



Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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14 March 2021

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 23rd February 2021
Held using Zoom remote video conferencing

Present:

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward: Cllr. Alison Geen* | Princetown Ward: Cllr. David Worth** | Cllr. Nigel Tigwell |
| Postbridge Ward: Cllr. Julian Greatrex | Cllr. Stephen King | Cllr. Wendy Stones |
| | Cllr. Phil Henson | Cllr. Emma Byrom |
| | | Cllr. Gregg Manning |

* Chair, **Vice-Chair

There were 3 members of the public present, including Cllr. Philip Sanders (DCC & DNPA).

Abbreviations used: **DFPC**: Dartmoor Forest Parish Council, **DNPA**: Dartmoor National Park Authority, **WDBC**: West Devon Borough Council, **DCC**: Devon County Council.

- 1. Apologies Received** Cllr. Wendy Watson (technical issues).
- 2. Declarations of Interest** No further declarations.
- 3. Minutes of Last Meeting(s):** The minutes of the meetings of 26th January 2021 was accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.
- 4. Face to Face Meetings** the council have received guidance from Devon Association of Local Councils that councils must return to face-to-face meetings from 7th May 2021. It was resolved that the annual general meeting of the council, where the election of officers must take place, should be moved from 25th May to 4th May 2021, to enable the council to meet and vote remotely. Also, the Annual Parish Meeting of all electors to be held on 4th May 2021. It was agreed that the council will wait for further guidance and consider how face to face meetings can be safely undertaken.
- 5. Princetown Food Hub** Cllr. Stones proposed that the council make a donation of £100 towards the cost of insurance for the food hub's temporary premises in the old Methodist chapel. As the procedures only allow a maximum of £75 to be donated without a formal grant application, then the council resolved to donate £75.
- 6. Turbo Salt Spreader** Cllr. Stones raised request from parishioner for council to purchase a towable salt spreader, to be used in Princetown. Council did not believe that the estimated costs of between £3,000 to £5,000 would be a prudent investment, considering the amount of use it might get.
- 7. HMP Dartmoor** reports of noise and disturbance from prisoners continue. The parishioner, who brought it to the council's attention, has also written to Sir Geoffrey Cox MP. Cllr. Sanders has also written to the Governor and is awaiting a response. Cllr. Worth to draft a further letter, on behalf of the council and to share the detailed report of the disturbance he received from the parishioner.
- 8. Governance:** As the majority of policies and procedures have not been updated for a number of years, Cllr. Tigwell has offered to review and update where necessary. Clerk to work with Cllr. Tigwell to enable an updated set of policies and procedures to be approved by the council. In addition, Cllr. Manning has

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Signature of Chair



offered to update the electronic burial records for Postbridge Cemetery, from the paper registers. The council thanked both councillors for volunteering to support this work.

9. **Oak Tree Project** a parishioner has asked whether the council would be willing to support <https://savetheoaks.org/> and plant oak saplings in the parish. There are no costs for the actual saplings. Clerk enquired to the feasibility of planting oaks in parish with Brian Beazley, Tree Officer at DNPA, who advised the oaks would grow in the parish, however slower due to the conditions. Clerk to follow up with Duchy of Cornwall to see if they would be interested in supporting this initiative.

10. **Dartmoor 'Snow Tourism' Issues**

- Meeting with parishes of Plasterdown, Burrator & Buckland Monochorum scheduled for 25th February.
- Full multi-agency meeting scheduled for 16th March 2021. Attendees confirmed from Highways, Duchy, OPCC, Dartmoor Commoners, South West Ambulance. Cllrs Renders & Sanders also attending.
- Proposed solutions drafted by Cllr. Manning and shared with sub group for comment.
- Cllr. King researching how other National Parks manage this issue.
- Clerk to gain feedback from residents on impact of inconsiderate parking and driving.

11. **Princetown CCTV Project** system received final commissioning from manufacturer and installer. Cllrs. Worth & Manning have system software installed and have received training on using the system. No reports of dangerous and anti-social driving since the system went live. Clerk has issued press release to a number of media outlets. Featured in Tavistock Times, Plymouth Herald/Plymouth Live.

FIRST PUBLIC SESSION No questions or issues raised.

12. **Planning** Application 27/21 HMP Dartmoor – work to the retaining wall. Council resolved to support this application, which was necessary for the Tavistock Road to be open to two-way traffic and for public safety.

