

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Jackie Bennetts,
Applegarth, Walkhampton, Yelverton, PL20 6JP
Telephone: 01822 859104

Email: clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk

6th February 2023

Minutes for the Council Meeting at 1930 on 24th January 2023 in Princetown Community Centre

Present:

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:	Princetown Ward:	
Cllr Alison Geen	Cllr Stephen Butterworth	1 Vacancy-Princetown
	Cllr Emma Byrom **	
	Cllr Phil Henson	
Postbridge Ward:	Cllr Gregg Manning *	* Chair
Cllr Julian Greatrex		** Vice Chair
Cllr Wendy Watson	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) and Cllr Philip Sanders (DCC)

- 1. Apologies** – Cllr Steele
- 2. Declarations of interest** - none declared
- 3. Acceptance of minutes** - As previously circulated for meeting on 13th December 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 invited Cllr Sanders as a DNPA Member to update on the latest developments. Clerk had also received correspondence from Kevin Bishop CEO DNPA earlier in the day which stated that Members of the Authority have approved the use of reserves to fund the continued operation of the Visitor Centre for six months, with effect from April 2023. This buys additional time whilst DNPA continues discussions with DEFRA, Duchy of Cornwall and West Devon BC to secure additional funding, reduce operating costs/ increase income to enable the centre to remain open after Oct 2023. Cllr Sanders (DCC) explained that the current Duchy lease for the building is due to end in 2026.

Cllr Manning welcomed this 'stay of execution' and thanked all for their efforts in writing to DNPA, local Councillors and MP's, which will hopefully help to secure the funding that is required to keep the centre open in the longer term.



Cllr Geen queried how DNPA would be able to discharge its responsibility to promote the national park, if the visitor centre on the west side of the moor closed.

Cllr Manning drew the item to a close by stating that Council would continue to monitor the situation and be prepared to take further action as necessary to retain the Visitor Centre.

Action: Clerk to circulate to Council the letter from Kevin Bishop. Clerk to respond to Kevin Bishop letter, acknowledging the update on the situation, but stating that Council is keen for all concerned to continue to seek funding to secure the Centre funding past Oct 2023.

- 6. Postbridge Cemetery** – Cllr Greatrex explained that members of the public have raised concerns regarding a number of trees within the Cemetery. Clerk and Cllr Greatrex met recently at cemetery and took photos of the trees causing most concern. Council agreed to get quotes for the removal the dead trees, and for the removal of lower limbs to give more light to an area in the cemetery. It was noted that anyone contracted to undertake the work would need to have the relevant insurances in place.

Action: Cllr Greatrex has already contacted local tree surgeon to give a quote, and will follow this up. Cllr Watson suggested another potential person to contact, Cllr Greatrex to contact them also. Clerk to contact another local tree surgeon, so that Council has three quotes. Matter to be further discussed at next meeting.

- 7. 'Tidy Princetown'** – Cllr Williams proposed that as these sessions were proving successful, and there are additional plans to plant pots around the village it would be beneficial to identify a lead Councillor, to co-ordinate the efforts across the village. Cllr Williams stated he would be happy to take this on. Council agreed and thanked him for coming forward.

Cllr Geen asked about litter pickers and HiViz which Cllr Renders (WDBC) had previously suggested he might be able to source. Cllr Renders (WDBC) said he would look into it again.

