

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Jackie Bennetts

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22 February 2023

Briefing Notes for Meeting 28th February 2023

Cllr Manning will chair the meeting

- 1. Apologies – Cllr Williams**
- 2. Declarations of interest -**
- 3. Acceptance of minutes -** As previously circulated for meeting on 24th January 2023.
- 4. Urgent decisions since last meeting – none**
- 5. Confirmation of Councillors to fill vacancies on Committees & Working Groups**
Councillors are asked to put themselves forward to ensure all committees are adequately covered. See e-mail from Clerk 21/2/23
- 6. Princetown**
 - a) Proposed Closure of Princetown Visitor Centre – Update on actions and correspondence since the last meeting. Council to discuss and agree if any further action to be taken. See correspondence from Tom Stratton (DoC) Appendix 1
 - b) Woodland area at rear of Bellever Close – request from Tom Stratton (DoC) for representatives to join working party to discuss plans for area of woodland - Cllr Manning would like another Councillor to join him on this working party.
 - c) Request for funding/support from resident for Girl Guiding trip to Thailand - Council to consider how to respond. [DFPC Grants and Donations Procedure](#) states on page 4 (s.4.1) that Council does not make grants or donations to individuals (See Appendix 2
 - d) Wellbeing event 27 March 12 – 3pm Princetown Community Centre - Council to consider and decide how to support this event. Council have been invited to have space at this event. It would be a good opportunity to promote what the Council does, 'meet your Councillor' and potentially recruit to fill the vacancy. See appendix 3
- 7. Postbridge**
 - a) Cemetery -Tree felling. Council to consider quotes received and authorise felling
Quotes emailed on 22/2/23 to Councillors.
 - b) Noticeboard – Council to discuss regarding refurbishment, replacement or removal
- 8. Hexworthy**
 - a) Defib electrical supply – update and to seek approval from Council to purchase necessary electrical equipment.
The electrical supply has been restored, but there is an issue with the transformer which drops the voltage from 240vAC to 24vDC for the defib heater pad. Replacement cost between £45 and £90. Light also needs replacing cost approx. £50.
 - b) Noticeboard – Council to discuss regarding refurbishment, replacement or removal
- 9. The King's Coronation –** Council to discuss and agree plan to mark the Coronation on the 7th May. [The Big Lunch](#) have resources available and events can be registered.

10. **May 8th** – Coronation Volunteering Day – Council to discuss and agree on projects to put forward and support for the day of volunteering. [‘The Big Help Out’](#) resources available from 20th March.
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
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
14. **Planning** – [Search for an application | Dartmoor](#)
 - a) 0425/22 Withdrawn [Mast at Fernworthy](#) (For information only)
 - b) 0491/22 HMP Dartmoor –for consideration by Council, see Appendix 4 report from Cllr Manning.
<https://dartmoor-online.tascomi.com/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=161157>
 - c) 049/23 3 Albert Terrace, Princetown - for consideration by Council
<https://dartmoor-online.tascomi.com/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=161238>
15. **Dartmoor National Park Authority’s draft Supplementary Planning Document** – Council to consider responding to the consultation. See email 22/2/23 from Cllr Geen following her attendance at recent info session with DNPA. Deadline for consultation 27th March.
16. **Financial management** - see Financial Report for details
 - a) Payments to be approved;
 - b) Invoices to be issued; none
 - c) Bank reconciliation;
 - d) Online Banking - progress to date;
 - e) Monthly Financial Report – including projected outturn to end of financial year
17. **Devon County Council (Highways) Grass Cutting Agreement 2023** – Council to consider agreement and authorise Clerk to sign on behalf of Council. Contract value has increased by 3% to £126p.a. This is to cutback various roadside verges 4 times in April, June, July, September. See email from Clerk 22/2/23
18. **Updates on correspondence/ actions from previous meetings**
 - a) May Elections – WDBC is preparing nomination packs, to be collected by Clerk in early March to be distributed to those wishing to stand for election. There will be an annotated form as an example. Each Councillor standing will need a proposer and seconder, from within their ward. The electoral roll number of each person is needed on the nomination form. Clerk has copy of electoral register, so can provide these numbers. The nomination papers must be hand delivered between the hours of 10am and 4pm from Thursday, 23 March and Tuesday, 04 April (to the reception area, West Devon Borough Council offices, Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, PL19 0BZ). Please advise candidates that we will deal with nominations on a first come first served basis but will try to process them quickly and efficiently to save any long waits. Before formally accepting any papers, we will do an informal check – if there are any minor errors it is possible that these can be amended if the candidate is present, otherwise papers might need to be rejected and resubmitted. [Info for Councillors](#) :

