



# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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11<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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

Present:

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

Abbreviations used: **DFPC**: Dartmoor Forest Parish Council, **DCC**: Devon County Council, **WDBC**: West Devon Borough Council, **DNPA**: Dartmoor National Park Authority, **DoC**: Duchy of Cornwall, **PCSO**: Police Community Support Officer, **PCC**: Parochial Church Council

**Cllr Manning chaired the meeting.**

There were 4 members of the public present, including Cllr Mark Renders (WDBC).

- Apologies** Cllr Tigwell (Ill Health),
- Declarations of Interest** - None declared
- Acceptance of Minutes meeting 28<sup>th</sup> June** - Council resolved to approve the minutes, which were then signed by Cllr. Manning.
- Urgent decisions since last meeting** – none
- Co-option of Councillors to fill Vacancy/Vacancies** – No one has come forward. Council is keen to re-advertise in the hope of attracting a new councillor for the next meeting. **Action:** Clerk to re-advertise vacancy on notice board, FB and website. To notify councillors when live on FB so it can be shared to other Princetown pages.
- Princetown Post – Proposed Newsletter** -Sandra Dodd Lay Worker Tavistock Methodist Circuit was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, so item moved forward to August 2022. She will attend Aug meeting to provide additional information regarding the proposed newsletter. She has previously requested that Council make a donation to towards the costs, for which she will need a Cllr to propose the donation, and a seconder, at the August meeting.
- Recruiting a new Litter Picker** – Only one application received from Jake Cook. Council voted to appoint Jake in place of Josh with immediate effect. **Action:** Clerk to write to



Josh to thank him for his efforts, and to Jake to confirm that he has the position going forwards.

**8. DCC Highways – Diversions and signage** - Cllr Geen reported on a concern raised by resident regarding diversion signs, lack of prior notice of road closures on the B3357 Pork Hill to Tavistock in early July. This is in addition to the proposed road closure 10-14 June, where the road was actually closed on the 9<sup>th</sup> and then the closure cancelled. Having arranged for deliveries to arrive on the 9<sup>th</sup> (before the planned road closure) this caused some difficulties. Cllr Geen asked Council to contact DCC Highways to convey disappointment and request an explanation. **Action:** Clerk to email DCC Highways and Cllr Philip Saunders

**9. Postbridge Cemetery Benches** - Cllr Greatrex has made contact with the two families who have memorial benches in the cemetery, and who will undertake to refurbish the benches. If that is not forthcoming Cllr Greatrex believes there are sufficient volunteers who will undertake the work required.

#### 10.1<sup>st</sup> PUBLIC SESSION –

- a. The parking restriction signs outside the post office have been removed, resulting in cars being parked there all day, when there should be a 30 minute limit/ no returns. Cllr Renders has raised the issue with WDBC and Devon Highways. **Action:** Clerk to contact DCC Highways to raise the issue and request the signs are replaced.
- b. Dog Fouling appears to be an issue particularly on the paths around the Community Centre, but is a problem in other areas of Princetown also. **Action:** Clerk to get price for signs to be placed around the PCC
- c. Overhanging trees on the road down to Bellever Close. **Action:** Clerk to contact Duchy and ask for them to be trimmed back, so they don't obstruct the pavement.

#### 11. Residents' Concerns

- a. Princetown Bottle Bank – following e-mail from DNPA stating that the bottle-bank will need to either be removed or relocated, Council discussed that it seemed largely that it was used by businesses and that a letter should be sent to the Prince of Wales to make them aware of the plan and suggest they contact WDBC if necessary. **Action:** Clerk to write to Prince of Wales alerting them to the possibility of bottle bank being removed.
- b. Huccaby/Hexworthy – Cllr Geen reported that she had been contacted by a concerned resident regarding the overgrown hedges from Bridge to Forest Inn. A similar situation arose in 2015 where the Council wrote to the land owners concerned and asked that they trim the hedges. DCC Highways will not get involved until DFPC made request. Council agreed to contact land owners again to request hedge trim. **Action:** Clerk to contact landowners.
- c. Mobility Scooter and excessive speed on pavements – Cllr Manning reported on concern raised by Princetown resident of a mobility scooter being driven on the pavements in excess of the permitted speed of 4mph, (8 mph permitted on roads). Council discussed a Pavement safety campaign to include mobility scooters, e-scooters and cyclists who can all travel at speeds which would cause serious injury if in collision with a pedestrian. Council agreed that a poster should be created to remind people that speed should be kept to 'walking pace' when using such vehicles on the pavements. This should be published on website, FB and around village.

