

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Meeting held on Monday 2 April 2012
in the Community Centre, Princetown at 7.00 pm**

Present

Princetown

Gregg Manning
Cliff Palmer
Les Parr
Wendy Stones
David Worth

Postbridge

Val Greatrex
Wendy Watson

Hexworthy/Huccaby

Alison Geen (Chair)

Apologies

Princetown

Emma Derham
Paul Turnbull

Postbridge

Hexworthy/Huccaby

In Attendance

None

There were no members of the public present

A G E N D A

1.	To receive apologies
2.	To accept the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 4 April 2011
3.	Matters arising from the previous meeting and not on the Agenda
4.	Chair's report
5.	To receive the accounts for Dartmoor Forest Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2012
6.	Postbridge Village Hall report and statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012
7.	School report
8.	Play area report
9.	Burial ground report
10.	Producing a Parish Plan
11.	Any other business

1. The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m. The Chair welcomed all present. There were apologies from Paul Turnbull and from Emma Derham

2. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 4 April 2011 were approved and then signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising

4. Chair's Report

On behalf of my Co-chair and myself I would like to open our annual meeting by thanking everyone for continuing to support the Parish Council by attending our meetings and by carrying out all the other activities that Councillors have been doing over the last year. Since our last annual meeting we have been joined by Les, Val and Gregg, and we look forward to their valued contributions in the future. As two 'novice' chairs, we would both like to express our appreciation for the sterling work that our esteemed clerk carries out on behalf of both the Council and the Chair. Without her efforts we feel sure that we would look even more hapless than we already do

In common with the rest of the public sector, the greatest test we will be facing over the next few years is the level of cutbacks in funding. Undoubtedly, we will be asked to do more with less for our parishioners. This will be quite a challenge for everybody involved, but one we feel sure the Council will tackle successfully

As a Council we can take pride in our achievements over the last twelve months. We have helped pioneer a whole new way of funding public amenities, albeit however, at the price of causing Ann to develop a nervous tic whenever someone mentions the word 'toilets' in her presence. We have successfully completed Phase 1 of the new playpark for the village, and look forward to tackling Phase 2 shortly. Around the village and the wider Parish we have completed a number of smaller projects such as the provision of the new Parish notice board, and carried out running repairs to the bus shelters etc. Invidious though it maybe to single out individual Councillors, we would like to thank in particular Cliff, Wendy and Emma for their efforts in this area. In addition to her normal duties Ann has also been looking after the bookings for the Community Centre. We all hope that this burden will be lifted from her soon, and that the Community Centre will be able to manage itself once again

One of the most important functions of the Council is to act as a go-between for our parishioners, acting on their behalf to represent their views on to the many relevant authorities that are involved in the running of a Parish uniquely situated in the middle of a National Park. We continue to maintain good relations with such diverse bodies as the DNPA, the Duchy of Cornwall, and authorities such as Devon Highways. Working with these bodies, even down to the level of decisions such as agreeing as to where to put road signs shows that there is a real benefit to a mutually co-operative approach

This coming Jubilee year will undoubtedly present us with both opportunities to grasp and difficulties to be overcome. My Co-Chair and I would like to thank you once again for your support and wish the whole of the Parish well for the forthcoming year.

5. To Receive Statement of Accounts for Dartmoor Forest Parish Council for the Year Ended 31 March 2012

As in 2011, the Annual Return form had not yet arrived from the Audit Commission, which meant that the accounts would now need to be signed at the normal Parish Council meeting in May

6. Postbridge Village Hall Report and Statement of Accounts

The annual report and statement of accounts were not available as the AGM was not scheduled to take place until later in the month.

Val said that the scope of the Hall's refurbishment had been reduced considerably and fund raising was currently in progress

7. School Report

Wendy W said that the school was expanding and that the roll would exceed 70 at the September intake

8. Playground Report

Cliff said that the new equipment was now just over twelve months old and was very well used by the children in the village. In addition, D shackles had been replaced on all of the swings and the seats on the two conventional swings had been replaced

The area was now a dog free zone, with signs in place on the pedestrian gate and on the stile

The work needed on the pedestrian gate area was ongoing, and Cliff was waiting to hear from the Resettlement Unit, who were to lay rubber matting in the gateway

Everything appeared to be safe and running well at the moment

9. Burial Ground Report

Val said that her husband would paint one of the benches when the weather permitted. The works to reduce tree height and repair the wall had been completed and it was agreed that it gave the cemetery a much better appearance

10. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.15 pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: **9 April 2013**