

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Meeting held on Monday 6 April 2009
in the High Moorland Visitor Centre, Princetown**

Present

Princetown

Emma Derham
Gary Easton
Cliff Palmer
Wendy Stones
Paul Turnbull
Helen Ward

Postbridge

Dave Fisher (Chair)
Wendy Watson

Hexworthy/Huccaby

Rosemary Mudge

Apologies

Princetown

Pat Weir

Postbridge

Hexworthy/Huccaby

In Attendance

Councillor Diana Moyse, WDBC
Colin Jarvis, Head of Development Management, DNPA

5 members of the public

A G E N D A

1.	To receive apologies
2.	The Planning process
3.	To accept the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 7 April 2008
4.	Matters arising from the previous meeting and not on the Agenda
5.	Chair's report
6.	To receive the accounts for Dartmoor Forest Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2009
7.	Postbridge Village Hall report and statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009
8.	School report
9.	Play area report
10.	Burial ground report
11.	Any other business

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

2. Planning Process

Colin Jarvis (CJ) explained the current priority topics being dealt with by the Park Authority:

2.1 Development Management Services

These services were the subject of lengthy review and consultation with the objective of making application processing as “lean” as possible. Applications are to be screened initially by an Administration team to address any obvious errors/omissions on the paperwork submitted. The applications are then passed to a multi-disciplinary team to review and improve the application as much as possible. The target is to reduce the current 8 week turnaround time. The proposed changes to the organisation structure will be the topic of consultation with staff and will then be ratified by the unions. The Weekly List of applications is no longer sent out in paper form, but is viewable online and is searchable. The Authority has commissioned an improvement to the system to enable the List to be accessed without so much “drilling” down i.e. with fewer keystrokes

2.2 Development Plan Documents

The Authority’s Core Strategy document was designed to define broad-brush issues. More detail is required to enable documents to form part of the Development Plan. This detail will be the subject of several consultations with both statutory and interested/affected organisations before it is finalised

2.3 Design Guide

This is work in progress. A series of Stakeholder meetings had been held (Rosemary had represented the Parish Council at one of the meetings). As a result of these consultations the initial draft of the Guide’s content/structure had been rejected. Consultants were currently reworking the proposals ready for further consultation

2.4 Question and Answer Session

Q – Why is there a lack of consistency in dealing with applications?

A – The Authority does listen to Parish Councils’ views and applications are referred to Committee if a Parish Council objects to the proposals. However, the Authority can only view an application within the Planning legislation. If decisions go against the views expressed by a Council, the Authority will write to that Council to explain the reasoning behind its decision

Q – Why are amendments dealt with differently when an application has already been approved?

A – This method saves the client the cost of further fees. Minor changes are still properly assessed and are not just passed through “on the nod”. Councillor Moyse observed that WDBC, the architects and Building Regulations team needed to work together more closely. Whilst progress was being made towards this, there was still some way to go

Q – Why the change from clips to nails for installing roof slates?

A – Clips are visible to those who are knowledgeable about the regulations. Sometimes workmen get it wrong

Q –Why is soft wood being mandated when properties in the Conservation Area have PVC windows and the climate in Princetown destroys soft wood relatively quickly?

A – PVC windows are not supposed to be installed in properties in the Conservation Area. PVC has a large carbon footprint and disposal is both difficult and expensive. Other material could be considered, aluminium for example

Q – Why can the Creativity Centre not have temporary banners?

A – It would be advisable for the Centre Manager to talk informally to the Authority about this matter

Q – Why has the proposed increase in the size of the Conservation Area been resurrected when the Area Appraisal Report is so out of date?

A – This was not CJ's area of expertise, but he offered to take the Council's query back to the Authority's appropriate Officer

Q – How long does it take to deal with the removal of buildings that have not received approval?

A - DNPA needs to know about the unapproved building. Resources are stretched so the Authority relies heavily on members of the public providing information. Retrospective planning applications are allowed in order to rectify the situation and legalise the building. Retrospective applications are subject to the normal planning regulations and may be rejected. An Enforcement Notice will be issued if the Authority is satisfied that the building will not be removed. Applicants have the right to appeal against the Notice. Reasonable notice of removal will be given if the Appeal is not upheld. The length of time to complete the whole process varies widely from case to case. There could be human rights issues if the building is occupied. People cannot be forced to submit a planning application, and the Authority will always look at how reasonable the requirement is.

CJ left the meeting at this point

3. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 7 April 2008 were approved and then signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising

5. Chair's Report

- 5.1 The past 12 months had again seen many changes in Princetown with the new Village Centre almost completed and the Craft Centre nearly ready for opening in a few weeks' time. The only major concern with these projects is the lack of parking that could give rise to problems in the future. Lords Café is also nearly ready to open for business and we hope that the new parking arrangements for coaches will solve the problems caused by them partially obstructing the Fire Station exit
- 5.2 The anti-social problems in Princetown have still to be remedied and remain a cause for concern, especially for some of the elderly in the village. This should not overshadow the fact that a good many of our younger residents are both helpful and make great efforts to better themselves and others in the village. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme received recognition by winning the "Scheme of the Year" award and thanks go to Mike Fitzpatrick for all his efforts in achieving this
- 5.3 The Chair welcomed onto the Parish Council Emma Derham, who replaced Mary Farley following her resignation from the Council. The Council had missed input from Pat Weir, who had unfortunately been seriously ill, and the Chair sent her the Council's best wishes for her speedy recovery and her return to Council meetings
- 5.4 The village will be saying farewell to Chris Gregory from the Duchy of Cornwall office and the Chair thanked him for the help and advice that he had given during his time in Princetown. Chris's position has now passed to Tom Stratton who was starting to get to grips with the problems and local politics that are part of our Parish

5.5 The Chair gave his personal thanks to Wendy Stones for her invaluable assistance and help as Vice Chair, without which all our jobs would be much more difficult. The Chair also thanked the Clerk for doing a thorough job and giving Councillors invaluable information and statistics which made decision making much easier

5.6 Finally, the Chair thanked all the Councillors for giving their time and effort so freely and conscientiously during the past year

6. To Receive Statement of Accounts for Dartmoor Forest Parish Council for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

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, the Supporting Statement and the Annual governance Statement for the financial year 2008/2009

7. 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

8. School Report

Wendy Watson, Chair of Governors, Princetown Primary School, said that there were 55 pupils on the roll, with 12 pupils in Reception and approximately 8 in Year 6

9. Playground Report

There was no report

10. Burial Ground Report

10.1 There had been no burials or interment of ashes in the past year, but income of £100 had been received for the purchase of two burial plots. The unsightly rhododendron bushes at the rear and side have been cleared as well as a great deal of debris from past excavations. The ground that this has exposed has been levelled and will shortly be seeded, giving a much needed visual improvement to that part of the burial ground. The cost to the Council of this work was £500, which increases this year's costs considerably, but it should not need to be done again for some considerable time

10.2 Other costs were the grass cutting of £600 and the rates payable of £40. The Council had just received notification that the rates in the forthcoming year will be increased to £80, an increase of 100%

10.3 The Clerk has maintained the burial records manually but intends to computerise them and make them available on the Council website in the not too distant future

10.4 The Council does not see any increase in costs in the foreseeable future

11. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.11 pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: **12 April 2010**