

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the ANNUAL Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9 April 2013
in the Community Centre, Princetown at 7.00 pm**

Present

Princetown

David Worth (Chair)
Wendy Stones
Paul Turnbull

Postbridge

Val Greatrex
Wendy Watson

Hexworthy/Huccaby

Alison Geen

Apologies

Princetown

Emma Derham
Gregg Manning
Cliff Palmer

Postbridge

Hexworthy/Huccaby

In Attendance

Graham Burton (GB) – Moor Trees
Paul Hammett (PH) – Moor Trees

There were no members of the public present

A G E N D A

1.	To receive apologies
2.	Moor Trees project
3.	To accept the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 2 April 2012
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 2013
7.	Postbridge Village Hall report and statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013
8.	School report
9.	Play area report
10.	Burial ground report
11.	Any other business

1. The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m. The Chair welcomed all present. There were apologies from Emma Derham, Gregg Manning and Cliff Palmer

2. Moor Trees Project

GB said that Moor Trees had been in existence for about 15 years. In that time, about 100 acres of native woodland had been planted in and around Dartmoor. In the Prison, Moor Trees had set up tree nurseries, both indoors and outdoors. One objective was to teach offenders land based skills

For some years all work was undertaken within the Prison's boundary. However, two years ago a project started in the area of the reservoir to improve conservation and to restructure the beech plantation. This

Signed:
Chair

Date: 14 April 2014

area would be opened in the summer and tree planting would start in the winter. The plan was to commission benches and tables from the Prison

Another project is still in its very early stages of planning, which would regenerate the farmland now that it had all reverted to the Duchy. Ideas were still being formulated, but money would be needed to fund the project, and an archaeological survey would be undertaken before any work started

3. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 2 April 2012 were approved and then signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising

5. Co-Chairs' Report

David read out the report

“On behalf of my Co-Chair and myself, we would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council, our hard-working Clerk, and all the members of the public who have contributed so much to the running of the Parish over the last year. Every year brings a different set of challenges to us; some longstanding and others new. As a community we must pull together now more so than ever to meet them all.

In these financially strained times it is difficult for us as a Parish Council, to do everything that we might wish to for the Parish, however, we have been able to achieve much of what we set out to do. Having raised the funding required we will be able to start on phase 2 of the development of the play-park and we hope to have more new facilities soon for the younger children of the village to enjoy. After careful negotiation between ourselves, local business leaders and the National Park we have managed to achieve the setting of a fair price for parking in the village car park. The village youth club is up and running again and the Council is extremely pleased to see the success of the football teams' efforts in raising funds for the restoration of the playing field. We would also like to recognise the success that the Village Community Centre has achieved under its new Committee.

There should be no room for complacency, though, when we look into the future. There remain several knotty tasks for the Council to tackle on its own and with the help of other bodies. We remain particularly keen for the longstanding question of the use of Duchy Square Creativity Centre to be resolved. Bringing this building and the village square back into better use should remain a high priority for all the authorities involved.

My Co-Chair and I have been having a discussion about what we think the future of the Council ought to be. Holding the position of Co-Chair of the Parish Council has been and continues to be an honour for us both, however, we both feel that there is a danger that we may become too “set in our ways” if we decide to carry on for too long. Therefore, should we both still be in position at that time, we will be withdrawing from our positions as Co-Chairs by 2016 and not seeking re-election to this office after that date.

We both send our best wishes to the whole Parish for the forthcoming year and look forward to continuing to serve you in the future.”

Signed:
Chair

Date: 14 April 2014

6. To Receive Statement of Accounts for Dartmoor Forest Parish Council for the Year Ended 31 March 2013

The Chair signed the statement of accounts

7. Postbridge Village Hall Report

This was not available

8. School Report

Wendy W said that the school continued to expand and that the roll would be 75 at the September intake. The boiler work at the school had been delayed by three weeks to allow the asbestos threat to be dealt with

9. Playground Report

The Clerk read out Cliff's report in his absence.

"The play area is well used by children of all ages. The equipment looks to be in good working order, except the seats on the baby swings, which will be replaced in the near future. The new litter picker is keeping on top of the litter at the moment. We still need bigger bags for the litter bins. The grassy area at the pedestrian gate is an ongoing problem in wet weather. I am still hopeful that that the Prison's Resettlement Unit will be able to help out with some of the work to rectify the problem"

10. Burial Ground Report

The ballpark figure for the damaged wall was about £750. There was £500 in the budget set aside for re-seating some of the memorials, so this would need to be redirected to repairing the wall

11. Any Other Business

The Clerk said that she planned to retire on 5 April 2014, at the end of the 2013/14 financial year

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

Signed:
Chair

Date: 14 April 2014