**Action:** Clerk to create poster and post on website/FB, and give printed versions to Councillors for distribution around the village inviting residents to raise concerns to Council.

## 12. Planning

- a. **073/22** Snider Park Plantation – Amendment submitted to move the mast 20m to the north. Cllr. Greatrex reported that the new position didn't alter the recommendations and therefore encouraged Council to support the amendment. Council voted to support the application.
- b. **0159/22** Railway Inn – Granted conditionally 30/6/22 (without kiosk) Cllr Manning reported that the Ice Cream kiosk was in place and was selling ice creams, despite being removed from the planning application. Several residents had expressed concern regarding the apparent lack of respect for the planning process and felt that Ramblers Rest were showing disregard by placing the kiosk there, knowing that no action would be taken for 3 months, thus giving them the summer trading. Cllr Manning stated that he believed that Nick Savin DNPA was aware of the situation and that by the time any enforcement action would be taken that a further planning application would be submitted relating to a more substantial kiosk. Cllr Renders requested to address Council, and commented that the Railway Inn has done nothing illegal, but that Council can raise an objection based on planning law to DoC and DNPA explaining that Council were receiving numerous concerns from residents.

A member of the public addressed the meeting and questioned whether planning enforcement issues should be discussed in an open meeting. Both Cllr Renders and Cllr Manning stated that the initial discussion regarding the planning application was held in public, and that this conversation was related to the concerns raised by residents about the apparent disregard for that.

A second member of the public then addressed the meeting – stating that a new application for the kiosk would be submitted in due course. Both members of the public then left the meeting.

**Action:** Council agreed that Clerk should contact James Aven DNPA and Tom Stratton to alert them to the concerns of Council and those raised by residents.

- c. **0165/22** Furzimead Farm Bungalow – Granted Conditionally 7/7/22
- d. East Dart Hotel Kiosk – Planning enforcement is aware of this **0079/22**
- e. **0287/22** Merrivale came in after the agenda had been circulated – Council discussed this and agreed that there was no need to comment on the application.

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## 13. Financial management –

- a. Payments to be approved;
  - i. Councillor expenses / allowances – none
  - ii. David Cole Pay & expenses,
  - iii. Litter picker fee
  - iv. Clerk salary & expenses
  - v. HMRC Payment
- b. Invoices to be approved: Princetown Football Club–pitch cutting for 15 July (to date)
- c. Bank reconciliation – Correct
- d. Online Banking – progress – Clerk has received notification from bank that they have received applications from Cllrs Tigwell, Manning and Henson to access the account online. Cllr Byrom to complete form and return to Lloyds.

e. Financial Report - including outstanding cheques and invoices

**14. Parking issues– Princetown** Standing item to cover issues arising since the last meeting  
**Parking restriction signs outside of Post Office** - dealt with in Item 10a.

**15. Princetown – Appearance of the Village** Cllr Manning expressed concern regarding the untidy state of some of the pavement edges and around street furniture in the village. He proposed that a small working party should get together to tackle some of the more un-sightly areas focussing mainly on Tavistock Rd. Cllr Renders suggested that some local businesses would be keen to get involved. Cllrs Williams and Byrom stated that it would be great to get local children and their families involved in an ongoing litter pick/tidy streets initiative after the summer holidays. Council agreed that August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am would be the first meeting of the working party. Cllr Renders stated he would be able to supply a number of litter pickers. A number of other actions were discussed: Cleaning and painting the bus shelter and telephone box, Flower pots **Action:** Cllr Byroms to create a poster to circulate to encourage residents to join in.

