she has discussed the planting of a tree in the Play Park as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy with Tom Stratton who agreed this was a better site. Originally the proposed site was outside the Community Centre, but this was deemed to be too close to the building. Tom Stratton subsequently emailed Cllr. Geen on 23/4/22 stating he will provide a species list of trees he is able to supply, so the Council can select one.
- 8. Memorial Benches** – As agreed at the February meeting the Clerk has invited four local joiners to quote for the refurbishment of the bench on the green in Princetown. Only one quote has been submitted to date, the others all initially expressed interest in quoting, but despite reminders these have not been forthcoming. Council discussed the need to get more than one quote, and alternative local joiners were suggested. Council also discussed the need for additional seating/picnic benches for visitors to use.

Clerk has contacted the person enquiring through Mark Renders for a memorial bench in the square, but no further progress to report.

Council suggested that the Clerk should obtain additional quotes, and Cllr Henson agreed to survey existing benches (condition and locations) with a view to understanding the level of work required to bring them all up to a suitable standard, and identify spaces where additional benches could be sited.

**Action: Council deferred resolution on this matter until the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.**

**9. Planning - 103/22 Forest Inn Hexworthy – Application can be viewed on [Search for an application | Dartmoor](#)**

Report from Cllr Geen regarding a site visit undertaken by her and Cllr Henson. ‘Phil and I viewed the area involved in this application when we visited for the change of use application which was looked at recently. We were shown where the solar panels would be placed and cannot see a problem with that positioning. The panels are being placed so they cannot be viewed from any public road or path. We would recommend support for this application.’ All Councillors present indicated they would support the application.

**Action: Council deferred resolution on this matter until the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.**

**10. Play Park**

- a) Signage – Clerk has ordered and received the ‘no dog’ signs, ‘play park ownership’ sign and ‘Please use lower gate sign’ as agreed at the March meeting. Handed to David Cole for fitting.
- b) Inspection Report – Council discussed the defects identified in the RoSPA Annual report. Cllr Manning has a photo of a persons hand that has been injured on equipment in the play park. Cllr Henson agreed to check equipment thoroughly on next weekly inspection and report back. It was suggested that Cllrs Henson, Stones and David Cole should look at the summary, alongside the full report and the playpark items in situ to identify which repairs could be undertaken by Council themselves. Council will then consider and prioritise actions to be taken to rectify issues raised in the Inspection report – Full report emailed to Councillors on 30/03/22 See Appendix 2 for summary.

**Action: Council deferred resolution on this matter until the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.**

**11. Road Works and Diversions – Cllr Geen reported ‘There has recently been a road closure from Dartmeet to Holne Cross but the signage and diversion signs were very confusing. We had to rescue a customer of ours who had followed the diversion around Moretonhampstead and run out of fuel at Poundsgate when he could have carried on past the signage at Two bridges and got to our yard with no problem. When my husband went to rescue him he witnessed cars wanting to get to Ashburton being sent via Mortonhamstead diversion route when they could have been sent across Holne Moor. There were other diversion signs up which confused those who don’t know the area. I was travelling back from Bovey Tracy with a loaded trailer only to come across “Road Closed” sign at Ashburton. It said businesses open as usual but gave no**

indication where the closure was. I went along to Buckfast and followed the back roads to get home. I think there needs to be more consideration of drivers who use the main arterial routes across the moor with better signage/prior warnings and we should write to Devon County Council along those lines.'

Council discussed various options for improving the notification and signage of road closures on major routes across the moor. Council understands that the official diversion route has to be on similarly designated roads, but that locals may be able to use alternative routes if they have more information regarding where exactly the actual road closure is. Council agreed that a letter should be sent to Devon CC Highways to request better information and signage.

**Action: Council deferred resolution on this matter until the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.**

**12. Policy and Procedure Review** - Councillors agreed to review the documents and report any necessary amendments to the Clerk before the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022. See Appendix 3 for list of documents and which Councillors are reviewing them.

### 13. Residents' Concerns-

a) Station Cottages – Letter sent to resident following March meeting explaining that Council would contact DNPA to request that the signage is improved. Email to Andrew Watson asking him to improve the signage.

**Update:** e-mail received 27/4/22 He has visited the site- DNPA have agreed to relocate the wooden fingerposts nearer the road, move the fencing so as not to obscure the sign. He is also replacing the No parking sign and considering repainting yellow lines on the road near the car park.

b) Rebuilding of wall Tavistock Road – A number of residents have expressed concern (to David Cole and other Councillors) that the wall on Tavistock Road (nr Prison) is not being rebuilt, in their opinion, to look as it should/as approved by Planning. Council to discuss and agree if any action should be taken. Planning documents can be viewed <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning/db-links/search-planning-applications> using the application number 0027/21. See previous e-mails 13-15 April 2022 for comments from councillors.

**Action:** Cllr. Renders (WDBC) offered to contact DNPA Planning to raise concerns

### 14. 1<sup>st</sup> Public Session

a) Cllr Renders reported that the Housing Needs Assessment (See minutes from January 2022) is due to be launched and asked that Council support it by encouraging residents to complete the survey. He is aware of 3 or 4 local families who have been given notice to leave, by private landlords who intend to sell the property.

b) Cllr Renders also reported that the 'No waiting Zone' yellow lines at Two Bridges, are due to be painted next week.