- b) Welcome to Princetown Sign – DCC Highways report that cost to replace sign is estimated to be £100-300 but may be more.
- c) Google document for Play Park Inspections – Play park inspectors have been provided (by email 18/2/23) with a link to google document to record when the inspections are completed, and to add any relevant comments.
- d) DFPC Annual Plan – All councillors have been sent a link to a google document, which outlines key task throughout the year, and who is responsible for them. Email 22/2/23

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

- a) Youth Club – Cllr Byrom
- b) Princetown Primary School PTA - Cllr Byrom
- c) Speedwatch – Cllr Manning See Appendix 5 for report
- d) Princetown Churchyard Maintenance Fund – Cllr Manning

20. 2nd PUBLIC SESSION - Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on agenda items, or raise issues for future consideration

21. 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

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

23. Date of next meeting - 1930 on 28th March 2023
Princetown Community Centre

Appendix 1 – received by e-mail 10 Feb 2022

Dear Jackie

Princetown Visitor Centre

I refer to the telephone conversation with your Council's Chair, Gregg Manning recently, during which he expressed concern about the future of the Visitor Centre in Princetown.

The Duchy, as freehold owner of the building is keen to work collaboratively with Dartmoor National Park (DNPA) and other applicable stakeholders, to explore options for the Centre's future use that help sustain a visitor services function. We are in discussion at the moment but in the meantime note that the DNPA has identified resources to ensure operation in its current form, for up to another six months from April 2023. The Duchy has been proactive and appreciative in relation to the funding challenge the DNPA has and we remain open minded in relation to the identification of solutions in the context of the Centre.

I have heard that there seems to be some misunderstanding associated with the tenure status of the Centre building and to clarify this, as I mention, the Duchy owns it and we lease the area that forms the Centre, including the offices above, public toilets and part of the car park to DNPA. We occupy our Estate Office independently and whilst we share heating provision with the DNPA, we have independent metering. We do rent a single room from the DNPA for some archive file storage. DNPA sub-lets the public toilets to West Devon.

The DNPA's lease is for a 35 year term expiring in 2026 and there is a nominal rent paid to the Duchy, which is fixed for the full length of the agreement. The DNPA is responsible for repairs and insurance.

I hope that the above is helpful but do let me know if you have any queries.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

Tom Stratton



Tom Stratton BSc (Hons) MRICS Deputy Land Steward
Duchy of Cornwall, Princetown, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 6QF
01822 890205
www.duchyofcornwall.org

Appendix 2



Cllr Gregg Manning
10 Devonshire Row
Princetown
Yelverton
PL20 6QD

Jayne Menzies

[REDACTED]
Princetown
PL20 6RH

31st January 2022

Dear Cllr Manning

Hello, my name is Jayne and I live and work in Princetown. In my spare time I volunteer with Girlguiding. As I'm sure you are aware, Girlguiding opens up a world of adventure and gives girls and young women the opportunity to develop new skills for life, like leadership and teamwork.

I have been selected to go to Thailand in November 2023, this will be working alongside the Girl Guides Association of Thailand to support, skill share and work on a community project focusing on waste and recycling.

To be able to go on this exceptional opportunity I need to fundraise £3000. I am looking at various fundraising events such as bake sales, raffles and larger scale events. I would be happy to notify you of anything upcoming.

I am writing this letter to ask whether you would be able to support me in any way. Anything would be greatly appreciated by both myself and my guiding sisters in Thailand.

Many thanks for your time and consideration.

Jayne Menzies

Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] for any further information.

Appendix 3 – Princetown Wellbeing Event received by email 14/2/23

Why a Community Wellbeing Event and what exactly is the Transitions Project?

Knowing what services are available locally is not as easy as you think. It makes life much easier and much more enjoyable if you can talk to representatives of the groups and services face to face.