- 8. Councillor Vacancy- Princetown Ward** – Cllr Manning reiterated that there is still a vacancy in Princetown, and asked Councillors to encourage residents to come forward. Action: Clerk to create new poster for noticeboard, website and FB page. All Councillors to encourage residents to consider joining Council.
- 9. May Elections** – Clerk briefly explained the process for the elections taking place in May, particularly for the benefit of co-opted Councillors who have not been through the process previously. Cllr Sanders (DCC) recommended that declarations are submitted to WDBC well before the deadline, to allow for any amendments to be made and then resubmitted. Action: Clerk to inform Councillors of what needs to happen, deadlines etc to ensure paperwork is submitted correctly and on time.
- 10. The King's Coronation** – Cllr Manning asked if Council wished to mark the Kings Coronation. Cllr Greatrex stated that he felt that last year's Jubilee Celebrations were well attended and were worthwhile in that they brought the community together. He proposed a similar event be planned for the 7th May to coincide with the 'Big Lunch'. Council agreed to plan an event 1200 – 1500 at the Princetown Community Centre. Cllr Byrom agreed to lead, with the support of a small team, to deliver the event. Cllr Henson offered to look into souvenir options.

Action: Clerk to book the Community Centre. Cllr Byrom to canvas children and young people regarding whether mugs are appropriate/appreciated souvenirs, or if they would prefer something else. Item to be put on agenda for next meeting for further discussion.

11. 1st PUBLIC SESSION - Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on agenda items, or raise issues for future consideration

Member of the public raised the issue of the recent snow resulting in an increase in antisocial driving within the village, and asked whether the CCTV was being used to identify the offenders. Cllr Manning explained the CCTV is not monitored 24/7, but footage can be accessed if Council is notified of the date, time, location, along with a description or registration number of offending cars if possible. Cllr Manning asked Clerk to include the following in the minutes: Anyone witnessing antisocial behaviour/driving should contact the Clerk to report it, with the date, time and any other relevant information – number of cars, colours, registration numbers etc. This will enable Council to look at the footage at that time, and make relevant data available to the Police if required, if the incident is reported to them.

12. Parking issues (Princetown) - Standing item to cover issues arising since the last meeting - none

13. Residents' issues or concerns - Standing item to cover issues raised at or since the last meeting

- a) Cllr Manning raised the issue of the fencing around the Old Officers Club which has fallen down, or is missing and that people are able to access the building which is unsafe. Cllr Geen proposed that Council contact Tom Stratton (DoC) to ask for fencing to be replaced so that it provides an effective barrier, and also to request an update on the plans for the building as it is falling further into disrepair. Action: Clerk to contact DoC

14. Planning – [Search for an application | Dartmoor](#) For information only:

- a) **0376/22** Rambler's Rest, Princetown - Change of use of an area for the erection of an ice cream, hot & cold drinks sales kiosk - Granted conditionally 10/2/2023
- b) Pre-Planning Consultation received:- Home Office EAS1001 Proposed 4G Telecommunications Installation for the Home Office at Lakehead Hill, Bellever. The location has changed slightly from the application which was refused in 2021. Council will be consulted by DNPA when the application has been submitted to them.

15. Commons Act 2006 Schedule 2(4) - CL192 Walkhampton Common - The Open Spaces Society – Clerk has received notification from Devon County Council that the Open Spaces Society has applied to have an area of land to the south of Princetown registered as Common land. Cllr Geen has contacted the Dartmoor Commoners Council, who were not aware of this. The deadline for objections has been extended to 22/2/2023 Council agreed that Dartmoor Commoners Council would be in a better position to respond.
Action: Clerk to post on website to inform residents.

16. Financial management -

- a) Payments approved, cheques signed by Cllrs Manning and Henson;

Ref	Chq No	Date	Payee & Details	Amount
1602	1812	24/01/2023	David Cole Lengthsman Pay	£ 528.00
1603	1813	24/01/2023	Jackie Bennetts - Clerk Pay	£ 356.35
1604	1814	24/01/2023	Jake Cook - litter picker fee	£ 45.00
1605	1815	24/01/2023	HMRC Clerk Tax	£ 89.20
1606	1816	24/01/2023	Jackie Bennetts - Clerk Expenses - home office allowance	£ 30.00

- b) Invoices to be issued; none
- c) Bank reconciliation; correct to statement of 31/12/2022
- d) Online Banking – Cllr Byrom has submitted application to access account online
- e) Monthly Financial Report – provides more detail. Clerk forecasts an underspend of around £760 at the end of March. Clerk also reminded Council that £1000 was placed in the reserves for the Jubilee celebrations, but was not spent. Council agreed that this could be used to the King's Coronation celebration instead.

17. Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings - for any updates regarding matters listed below.

- a) Defib Hexworthy electrical supply – Clerk to attend meeting with National Grid 25th January with Cllr Geen and local volunteer to investigate the supply.
- b) Defib Postbridge – Clerk fitted replacement front cover 16/1/2023
- c) Play Park Memorial tree request – resident who requested this has now moved away from the village and therefore no longer wants to plant a tree here. Cllr Geen enquired about the Queens Green Canopy tree for the play park, Clerk has contacted DoC recently to follow this up.
- d) Refurbishment of War Memorial benches – these are complete and awaiting warmer weather so they can be installed at the war memorial. Action: David Cole to liaise with Cllr Steele with regard to when they can be installed. Clerk to write press release to coincide with them being handed back to village.
- e) Commonwealth War Graves Sign Postbridge Cemetery – Clerk met with Cllr Greatrex to agreed position of the sign and Clerk has made application to War Graves Commission. Sign could take up to 12 months to be put in place.

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

- a) Youth Club – Cllr Byrom reported that a local business has donated and will fit a new boiler. Other refurbishment work is necessary on the building and the May 8th Volunteer Day may be an option get some of the work started. Cllr Manning asked Council to consider other potential volunteer opportunities for that day – to be discussed at the next meeting. Action: Clerk to put May 8th Volunteering Day on February agenda.
- b) Princetown Primary School PTA - Cllr Byrom no recent meeting to report
- c) Speedwatch – Cllr Manning reported that weather has prevented sessions recently.
- d) VZSW – Cllr Williams reported that he is still waiting for DCC Highways to put the new signs in place. Meeting is being planned for late April/May to review effectiveness.
- e) Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Fund – Cllr Williams reported the next meeting is due to take place on 25th in the Prince of Wales, with a day of work planned for 27th January along with volunteers from Dartmoor Preservation Association.

19. 2nd PUBLIC SESSION - Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on agenda items, or raise issues for future consideration – nothing raised

20. Exchange of information -

Round table discussion for any matters to be shared for information or to request they are put on agenda for next meeting

Clerk reported that:

- a) Annual RoSPA inspection is planned for March. Clerk to circulate rota for weekly inspections. Cllrs doing the inspections were given ID cards.
- b) Condensed Councillor Training – three councillors are booked to attend training on 30th January at South Brent delivered by DALC.
- c) Information to go on the noticeboards has been updated, given to Cllr Williams and Greatrex to put on Princetown, Postbridge, Bellever. Clerk to update Hexworthy.
- d) Cllr Geen reported that the noticeboard in Hexworthy is in need of repair or replacement. Action: Clerk to put on agenda for February meeting.
- e) Cllr Henson raised the missing 'Welcome to Princetown' sign. Clerk explained she has contacted various people to try to locate the missing sign. Devon Highways have also been in contact regarding the sign, stating that it is a community sign and therefore the cost of replacement lies with the community.
- f) Cllr Williams raised the location of meetings, asking why no meetings take place in Hexworthy. Cllr Geen explained meetings had taken place in Hexworthy and that the only suitable space is St Raphael's Church, where the seating is pews which need moving for the meeting, and that the acoustics make it very difficult to hear. Cllr Geen explained that Council had taken the decision a few years ago, not to hold meetings there.
- g) Cllr Manning also raised, for information, that there is an abandoned vehicle parked on the main road, currently SORN, so should not be on the road but it is falling in to disrepair. It has been reported.

21. Date of next 'Tidy Princetown' - 10am until 11am - Sunday 5th February 2023.
Meet outside Post Office.

22. Date of next meeting - 1930 on 28th February 2023
Princetown Community Centre

Meeting closed at 2059