**16. Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings** - See 'Briefing Notes' for any updates regarding the matters listed below.

- a. Climate Change Declaration – Tree planting Cllr Geen reported that Tom Stratton (Duchy) proposed that end of September would be best time to plant tree. Action: Cllr Geen to chase.
- b. Memorial Benches – Princetown Email from Andy Steel – *'After discussions with the governor I can confirm that HMP Dartmoor is happy to undertake the Refurbishment of the three benches located by the war memorial. I'm a supply of two new benches that will be built by prison labour. If you could arrange a delivery of the benches for refurbishment to HMP Dartmoor myself and my colleague Michael Walker will oversee this delivery for the community'*  
 Clerk has contacted Andy to find out timescales for refurbishment of benches. Council agreed that it was not a good idea to remove the three benches by war memorial over the summer, however, new benches would be welcomed in the village. **Action:** Clerk to liaise with Andy, to ascertain timescales for refurbishment and to arrange for delivery of benches to prison.
- c. St Michael's Churchyard – Walkhampton PCC – meeting arranged for 1<sup>st</sup> Aug with Cllr Manning and Revd Andrew Thomas. Clerk and many councillors have received e-mails and comments of concern regarding the state of the churchyard. **Action:** Cllr Manning to update on progress as applicable.
- d. Play Park – Inspection repairs and actions taken – Cllr Henson reported plastic sleeve missing from cable attached to power pole in park. **Action:** Clerk to report this to Western Power.

**17. Reports from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests:**

- a. PTFA meeting – Cllr Byrom reported that £800 raised at summer fayre
- b. Young People's Engagement – Cllr Byrom will call another meeting in September
- c. Youth Club – Cllr Byrom reported no meetings over the summer, but a series of events will run for young people over the summer holiday.
- d. Speedwatch – Cllr Manning – see Appendix 1

**18. Exchange of information:**

- a. Princetown Football Pitch – Lengthsman to cut twice a month, Princetown FC to be invoiced at end of each month. Pitch cuts to be charged at cost for 4hrs of Lengthsmans time plus fuel. Each cut to be in the region of £60.31, which has been agreed by PFC Chairman Allen Lewis. First cut completed 15/7/22, next planned for 28/29<sup>th</sup> July.
- b. Hexworthy AED – Cllr Geen confirmed the pads expire 1/3/24 (having been replaced at the time of service. She reported that the light is not working in the telephone box, and therefore power to the AED may also be faulty. The box is also not locking and the fabric bag is falling apart. **Action:** Clerk to update the online record ‘Circuit’ and to investigate obtaining a replacement bag, Cllr Geen to check power supply to phone box/AED.
- c. Postbridge AED– new cabinet potentially required due to damage. Clerk has investigated cost of replacing the damaged plastic cabinet with a new plastic or metal one. Costs vary from £415 (plastic) - £495 (metal) for external use, alarmed, no lock cabinet. **Action:** Cllr Greatrex to see if the plastic lid can be fixed.
- d. Princetown AED (Venville House) **Action:** Clerk to check who is responsible to the maintenance of this AED and to log it with the Circuit if applicable.
- e. Cllr Butterworth stated that following a fundraising bid there is a public access AED located at the rear of the Prince of Wales pub
- f. Cllr Renders reported that three other residents had complained to him about the state of St Michaels Churchyard, and hoped that the meeting with Andrew Thomas would bring some resolution to the situation. He suggested that Council could put a poster up explaining the situation and directing concerns to Walkhampton Parochial Church Council. **Action:** Clerk to create signs.
- g. Cllr Williams asked Clerk to obtain prices for ‘Beware Children Crossing’ signs to go on the road down to Community Centre. **Action:** Clerk to obtain signs
- h. Cllr Manning reported that concerns had been raised about two Labradors(?) in the Chaplains House who poke their heads through the bush/hedge and bark (at head height) To be discussed at next meeting if necessary.

### 19.2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC SESSION – no comments

20. Date of next meeting 1930 on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 Princetown Community Centre

Meeting Closed 21.20