This is why the Transitions Project has been organising free Community Wellbeing events across Torridge and West Devon to help and encourage local people to find out about their local community groups and services. These free events are designed to help residents gather useful information, to provide inspiration for them to take up new activities, to make new friends and also to offer an opportunity to have their voices heard. By bringing community groups and services together under one roof, our aim is that we might also strengthen local connections and encourage networking.

Transitions is a partnership between West Devon CVS (see www.westdevoncvcs.org.uk) and Wiser£Money (see www.navigatecharity.org.uk) It is funded by the Community Fund to provide free and confidential money and debt advice across the rural settlements of West Devon and Torridge for those unable to access mainstream advice, and to work with community partners to improve rural communities' financial wellbeing and reduce social isolation.

At the event, we will produce a directory for everyone to take home; this will include contact details of all the services represented at the event, which we hope will cover a wide range of both statutory agencies and voluntary organisations relating to many issues and interests, including up to date advice on energy costs and digital inclusion, as well as promoting leisure interests.

This will be our fifteenth event in the last few years, having organised successful ones (in some areas, more than once) in Bere Alston, North Tawton, Holsworthy, Princetown (way back in September 2018), Hatherleigh, Torrington, Lifton, Winkleigh, Chagford and Black Torrington.

We hope that Dartmoor Forest Council will wish to take advantage of this opportunity to arrange a good presence, to promote all its activities and campaigns including for example, developments on the current housing survey.”

I will be in touch again soon with the poster as well as our short form to book a space in the Hall.

Many thanks for your help and best wishes,

P.S. Cllr. Emma Byrom is already aware of this; we are delighted that she has promised us that the Primary School will participate.

Billie Burnett
Information Co-ordinator West Devon

West Devon Community and Voluntary Services
Ockment Community Centre
North Street
Okehampton EX20 1AR
01837 738133 (please leave a message)

Appendix 4 Report from Cllr Manning 14/2/23 following site visit with Cllr Greatrex

Full Planning Application for Plant and Associated Works at Land Adjacent to HMP Dartmoor.

The site is located South East of HMP Dartmoor and comprises roughly 0.3 ha. The remainder of the site is surrounded by grassland.

Currently there are instances where non-biological debris such as mobile phones, towels, clothing and bedding are being disposed of through the prison sewage system. A certain number of these items are bypassing the maceration system and are entering the South West Water sewage system causing blockages, in particular blockages are highly likely if materials such as bedding and clothes are discharged to the South West Water sewer. These blockages create problems for South West Water as they are difficult and time consuming to resolve and can cause flooding which may result in a release of sewage to the environment.

South West Water are requesting that the site wastewater system is upgraded. If this is not achieved South West Water have indicated they will take further legal action against the establishment.

The new system which I believe is the third generation will be much more efficient at screening the non biological waste and therefore cause fewer blockages. The new system will initially be like an upside down pyramid with most of it buried underground. The building is expected to start early summer and be completed by November. Access to the site will be via the road leading down to the left of the prison wall ensuring less disruption for those residents living on Tavistock Road and Blackabrook.

I believe that the new system will be situated far enough away from any housing (Mainly Blackabrook) that it will not cause any noticeable change for the residents.

Clearly the current system is no longer fit for purpose and upgrading is not an option therefore the building of a new system to take the establishment forward for future decades to come is essential.

At the time of writing this I have checked and there are no letters of objection currently lodged against this proposal.

I have taken into account current planning considerations but do not believe this proposal is in conflict of any of these and therefore I am happy to recommend this to the Council.

Community Speedwatch Report February 2023

We continue to go out at least once a week and sometimes manage twice. Due to some difficulties nationally with Insurance the activity was suspended for a couple of weeks. This has had some effect on the number of sessions completed. Bad weather has also been a factor but we have still completed six sessions. Below are some statistics gathered.

381 vehicles monitored of which 46 were speeding

Maximum speed recorded was 56mph

Average speed was 49 mph

Average of each session speeding is 12%, it used to be 30%.

4 vehicles had no Mot

1 vehicle had no Road Tax

29 were new and sent their 1st Letter

1 had been caught before and was sent the 2nd harsher letter.

11 were reported to Traffic Police.

Here is the picture Nationally which is I think impressive

