

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Jackie Bennetts

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19 November 2022

Briefing Notes

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Steele
2. **Declarations of interest** -
3. **Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 25th October 2022
4. **Urgent decisions since last meeting** - none
5. **Proposed Closure of Princetown Visitor Centre** – Council to discuss the DNPA proposal and agree on action to be taken. See Appendix 1 for letter from DNPA
6. **DNPA Byelaw Revision** – Council to discuss the latest proposed revisions to Byelaws and agree on action to respond. See e-mail on 13/11/22 for details of DFPC response in 2021. [Comparison of current and revised Byelaws](#)
7. **Parking issues (Princetown)** - Standing item to cover issues arising since the last meeting - none
8. **Residents' issues or concerns** - Standing item to cover issues raised at or since the last meeting –
 - a) Parking spaces and erection of shed - Heather Terrace
9. **1st PUBLIC SESSION** - Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on agenda items, or raise issues for future consideration
10. **Planning** –
 - a) **0425/22** Land at Fernworthy Forest for a 35m lattice tower, associated solar panels and HVO generator . [0425/22 Land at Fernworthy Forest](#) See email on 14/11/22 for details.
 - b) **Proposed Tree Works 22/0050** - Princetown Conservation Area (around Prison)
See e-mail on 14/11/22 for details.
Council to consider each application and agree on response.
11. **Fire Service Consultation** – Council to discuss and decide on response, which is required by 6/12/22. See Appendix 2 for poster and DFPC 2021 response.
12. **Financial management** - see Financial Report for details
 - a) Payments to be approved;
 - b) Invoices to be approved;
 - c) Bank reconciliation;
 - d) Online Banking - progress to date;
 - e) Financial Report – including projected outturn to end of financial year
13. **Budget 2023/24 and Precept** – Clerk to present draft budget v2 for Council to consider. Budget and Precept request to be approved by Council at the December meeting.

14. Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings -

- a) **Huccaby/Hexworthy overgrown hedges** - The Duchy have hired Dave Mudge (Huccaby Farm) to trim the verges belonging to them. He has done the road from Hexworthy to Saddlesbridge and from Slade Cross towards Sherberton. Cllr Geen has drafted a letter to land owners requesting they trim back the verges. Clerk to send letter.
- b) **Hexworthy Phone Box refurbishment and Defib** - Phone box has been painted outside with crowns being filled in in gold. Local volunteer is also going to spruce up inside. Electricity supply has been disconnected (In 2014 BT agreed to maintain connection for 7yrs) Council need to consider whether to reconnect. Clerk to investigate costs and process prior to meeting if possible.
Defib - A new insulated bag is required to protect the defib as the current one has fallen apart and is past repairing. Currently available for £120 ex vat.
- c) **Play Park Memorial tree request** – Tom Stratton has requested a meeting with the Council and the person requesting the memorial tree. Cllr Williams has agreed to attend on behalf of DFPC. Meeting yet to be arranged – Clerk to action.
- d) **Refurbishment of War Memorial benches** – delays obtaining parts for equipment has unfortunately delayed this, so benches were not in place for Remembrance Service but should be completed and handed back to DFPC on Dec 2nd. Prison has also agreed to supply fixings.
Clerk currently has two families who would like to put memorial plaques on the refurbished benches and have agreed to make a donation to the Council in lieu of having to pay for a new bench/refurbishing an existing bench. Stainless steel plaques have been sourced at £60 each.

15. Reports from Committees, Sub Groups and Special Interests:

- a) Youth Club – Cllr Byrom
- b) Princetown Primary School PTA - Cllr Byrom
- c) Speedwatch – Cllr Manning
- d) VZSW – Cllr Williams
- e) 'Tidy Princetown' –
- f) Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Fund (PCMF) – Cllr Williams

16. 2nd PUBLIC SESSION - Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on agenda items, or raise issues for future consideration

17. Exchange of information – Round-table for any matters to be shared for information or to request they are put on agenda for next meeting

- a) Remembrance Service & collection - brief review of event which raised £205 for Royal British Legion.

18. Date of next 'Tidy Princetown' - 10am until 11am - Sunday 4th December 2022.
Meet outside Post Office.

19. Date of next meeting - 1930 on 13th December 2022
Princetown Community Centre



Dartmoor National Park Authority, Parke, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 9JQ. T: 01626 832093 E: hq@dartmoor.gov.uk

Clr Gregg Manning
Chairman of Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

Jackie Bennetts
Clerk to Dartmoor Forest Parish Council
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Your ref:
Please Quote: KDB/PB
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8 November 2022

Dear Clr Manning and Ms Bennetts

I am writing to alert you to the fact that yesterday (Monday 7 November 2022) we issued a staff consultation paper identifying how we would plug a £500,000 deficit in our funding. One of the proposals we are consulting staff on is the potential closure of the National Park Visitor Centre at Princetown. This is of obvious interest and concern to the Parish Council.

The proposal is borne out of financial necessity. It reflects the fact that our core funding has been reducing in real terms for the last 13 years and is forecast to reduce further in the next two years and this is without any further cuts that may be announced in the 2022 Autumn Statement. Under the proposals the Visitor Centre at Princetown would close as of April 2023. The Visitor Centre at Postbridge would remain open (as per opening hours for 2022/23).

If you/the Parish Council have any questions about the proposal please feel free to contact me. The staff consultation runs until 6 December 2022. We will then consider and analyse the responses with a view to confirming arrangements in January 2023.

Yours sincerely

Dr Kevin Bishop
Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

Pamela Woods Chair Kevin Bishop PhD Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

The purposes of the Dartmoor National Park Authority are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the area's special qualities. In pursuing these purposes the Authority has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local community.

www.dartmoor.gov.uk



Appendix 2



Have your say

Each year, we ask communities about the amount of council tax we receive as your fire and rescue service.

You can tell us what you think by completing the survey



This consultation finishes on 30 November at 12 noon

If you require this in another format please contact the Communications and Engagement Team on 01392 872354

www.dsfire.gov.uk



Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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Website: www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk

16th December 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

CRMP CONSULTATION RESPONSE

We wish to emphasise that the main item that concerns Dartmoor Forest Parish Council residents is that fire and rescue coverage for this area is maintained in a suitable manner to cope with Dartmoor's roads.

The main obstacles are narrow roads and bridges with restricted widths down to 7'6" and some weight restrictions. Secondly, we had been promised a vehicle that would cope with difficult road conditions such as snow and ice. When the RIV replaced the fire tender we did have the impression was given that this was a temporary measure and would be replaced by a similar but 4-wheel drive vehicle. This has not happened.

We are disappointed that the fire tender which used to be in Princetown was sold even though we had been promised it would be kept and maintained should it be needed. We don't want a second class fire service but that is what we feel we are being given.

Yours sincerely

A Geen

Ms Alison Geen
Chair