



# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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9 April 2015

Councillor Notes for the  
**Annual Parish meeting at 1900 on 13 April 2015**  
**and the Parish Council Meeting that will follow**  
**in Princetown Community Centre.**

<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:</b>	<b>Princetown Ward:</b>	
Cllr Alison Geen	Cllr Stephen King	Cllr Wendy Stones
<b>Postbridge Ward:</b>	Cllr Gregg Manning	Cllr Paul Turnbull*
Cllr Wendy Watson	Cllr Cliff Palmer	Cllr David Worth
Cllr Val Greatrex	Cllr Mark Renders	

A. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Alison will chair the Annual Parish Meeting this year.

Agenda:

1. Welcome by the Chair
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 April 2014
3. Main Speaker: Governor Bridie Oakes-Richards - "HMP Dartmoor & Dartmoor Forest Parish"
4. Dartmoor Forest Community Reports
5. Matters raised by the electorate

11 community groups have agreed to provide a report to the Annual Parish Meeting with a potential further 9 that may arrive on the night. This will enhance the Annual Parish Meeting to serve its intended purpose but may mean it takes more than the usual 30 minutes.

The rules for the Annual Parish Meeting are:

With the exception of the Chair, Parish Councillors are treated as electors

All electors registered in Dartmoor Forest may take part

Non-electors may attend but may not vote

The Chair will be the Chair of the Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

Proposals may be made by any elector present

Decisions are made by a simple majority vote of electors attending

In the event of a tie the Chair has a second, casting vote

The Parish Council must consider all resolutions passed but...

The Parish Council is not legally bound by Annual Parish Meeting decisions

## B. PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Alison will chair the meeting

### 1. Apologies.

I have no apology.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

No amendments have been reported to date.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting.

No amendments have been reported to date.

### 4. Planning applications

With the Parish Council	Nil	
Recent DNPA decisions (all conditional approval)	0071/15	External wall insulation Wheal Lucky House, Rundlestone
With DNPA		Nil
Awaiting enforcement action	0164/07	Beardown Farm un-authorised chalet. Enforcement action is being taken – see correspondence item 29

### 5. Princetown approach roads

This item was added at Greggs request at the last meeting. The new double yellow lines at Spitchwick and New Bridge Hill could be used as a precedent for installing double yellow lines on Princetown approach roads to prevent roadside parking and ease traffic congestion during peak tourist period such as in snow. The downsides are that the double yellow lines are unsightly and a Traffic Regulation Order to authorise the double yellow lines would cost £3,000. DFPC must decide whether to initiate formal action to request parking restrictions on the B3357 and B3212 through the Parish.

### 6. Forest Inn

The Duchy has been unable to sell the Forest Inn leasehold and is reportedly considering advertising it as freehold. If sold as freehold the new owners would be under no obligation to trade as a pub/restaurant/inn under national permitted development rights. By listing the Forest Inn as an Asset Of Community Value a planning application will be required for the change of use or demolition of the pub. This then provides an opportunity for local people to comment, and enables the local planning authority to determine the application in accordance with its local plan, any neighbourhood plan, and national policy. The local planning authority may take the listing into account as a material consideration when determining any planning application.

Listing the Forest Inn as an Asset Of Community Value would also give the community the right to develop a bid to buy the pub and ensure its continued contribution to their community before any sale may be completed under the Community Right to Bid. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-people-more-power-over-what-happens-in-their-neighbourhood/supporting-pages/community-right-to-bid>

DFPC decided in February not to declare any property in the Parish as being an Asset Of Community Value. However, in light of this new information DFPC must decide whether to so declare the Forest Inn.

### 7. Parish Plan

Ali Kohler gave Alison and the Clerk clear guidance on 11 March that DFPC should develop a Neighbourhood Plan and not to rely on DNPA as a Planning Authority to ensure community needs and concerns are met. This is contrary to the perception held by DFPC in the past.

Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011 and gives Parish Councils the power to:

Make a neighbourhood development plan to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood: where new homes and offices should be built; and what they

should look like. The plan can be detailed or general, depending what local people want. This may be of significant benefit to the Parish, in particular for the young – [see correspondence item 41](#).

Make a neighbourhood development order to allow the community to grant planning permission for development that complies with the order. This removes the need for a planning application to be submitted to the local authority.

Make a Community Right to Build order to give permission for small-scale, site-specific developments by a community group.

Parishes with a neighbourhood plan will receive 25% of any community infrastructure levy arising from developments in their area compared to parishes without a neighbourhood plan who will receive 15%.

DNPA as the local planning authority has a duty to support communities making their neighbourhood plan and is responsible for organising the neighbourhood planning referendum. The referendum ensures that the local community has the final say on whether a neighbourhood development plan, neighbourhood development order or a Community Right to Build order comes into force in their area. To support their role, local planning authorities can claim funding of at least £30,000 per completed plan.