### 15. Financial Management -

a) Payments to be approved; **Council deferred resolution on payments until meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.**

- i. Councillor expenses – Mark Williams room hire for VZSW meetings
  - ii. David Cole Pay & expenses
  - iii. Litter picker fee
  - iv. Clerk salary
  - v. HMRC Payment
  - vi. Clerk expenses – play park signs, envelopes
  - vii. DALC membership and training
  - viii. Zurich Insurance
  - ix. RoSPA Inspection fee
  - x. Vision Zero SW Project – Collars for ponies and cattle
  - xi. Around and About donation
  - xii. Payroll Invoice for 2022/23
  - xiii. WDBC Cemetery Rates – direct debit for 6 months April - Sept
- b) Bank reconciliation correct statement dated 31/3/31.
- c) Financial report – Clerk reported that the first payment of the Precept has been received. Clerk queried the need to retain the reserve allocated to WDBC toilets.

**16. Online Banking** – No further progress to date – Clerk still awaiting confirmation from Lloyds. Clerk contacted Lloyds on 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April and was assured it would be done by the end of April.

**17. DNPA National Lottery Heritage Grant** – Cllr Byroms reported a successful meeting with Jen Manning where they discussed the issues affecting Princetown with regard to transport links and tourism. A further meeting is planned to develop the bid further.  
**Action:** Clerk to put it on agenda for 24<sup>th</sup> May for further discussion.

**18. Parking issues** (Princetown) – Cllr. Manning has been approached by a resident who is experiencing difficult parking near their home due to visitors parking on residential roads for long periods of time, to avoid paying fees in the car park. Resident has asked Council to contact the Duchy, as owners of the parking area near the Old Prison Officers Club, to request that the parking area is signposted and that visitors are able to park there as an alternative.  
Other potential parking areas were discussed, i.e. behind Dewerstone and Football pitch.  
**Action: Council deferred resolution on this matter until the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.**

**19. Fundraising for St Michael's Churchyard** – Clerk sought further clarification regarding fundraising/donations from the public towards cost of maintaining the Churchyard, but it became an issue about whether it is actually within Council powers to take responsibility for the maintenance of the churchyard while it remains open. Guidance from DALC in email 19/4/22

The guidance from DALC stated that as the Churchyard remains open, it remains the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council and that the Parish Council should not be covering those expenses. To undertake any works on the property will likely fall outside of its powers. NALC recognise that this has never been clarified in court and the likelihood of someone challenging it is slim. Therefore, the Council has a choice – to continue knowing there is a legal risk, or stop doing it. Council agreed that in light of this information, the PCC should be contacted and made aware of the situation, in that, it is outside of the Councils powers to continue to maintain the churchyard at its own cost. [Local

Government Act 1894 (s.6(1)c] The donation received from the PCC in 2021 covered a proportion of the cost, but not all of the cost.

**Action: Council deferred resolution on this matter until the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.**

**20. Housing** – Cllr Stones raised a concern that local people are no longer being prioritised for housing in Princetown by LiveWest. She agreed that this issue was covered in previous discussion regarding the up-and-coming Housing Needs Survey. No further action required.

**21. Equipment Storage** – The garages used for storage of Council equipment, mainly grasscutting equipment are currently in a poor state of repair, with faulty hinges. Duchy have been contacted, who reported in March that an assessment and asbestos survey had been conducted and that a number of garages were due to be demolished, with others being repaired, No.10 being one of them. Subsequently received email 21/4/22 from Alex Manning Deputy Head of Buildings, Duchy, who has agreed in principle for Council to use No 2 garage as temporary storage, once they have checked the situation with regard to access and handed over keys. Repairs to the garages are proving difficult to implement due to the extent of the deterioration to the framework. They are currently reviewing the feasibility of repairs and the future of the garages. No repairs are currently scheduled.

Council was asked to discuss and consider alternative options as it is clear that at some point the garages will no longer be available to store equipment.

Cllr. Williams suggested shipping containers could be sited to provide storage.

**Action:** Cllr. Geen asked Councillors to consider/identify alternatives for storage of equipment and report to meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

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

- a) PTFA – Meeting took place that morning. Cllr Stones to provide a written report.
- b) Jubilee Committee – Next meeting due in May
- c) Youth Club – Next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May
- d) Speedwatch – See Appendix 4 for reports from Cllr. Manning.

## **23. Exchange of information**

- a) DNPA Grass cutting quote was unsuccessful but contract has only been awarded for 12 months and Council will be invited to quote again, should it wish to. This may impact on the hours of work for Lengthsman.
- b) Ballot for DNPA Member – Council voted for Cllr Mark Williams. Ballot closed 20<sup>th</sup> April. Two candidates received 5 votes each, so the result was decided by a toss of a coin. Unfortunately, Mark was unsuccessful.
- c) Insurance – CCTV equipment (Cameras and UPS) has been added to the policy at no additional cost for 2022/23
- d) David Coles attended the SWQR Unit 2 Signing, Lighting and Guarding qualification training on 20<sup>th</sup> April and has passed the course.
- e) Cllr Henson reported a significant litter problem on the football field. Cllr Williams stated that the Community Centre already litter picks on a weekly basis. Council agreed that it

is the responsibility of the Football Club, but will put it on the agenda for the 24<sup>th</sup> May meeting **Action:** Clerk to put on agenda.

- f) Cllr Geen reminded Council that the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> May is the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm followed by the monthly Council meeting. At that meeting it will be necessary to vote for a Chair and Vice Chair, as Cllr Geen will be standing down as Chair.
- g) Cllr Byroms reported that there was a recent facebook post questioning why the Council didn't do more to engage the young people in the Parish. Council agreed to discuss this at the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022. **Action:** Clerk to put on agenda.

**24.2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC SESSION – no issues raised**

**25. Date of next meeting** – Council agreed to call an Extraordinary Meeting at 1800 on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to address the matters requiring resolution.

Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 1900 on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Princetown Community Centre - to be followed by Monthly Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 2133.