

# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



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20th December 2022

## Minutes for the Council Meeting at 1930 on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:</b>	<b>Princetown Ward:</b>	
Cllr Alison Geen	Cllr Stephen Butterworth	1 Vacancy
	Cllr Emma Byrom **	
	Cllr Phil Henson	
<b>Postbridge Ward:</b>	Cllr Gregg Manning *	* Chair
Cllr Julian Greatrex	Cllr Andy Steele	** Vice Chair
	Cllr Mark Williams	

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 **PCMF:** Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Fund

**Cllr Manning chaired the meeting.**

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

- 1. Apologies –** Cllr Watson
- 2. Declarations of interest -** none declared
- 3. Acceptance of minutes -** As previously circulated for meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. Council resolved to approve the minutes which were signed by Cllr Manning.
- 4. Urgent decisions since last meeting -** none
- 5. Proposed Closure of Princetown Visitor Centre –** Cllr Manning gave a brief update on actions since the last meeting. He has received responses from both Kevin Bishop and Geoffrey Cox to personal letters he had written. Council again had a lengthy discussion regarding the damage closure of the Centre would do to the local economy, and the resulting loss of up to 80,000 visitors to the village. Councillors stated it is imperative for the future viability of the village. Council agreed that further representation should be made to try to secure the future of the Centre. Cllr Geen raised the issue that some residents might not be aware of the potential closure. Cllr Manning suggested creating a poster to put up in the village. Cllr Butterworth suggested including something in the next 'In the Cloud'.  
**Action:** Clerk to write again to Kevin Bishop outlining the concerns raised and to Secretary of State/DEFRA to request they support DNPA in keeping the Centre open. Also to write to Tom Stratton (DoC) to ask that the Duchy support the village in this situation, by doing anything they can to keep the centre open. Cllr Manning again encouraged all present to



write to Kevin Bishop and Geoffrey Cox, and to encourage residents to do so as well. Clerk to contact 'In the Cloud editor, and Around and About editor to ensure the topic is included in the next editions. Cllr Manning agreed to put a poster together and post around the village.

6. **Request from West Devon CAB for Donation** – Cllr Geen proposed that, as in previous years, Council make a donation of £75 to West Devon CAB. This was seconded by Cllr Henson. Council then voted unanimously to make the donation. Action: Clerk to send cheque once authorised and signed.
7. **Commonwealth War Graves Sign (Postbridge)** – A brief discussion was held regarding the offer from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to place a sign at the entrance to Postbridge cemetery. All Councillors were in agreement that this offer be accepted. Action: Clerk to accept and liaise with Cllr Greatrex regarding the actual placement of the sign.
8. **Parking issues (Princetown)** - Standing item to cover issues arising since the last meeting - none
9. **Residents' issues or concerns** - Standing item to cover issues raised at or since the last meeting – none
10. **1<sup>st</sup> PUBLIC SESSION** - Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on agenda items, or raise issues for future consideration
  - a) Cllr Renders (WDBC) explained that he is working hard to prevent closure of the Visitor Centre, and has held several meetings with key stakeholders in recent weeks. He has also briefed DNPA Members on the work undertaken by the Centre and the benefits it provides the local community, as well as to people visiting Dartmoor. He also encouraged residents to write individual letters to DNPA, to have maximum impact.
11. **Planning** – For information only:  
**0287/22** The Stable, Longash Cottage, Merrivale –'Certificate of Lawful Use' issued on 06/12/22 [Search for an application | Dartmoor](#)
12. **Financial management** -
  - a) Payments approved by Council with cheques signed by Cllrs Manning and Henson;

Ref	Chq No	Date	Payee & Details	Amount
1594	1804	13/12/2022	Royal British Legion collection at Remembrance Service donation	£ 205.81
1595	1805	13/12/2022	SLCC annual fee 2023, CiLCA Qualification, new Arnold Baker	£ 692.80
1596	1806	13/12/2022	Donation to West Devon CAB	£ 75.00
1597	1807	13/12/2022	David Cole Lengthsman Pay	£ 528.00
1598	1808	13/12/2022	Jackie Bennetts Clerk Pay (National Pay Award back paid to April 2022)	£ 572.55
1599	1809	13/12/2022	Jake Cook - litter picker fee	£ 45.00
1600	1810	13/12/2022	HMRC Clerk Tax	£ 143.00
1601	1811	13/12/2022	Jackie Bennetts - Clerk Expenses - Defib annual replacements and repairs	£ 363.00