13. **Financial Management**

- a) Cheques authorised this month were:

| Ref | Chq No | Date | Payee & Details | Amount |
|------|--------|----------|--|------------|
| 1399 | 1644 | 23/02/21 | Josh Cook - Litter Picker fee | £ 40.00 |
| 1400 | 1645 | 23/02/21 | Steve Cox - Clerk's Pay | £ 397.55 |
| 1401 | 1646 | 23/02/21 | David Cole - Pay & Expenses | £ 528.00 |
| 1402 | 1647 | 23/02/21 | Castle CCTV Ltd (25% of installation & equipment costs) | £ 1,233.00 |
| 1403 | 1648 | 23/02/21 | BCW Office Products Ltd (CCTV Signs) | £ 203.57 |
| 1404 | 1649 | 23/02/21 | DALC - New Councillor Training - Stephen King (in Nov 20) | £ 18.00 |
| 1405 | 1650 | 23/02/21 | Steve Cox - Expenses (mileage to Postbridge cemetery x 2) | £ 32.58 |
| 1406 | 1651 | 23/02/21 | Sutcliffe Play (South West) Ltd - replacement zip wire cable | £ 2,212.80 |
| 1407 | 1652 | 23/02/21 | United Church of Princetown (Food Bank Donation) | £75.00 |

- b) Monthly Report of Accounts was considered and accepted. Key points to note:
- Key risk remains the Princetown toilets which have not yet been invoiced by WDBC.
 - Precept request submitted.
 - Castle CCTV Costs includes an additional £65.00, over the previously quoted price, for a POE switch to connect to the DNPA's internet, as they had no available ports to use. This is therefore an unknown but justified expenditure.

14. Committees, Sub-Groups & Special Interests:

- a) **Princetown Youth Club:** Ross Wheeler is stepping down from Lead Centre Worker to Youth Worker. Natalie Knight, Youth Worker has given her notice in. At the moment with COVID-19, this will not affect Y. Club as we continue with two Youth Workers. Adrian Kemp applied to Devon Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund and was awarded £4,086. for Y. Club. Youth Club remains meeting on line and doing well considering these difficult times.

15. Reports from other meetings: None.

- 16. Urgent decision since last meeting** Clerk and Cllrs. Geen, Greatrex, Worth and Henson met to review the protocol for Marking the Death of a Senior National Figure. Much of the previously agreed actions were now no longer practical due to COVID-19 restrictions. Agreed to add functionality to make formal announcements on website at a cost of £60+VAT. This is now implemented.

17. Exchange of Information Limited to the exchange of information & items for next meeting:

- a) Clerk is organising for the internment of ashes of the mother of Ms Hannah Willoughby on 22nd April 2021. Previously a resident of Bellever, her parents were John and Fanny Newman and grandfather was Samuel Newman who are all buried in Postbridge Cemetery. Due to local connection, there is no requirement for the council to formally approve this internment.
- b) Clerk has written to Andrew Watson, DNPA, to ask whether boulders could be installed in Princetown car park to further deter anti-social driving. Mr Watson advised this could be possible in next financial year and asked for further information. Mr Mark Willcocks, local resident, provided the Clerk with a comprehensive report, which has been shared with Mr Watson.
- c) Concern raised at the condition of Station Road, Princetown, which is heavily potholed due to distillery construction traffic. As road is maintained by DNPA, then Clerk will write to Andrew Watson to raise concerns.
- d) Potential breach of planning regulations at Dartmoor Inn, Merrivale to be added to the agenda for next month's meeting.
- e) Disused mine shaft near Wheal Lucky, Rundlestone has opened up. Due to public safety this has been reported to DNPA & Maristow estate.
- f) Cllr. Stones has sent a birthday card to Mr Thomas Fairweather, a resident of Princetown, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

SECOND PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Sanders reported from Devon CC the following:

- a) 4.99% increase in council tax
- b) Increase in Highways, Adults & Children's social services budgets
- c) Work on Devon Climate Emergency is progressing.
- d) DCC Elections will be called on 29th March for election day of 6th May 2021.

Also, Cllr Sanders reported that DNPA are concerned at the expected influx of visitors when lockdown is relaxed. They are considering using marshals, in partnership with the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, to help manage the impact as was successfully trialled in summer 2020 in Bellever. It is not expected that the DNPA byelaws will have been updated by summer 2021.

18. The next meeting of the Parish Council is 19.30 on TUESDAY 23rd March 2021 via Zoom Remote Video Conferencing.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20:53