There are several sources of advice and support for communities to do neighbourhood planning: including from DNPA, WDBC, best practice from other Parishes and grants to pay for the consultation exercise. Grants can be used to pay for events to engage the local community, print leaflets and to pay for specialist planning expertise. All groups writing a neighbourhood plan will be eligible to apply for up to £8,000 in grant. [See also correspondence item 40](#).

DFPC must decide whether to develop a Neighbourhood Plan in principle and, if so: who should be the lead Councillor; whether to establish a sub-committee; and how to take the work forward.

## **8. Elections 2015**

Congratulations! All councillors with the exception of Val have been elected in an uncontested election. We have one vacancy in Postbridge as the expected newcomer changed his mind. We can co-opt for this place without prejudicing our move to a general power of competence.

There are two candidates for the Dartmoor Ward of WDBC:

Annabel ROBERTS of Wringworthy Farm, Mary Tavy (Conservative)  
Mandi ST CLAIR of Ring O`bells, Hexworthy (Green Party)

## **9. Nomination of Parish Members to Dartmoor National Park Authority and Devon Association of Local Councils.**

The existing Parish Members of the Dartmoor National Park Authority cease to hold office following the elections on 7th May 2015. Nominations for new Parish Members are needed. DFPC must decide whether it wishes to nominate a councillor to sit on the Dartmoor National Park Authority. See correspondence item 27.

The members of the County Committee (executive body of the Devon Association of Local Councils) are elected every four years following local council elections. The County Committee normally meets 3 times a year on a Monday morning in Exeter. West Devon has 5 representatives: 1 from Tavistock and 3 drawn from the Parish Councils. Nominations for new Parish Members are needed. DFPC must decide whether it wishes to nominate a councillor to sit on the County Committee of the Devon Association of Local Councils. See correspondence item 38.

## 10. Financial management

a. Cheques to be approved this month:

840	WDBC - cemetery rates	£ 127.20
841	Duchy - Play Area rent	£ 36.00
842	DALC - Annual Subscription	£ 222.23
843	N K Tigwell - Clerk's Pay	£ 557.18
843	HMRC - Clerk's PAYE	£ 88.80
844	WDBC - Dig bin emptying	£ 71.76
845	N K Tigwell - Administration Expenses (printer)	£ 165.00
846	A Jaques – litter picking	£ 56.33

b. Bank Reconciliation.

Balance on last statement ( )	Not yet received
Outstanding Income	
Nil	
Outstanding Cheques	
Reconciled total	

c. **Office Equipment.** The Clerk has purchased an Oki C531dn small business office printer which has excellent reviews. It is slow and bulky but economic: the toner tanks are separate from the drum so a complete cartridge need not be purchased for toner refills. By shopping around the Clerk was able to buy it on offer for £137.50+VAT, a significant saving on the £225+VAT budget.

## 11. Approval of 2014/15 accounts for audit

This may need to be deferred to the next meeting as the Clerk has not had time to prepare the accounts for audit as yet.

## 12. Committees, Sub-Groups & Special Interests

Questions about previously circulated reports from Committees, Sub-Groups and Special Interests by lead Councillors.

a. **Community Centre.**

b. **Pavilion Youth Club.**

c. **Parking Committee.**

d. **Emergency Planning Sub-Group.**

e. **Public Library Sub-Group.**

f. **Play Area Sub-Group.**

g. **Postbridge Village Hall.**

h. **TAP Fund.** The application with Buckland Monachorum and others for lengthsman services was approved on condition the DCC Highways contractor is not used unless it is clearly demonstrated there was no alternative, cheaper source of Chapter 8 qualified labour available within 3 months.. The application with Lydford for VAS signs will be presented for the June meetings.

i. **Princetown Primary School.**

j. **Fire & Rescue Service.**

k. **Cemetery.** Work on the access to the extension has been commissioned.

l. **Training.** New councillor training will be held in Tavistock on 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July. Places should be booked via the Clerk.

m. **Emergency Committee.** Nothing to report.

### 13. Reports from other meetings

a. **DNPA Parish Workshop.** Attended by Alison and the Clerk. There were presentations on: Superfast broadband; the State of the National Park by Kevin Bishop (Chief Executive) and Ally Kohler (Director of Conservation and Communities); Managing public rights of way by Andrew Watson (Head of Recreation, Access and Estates) and Rob Steemson (Head Ranger); Update on planning by Stephen Belli (Director of Planning).

There was also a session on 'Learning from Others' with selected Parish Councils sharing details of successful projects of generic interest. Of particular note was the approach used in North Bovey where a not-for-profit volunteer group with 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance operates alongside the Parish Council providing 'lengthsman' type services but operating outside the official Road Warden Scheme. The group raises funding through their village fair and the volunteers network.

b. **Southern Link Meeting.** The meeting voted to retain the current Link boundaries. Notes of the meeting may be read on the new Southern Link website at: <http://southernlink.weebly.com/notes-of-meetings.html>

### 14. Other Issues Requiring Decisions

Whether to invite Dr Milling and Dr Schaefer to talk to the Parish Council about the cultural provision research project in Princetown (correspondence item 28).