- b) Invoices to be issued; 006/22 Duchy of Cornwall – Grass Cutting in 2022
- c) Bank reconciliation; Correct to 09/12/22
- d) Online Banking – Cllr Byroms to complete online banking requirements asap
- e) Financial Report – see [December 2022](#) for details

**13. Budget 2023/24 and Precept** – Cllr Geen proposed that Council approve 2023/24 budget v2 as circulated by Clerk at meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2022. This was seconded by Cllr Williams and Council resolved to accept the budget and approve the Precept amount of £17,995 for 2023-24. This is a 0% increase in the Precept amount from 2022-23. Action: Clerk to submit Precept request when required by WDBC (normally January)

**14. Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings –**

- a) Huccaby/Hexworthy overgrown hedges – Cllr Geen reported that several owners have trimmed hedges and verges and Dave Mudge has also undertaken work to trim back the roadside hedges along that stretch.
- b) Defib Hexworthy – New insulated bag, batteries and responder kit has been provided to Cllr Geen. Action: Clerk to continue to investigate the process and costs for reinstating the power supply to the telephone box.
- c) Play Park Memorial tree request- Clerk to arrange meeting with Tom Stratton (DOC) the resident wishing to plant the memorial tree and Cllr Williams to discuss the siting on the tree. Cllr Geen also asked Clerk to ask Tom Stratton for an update on the tree he offer as part of the Queens Green Canopy. Action: Clerk to progress with regard both trees.
- d) Refurbishment is now complete and they were ready to be handed back to the village. The current cold weather prevents them from being put back as warmer temperatures are required to cure the fixings. Action: Cllr Steele to liaise with David Cole, and to notify Clerk when handover is due to take place. Clerk to ensure that local press is notified as this is a good opportunity to promote links between Council, the village and the Prison.

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

- a) Youth Club – Cllr Byrom reported that the boiler needs to be replaced and they are currently fundraising for this.
- b) Princetown Primary School PTA - Cllr Byrom reported a successful Christmas fair was held recently, and the school Nativity took place earlier that day. School is holding a 'Princetown's Got Talent' show on the 20<sup>th</sup> January in the Community Centre.
- c) Speedwatch – Cllr Manning reported that sessions are being planned for the New Year.
- d) VZSW – Cllr Williams has again contacted James Anstee (DCC) regarding the signs and has been told they should be in place in January 2023.
- e) Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Fund – Cllr Williams reported that the recent meeting was well attended and there was support for the group and its aim. The next meeting will take place at 7pm on the 25<sup>th</sup> January at the Prince of Wales.

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

- a) Member of the public suggested that residents should be made aware of the 0% increase in the Precept request and reminded of what Council has done over the past

12 months. Action: Clerk to produce a flyer and then contact Cllr Renders to see if it can be included in the WDBC mailout. Also to ensure it is included in copy for Parish Links, In the Cloud and Around and About.

- 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) Cllr Geen proposed a 'Thank you' to David Cole and Cllr Williams for sourcing and putting up the Christmas tree. Clerk to discuss with David Cole a plan for sourcing the tree in the future.
  - b) Cllr Byrom mentioned that a bicycle has been dumped on the pathway below the school and asked if anyone was able to remove it. Cllr Williams offered to take it to the dump.
  - c) Cllr Henson reported that he had looked at the gate onto the moor (North Hessary) and whilst the bottom bar is broken, he felt that it was still an effective barrier to livestock.
  - d) Cllr Williams asked for assistance at some point in the future with painting the bus shelter. He has the paint and is waiting until drier weather. He also suggested that a lead for 'Tidy Princetown' be identified at the Jan meeting. Action: Clerk to put on Jan meeting agenda.
  - e) Cllr Greatrex expressed concern regarding a small number of trees within Postbridge Cemetery. Action: Clerk to arrange a site meeting early in January and Council to consider at the Jan meeting whether tree survey is necessary.
  - f) Cllr Manning reported about the missing 'Welcome to Princetown' sign on the B3212. If the sign can be located it can be put back in place. If a replacement is required it would need to be funded by the community. Cllr Steele commented that he believed it is a Duchy sign. Action: Clerk to contact DoC to see if they know the whereabouts, and to ascertain if they funded the original sign.

**18. Date of next 'Tidy Princetown' -** 10am until 11am - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023.  
Meet outside Post Office.

**19. Date of next meeting -** 1930 on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
Princetown Community Centre

Meeting Closed at 2035