

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Meeting held on Monday 7 April 2008
in the High Moorland Visitor Centre, Princetown**

Present

Princetown

Mrs Mary Farley
Mr Cliff Palmer
Mr Paul Turnbull
Mrs Helen Ward
Ms Pat Weir

Postbridge

Mr Dave Fisher (Chair)
Mrs Wendy Watson

Hexworthy/Huccaby

Mrs Rosemary Mudge

Apologies

Princetown

Mr Gary Easton
Mrs Wendy Stones

Postbridge

Hexworthy/Huccaby

In Attendance

Councillor Isla McPhie, WDBC
Serena Rouse, DNPA

Two members of the public

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

2. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 2 April 2007 were approved and then signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising

4. Chair's Report

- 4.1 The last year had been one of expansion in Princetown, with many new houses being built and with families moving into the village. It was good to see some new faces in the Parish
- 4.2 The year had started with major problems with anti-social behaviour by a number of youths in Princetown. This culminated with a large public presence at the May meeting and the the venue had to be changed to Wesley Church Hall in order to accommodate all those who wished to be present. After a lively debate involving the Police, local Councillors representatives of West Devon Homes, members of the local Press and many residents of Princetown, the concerns of all were aired and, hopefully, some good will come of the discussion that took place that evening.

- 4.3 The Princetown Village Centre has moved forward and we would appear to be, at last, within touching distance of the commencement of the project. With the final costs of the project being approximately £1.6m it is, by our village standards, a considerable achievement. Thanks must go to HMCA for enabling this to be achieved.
- 4.4 The Chair expressed his thanks to the Duchy of Cornwall, and especially to Chris Gregory, for their commitment to our Parish, both in financial and personal terms. A great deal is done behind the scenes, of which Parish residents are not always aware. With that in mind, it is also good to see the site of Bolt's supermarket finally coming to fruition, and the eyesore of the ruined old building finally being removed
- 4.5 The Chair expressed his thanks to the Clerk, for her conscientious work and for making the Councillors' jobs easier to carry out. He also thanked Wendy Stones for her support as Vice-Chair and for putting so much time and effort into Princetown and its residents. Finally, he thanked all other Councillors for their time and commitment, which was freely given

5. To Receive Statement of Accounts for Dartmoor Forest Parish Council for the Year Ended 31 March 2008

The statement of accounts for Dartmoor Forest Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2008 was received and accepted. The Chairman signed the Receipts and Expenditure Summary and the Supporting Statement for the financial year 2007/2008.

6. Postbridge Village Hall Report and Statement of Accounts

The annual report and statement of accounts were not available as the AGM had yet to take place. The Chair said that the financial position would show between £8,000 and £9,000 in the bank, and with a profit of approximately £1,000 for 2007/2008.

Funding was being sought to refurbish the Hall and to increase the size of the car park. Current estimates showed that a figure in excess of £200,000 would be needed for the project.

7. School Report

Wendy Watson, Chair of Governors, Princetown Primary School, said that there were 60 pupils on the roll and it had been possible to maintain three classes.

A new teacher would be starting on 21 April. The Headteacher will be leaving at the end of the summer term and recruitment of her replacement was in progress

8. Playground Report

There was no report, due to Gary's absence.

It was noted that there would be changes to the area to accommodate the new road to the Village Centre

9. Burial Ground Report

9.1 During the year there had been one burial and two interments of ashes into existing graves. The burial was of Bob White, who was born and bred in Postbridge and whose family has lived for generations in the village

9.2 During the year, fees of £296 had been received and expenses of £186 (grass cutting) and £34 (rates) were incurred

9.3 The Council recorded its thanks to Mike Druett for his competence and thoroughness throughout the duration of the grass cutting contract. The advert for the new three year contract had attracted great interest. After due consideration, the Council had awarded the contract to Neil Smerdon.

9.4 The Beattie family had paid for a bench to be installed in memory of Margaret Beattie.

9.5 During the coming year the gravestones will be checked to ensure compliance with current safety regulations

10. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: **6 April 2009**