

**DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2005  
in the High Moorland Visitor Centre, Princetown**

1. The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.. The Chairman welcomed all present.

**Present**

**Princetown**

Mrs Wendy Stones (Vice Chair)  
Mr Gary Easton  
Mr Simon Loveless  
Mr Paul Turnbull  
Mr Malcolm Waite  
Mrs Helen Ward  
Mrs Angela Williams

**Postbridge**

Mr Dave Fisher (Chair)  
Mr Dave Adaway

**Hexworthy/Huccaby**

Mrs Rosemary Mudge

**Apologies**

None

**In Attendance**

Ms Serina Rouse, DNPA  
Mrs Wendy Watson, Chairman of Governors, Princetown Primary School  
Mr Bob Williamson, WDBC

**2. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 5 April 2004 were approved and then signed by the Chairman.

**3. Chairman's Report**

- 3.1 The Chairman said that the past year had been one of change for the parish council, with the retirement of Councillor James Langton, and the sad loss of Councillor Kevin Elliott and the Council's representative on the Board of school Governors, Margaret Beattie. Helen Ward had been co-opted to replace James Langton and had already proved to be an asset to the council. Angela Williams had just tendered her resignation due to personal circumstances. The Chairman wished her well and thanked her for her dedication both to the council and to Princetown public library. Finally, the parish clerk for the last 5 years, Joe Young, had also now retired and the Chairman thanked him on behalf of the council for his hard work and dedication. The new parish clerk is Ann Inman, who brings IT and e-Government knowledge to the role.
- 3.2 Over the past year the council has questioned the reliability of ambulance cover for the parish. The length of time to answer emergency calls and the ability to locate the correct addresses have both raised concerns and the Chairman stated that the council will not rest until some firm answers are obtained from the ambulance service.
- 3.3 Most of the council's concerns over highway matters are handled very efficiently and the Chairman thanked them for that.
- 3.4 The local PC, Steve Bradfield, had kept the council informed of his efforts to combat crime and vandalism in the Princetown community. The Chairman thanked him for his continuing drive to help the area with his police surgeries.
- 3.5 In conclusion, the Chairman said that the council was looking forward to new houses in the area being occupied and, with an ever enlarging population, a cleaner and safer environment for all concerned.

#### **4. To Receive Statement of Accounts for Dartmoor Forest Parish Council for the Year Ended 31 March 2005**

- 4.1 The following queries/comments were raised on the accounts:
- a. The two grass cutting expenditure items were for different amounts, and one had "VAT ¾" against it.
  - b. Climbing frame to be removed as it had now been disposed of.
  - c. The pre-2004 playground equipment should be insured
  - d. Does the insurance currently provide replacement or asset value
- Action** – Clerk to clarify
- 4.2 Notwithstanding these queries/comments, the statement of accounts for Dartmoor Forest Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2005 was received and accepted. The Chairman signed the Receipts and Expenditure Summary and the Supporting Statement for the financial year 2004/2005.

#### **5. Postbridge Village Hall Report and Statement of Accounts**

The annual statement of accounts was distributed and the Chairman read extracts from the minutes of the Postbridge Village Hall AGM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2005.

#### **6. School Report**

Wendy Watson, Chairman of Governors, Princetown Primary School, read out the annual school report.

- 6.1 A newsletter will be produced to provide details of events at the school during the forthcoming term. Councillors can obtain a copy on request to the school.
- 6.2 The roofing project is due to complete soon, thereby returning the playground to the children for the rest of the term.
- 6.3 An open invitation was extended to the Councillors and people of Princetown to come and see the children's activities and to meet the staff. Visits by prior arrangement with the school.

#### **7. Playground Report**

Gary Easton read out the annual playground report.

- 7.1 Several new pieces of equipment had been installed in the playground, including safety surfaces, via KIPPER, and all the existing equipment had been painted by the prison Resettlement Unit. In addition, a new post and rail fence had recently been added. The local Fire Service was also doing an excellent job of keeping the litter down.
- 7.2 It was hoped that all these improvements meant that the playground was meeting the village expectation, as expressed in the "Princetown Questionnaire for Young People 2002".
- 7.3 Letters of thanks to be sent to the Fire Service, Prison Service and KIPPER. Special thanks were also given to Angela Williams for all her hard work.

#### **8. Burial Ground Report**

The Chairman read out the annual ground report.

- 8.1 2004/2005 saw the purchase of land for the extension to the burial ground. This will allow future generations to be buried or to have their ashes interred at Postbridge. Work is now needed to create an entrance to the extension.
- 8.2 The records show that the cemetery was originally consecrated in 1907 and the idea has been suggested that the centenary of this event in 2007 should be marked in some way as part of the consecration and opening of the extension. Ideas will be canvassed in the coming year and it is hoped that the event will be funded by the inhabitants of Postbridge, both past and present.
- 8.3 The cemetery has been well cared for over the past year and thanks go to Mike Druett. Thanks were also given to Tom Webb, for his work on the bench. DNPA provided saplings for the new bank and thanks were given to them as well as to Joe Young who undertook the planting.
- 8.4 With health and safety regulations in mind, the Chairman had checked the gravestones for stability and found that the stone on plot E8 (Endacott) posed a hazard. This stone has been laid flat on the grave.

- 8.5 Annual income for 2004/2005 was £274. Expenditure was £1,763.47 of which £1,175 was spent on the erection of the turf bank and fence for the extension.
- 8.6 After some discussion it was agreed that the time had come for a review of burial costs. This will be on the agenda at the May parish council meeting. Meanwhile, costs of church burials will be obtained from Captain Swales to aid the review.

### 9. Any Other Business

- 9.1 Wendy Stones gave a report on behalf of HMCA. An architect has been commissioned to draw up the plans for the new Village Centre. This will have two halls, with a kitchen and office space. In addition, there will be a doctor's surgery, a library and a police office. After preparation, the plans will be available for public viewing. HMCA was awarded Investors in People in March 2005.
- 9.2 Wendy Stones also reported that the Duchy Square project was progressing. An architect was appointed in March 2005 and asked to submit plans to the next meeting. It is hoped that the Village Centre and Duchy Square plans will be available for viewing at the same time.
- 9.3 Wendy Stones also reported that, under its new leader, the Youth Club was going from strength to strength with between 16 to 18 young people now attending. It is hoped that extra facilities will also become available when the pavilion and the sports field are handed over by the Duchy. The after school club was also still well attended, although numbers cannot exceed 15 at the current time.
- 9.4 A member of the public, Liz Steele, raised the question of the major parking issues that were still ongoing in Princetown. Lack of signage meant that large vehicles, such as coaches and lorries, were entering roads made narrow by parked vehicles and were having to back up when it became obvious that the passageway was too narrow. A similar problem existed for emergency vehicles.

**Actions:** Clerk to contact PC Bradfield to re-iterate the problem

Les Parr, another member of the public, will take a further set of photographs to illustrate the problem. Bob Williamson said he was happy to present the photographs to WDBC.

10. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Signed: .....

**Chairman**

Date: **3 April 2006**