Whether to respond to the NALC opinion survey on 'The Casual Vacancy' (correspondence item 35).

Whether to apply to the Community Rights Programme (correspondence item 13).

Whether a Carnegie Trust plying field was established in the Parish (correspondence item 4).

Whether to organise or support an event celebrating 800th Anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta (correspondence item 42).

### 15. Project progress reports

#### Postbridge 3G Signal.

This project has run into difficulties over the last few weeks. An opposition movement appears to have developed around Bellever and the Postbridge Village Hall Committee. I do not know whether it is orchestrated or not. It started with discontent over the draft legal agreements but now appears to also encompass the technology: in terms of being Vodafone only (this is inevitable - mobile companies do not share masts and are strongly resisting government proposals to force them to do so); and in terms of potential health hazards (but not based on anything tangible that I can discover). I have even had comments like 'there's no point, I'm with O2'.

Of the 4 sites for equipment:

The Visitors Centre. Full technical and cable survey complete and acceptable. DNPA have accepted and agreed the legal agreement. All ready to go.

Higher Lydgate Farm. Technical survey complete. Val & Justin do not have a 13A socket at the point Vodafone wish to site the equipment and Vodafone will not pay to have one installed. I suggest DFPC considers agreeing to meet the cost (based on the Hexworthy Telephone Kiosk the cost is likely to be £70-£95) to enable us to proceed.

Village Hall. We were keen for the Village Hall to be included as Vodafone would meet the cost of installing a new telephone line for the broadband connections which would allow the Village Hall Committee to install a telephone or wifi broadband at minimal cost some time in the future should they wish to do so. However, the Village Hall Committee did not take a vote on whether to accept the equipment at its last meeting. In Paul Hammett's words "*I was surprised at the level of concern expressed. ... Typically, and in tandem with many rural communities there is much suspicion about the project and unless we get this absolutely right then everything from unwanted pregnancies to poor harvests in the future will be attributed to the Vodafone antenna on the village hall!*" Beechwood B&B is an alternative site to the Village Hall. This would be cheaper for Vodafone to install but it is currently up for sale and I

am told Tom Stratton expressed reservations about mounting equipment on Duchy properties. I had not viewed Tom as a significant stakeholder / veto group and need to discuss the benefits and de minimus detriment with him.

Bellever. Currently we do not have an agreed site.

There is no doubt that the Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal project will be of long term social and economic benefit to Postbridge and Bellever (see correspondence item 26) but I appear to have significantly underestimated the effort to convince residents of this. Possibly the fact that we had 29 willing volunteers to host the equipment at the start of the project led to over-confidence.

I have discussed the position with Vodafone to see whether they have had a similar situation elsewhere, but they have not. This is the only area of the 100 sites across the country that is having these type of problems with residents.

Vodafone are willing to proceed with the Visitor's Centre only, but with a 500m range this will be unable to provide a strong signal to many areas beyond the Tourist areas. DNPA is very enthusiastic about the project and Jo Rumble has offered their IT Team, Legal Team and Ali Kohler if necessary to help win over the doubters. It may be we need to go for a village meeting on the subject, if we do Vodafone have agreed to support us. This project is taking up a lot of the Clerk's time.

DFPC need to decide whether to proceed with the full project (cost of a 13A socket and a village meeting with DNPA and Vodafone assistance) or go for a reduced benefit scheme by proceeding with the Visitors centre only.

**Defibrillators.** The Postbridge defibrillator cabinet is fitted to the Visitors Centre. The new transom panels for the Hexworthy defibrillator are ready and Alison has made arrangements for the kiosk to be pressure washed and repainted. I still need to initiate the process to have them registered with SW Ambulance Trust.

**Cemetery improvements.** Work on the access to the extension has been commissioned but I have not had feedback on progress to date.

**Grass cutting options.** Details of my assumptions for equipment to buy (including alternatives) have been forwarded to councillors for comment. I have not had feedback to date.

**PHT Grant application for gardening club and equipment.** No feedback on whether the funding application has been successful yet, possibly a further month.

**Risk assessments and procedures.** No progress since the last meeting. There is still some way to go before the Council meets modern standards. DALC provide a health check service (correspondence item 32) but I suggest this is not needed at this stage.

**Adding additional names to the War Memorial.** There has been no progress since the last meeting.

**Play Area improvements Phase 3.** The Clerk has handed over the Phase 2 paperwork and catalogues to Wendy, Mark and Gregg for review. I have accepted an offer for a no-commitment site survey by **Sovereign** play equipment for **1000 Wednesday 22 April 2015**. One or more of the councillors involved may wish to attend (see correspondence item 43).

**Outline plans for a skate park.** There has been no progress on this project.

#### 16. Urgent decisions since last meeting

Nil.

#### 17. Exchange of Information

Limited to the exchange of information & items for next meeting

#### 18. Date of the next meeting

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held at 1900 Tuesday 19 May at Princetown.