

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



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4 November 2014

Councillor Notes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 11 November 2014 in Princetown Community Centre.

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward: Cllr Alison Geen	Princetown Ward: Cllr Emma Derham*	Cllr Wendy Stones
Postbridge Ward: Cllr Wendy Watson	Cllr Gregg Manning	Cllr Paul Turnbull*
Cllr Val Greatrex	Cllr Cliff Palmer	Cllr David Worth

* Hard copy as well as email.

Alison will chair the meeting

1. **Apologies.** I have no apologies to date.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** No amendments have been reported to date.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** No amendments to date.
4. **Police Matters.** No reports to date.
5. **Repairs, Maintenance & Highways**

Highways consultation on future (reduced) service provision.

Station Cottages road ownership/responsibility

Track improvements from the old station stables to the railway line to support Princetown as a cycling hub.

6. **Princetown Visitors Centre Update.**

Jo Rumble will brief the Council.

7. **Review of Code of Conduct.**

Deferred from the October meeting. The WDBC amendments are essentially clarifying the rules about personal interests. I have updated the DFPC Code of Conduct accordingly and put it on the website for consideration. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please forward your views to me in advance.

8. **Councillors**

Progress in recruitment to fill casual vacancies. I have 2 volunteers for co-option to date: Stephen King (who was a Parish and a District Councillor in West Dorset and briefly on DFPC in 2006) and Mark Renders from the Post Office. The Co-option notice for Emma's place expires on 5 November, for Jackie's it will be 27 November. I will organise suitability interviews with David.

Eligibility to represent the Wards & the Parish. This was deferred from the last meeting. The Council must decide on the eligibility for a Councillor to represent a specific ward. The options are that (a) the Councillor must live in the ward or (b) the Councillor must live within 3 miles of the ward or substantially work in the ward (see October's briefing notes). Jackie Gee resigned from the council with immediate effect to enable this to be a vote on principle without the need to

consider her circumstances. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please forward your views to me in advance.

9. Precept

2015/16 budget options. Please see separate Precept briefing document.

10. Fouling of Land by Dogs Order.

Despite the protests of DFPC and others, the WDBC Fouling of Land by Dogs Order has been implemented covering all open public spaces in the Borough. This means it is now illegal to leave dog faeces on the open moor, including by sheepdogs. The order does, however, offer a clause that might be used to achieve a more reasonable position.

6. If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time ... fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless:

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

My interpretation of this is that if the Commoners Councils who control the land and/or the Duchy/Maristow etc who own the land agree that dog owners do not need to remove dog faeces from open moorland generally, we have a pragmatic solution for the 11000 hectares of open moor in the Parish that complies with the new orders. If the Council agrees to this the Clerk will approach the Commoners Councils and access land owners for their agreement.

11. Bellever Close and other Duchy Housing Proposals

Residents' concerns were raised at October's meeting. David Worth and the Clerk have met with Tom Stratton twice since then and have identified possible alternative proposals that meet the residents' main concerns. Tom is checking viability of these with his management chain before meeting with the residents, hopefully before 11 November.

Affordable housing percentages. The Duchy assess that proceeding with the development scheme would not be economically viable if 50% of the development must be 'affordable' housing in accordance with DNPA rules (in the absence of a Parish Neighbourhood Plan). The Duchy is seeking an exemption based on the fact that Princetown is already well served with 'social' and 'affordable' housing; and a range of 1 & 2 bedroom flats and 2&3 bedroom houses are planned that should suit people on a range of incomes. The Duchy would like to have the Parish Council's acquiescence to this and Tom is willing to attend the meeting to answer questions if required.

12. Reports from Committees, Sub- Groups and Special Interests.

Councillors are requested to forward their briefings by email in advance of the meeting. This agenda item then becomes 'any questions' rather than 'reading the briefing' to help with meeting time management.

Community Centre	Wendy S	
Pavilion Youth Club	Wendy S	
Parking Committee	David	
Princetown Primary School	Wendy W	
Emergency Planning Sub-Group	David	Salt & sandbag storage issue
Public Library Sub-Group	Wendy S	Correspondence 2.
Parish Plan Sub-Group	Alison	Correspondence 7
Play Area Sub-Group	Cliff	
Princetown Toilets Sub-Group	Clerk	Nothing to report
Postbridge Village Hall	Val	

Fire & Rescue service	Paul	
Food bank	Wendy S	
Emergency Committee	Clerk	Nothing to report

13. Reports from other meetings

Super Parish Link Committee Meeting 1830 on 8 December at Meldon Village Hall, near Okehampton. This extraordinary, single agenda item meeting has been arranged to consider a DCC Budget update from Cllr John Hart. Paul is unable to attend.

There are 2 TAP fund application DFPC is being asked to sponsor:

- Shared asset projector and laptop. (This was agreed at the July meeting).
- 3 months support for Tavistock & District Local Economic Blueprint. Details to follow.

14. Planning applications

a. The current status is:

With the Parish Council	0619/14 0609/14 0577/14	Conversion to bunkhouse Postbridge Telephone Exchange Rear extension 10 Moor Crescent Princetown Single Story Extension Dartmoor Brewery Princetown
Recent DNPA decisions		
With DNPA	0522/14	Agricultural livestock building - Smallwaters, Postbridge
Awaiting enforcement action	0164/07	Beardown Farm un-authorised chalet. Clerk is awaiting update from Jo Burgess.

15. Correspondence

Correspondence has been uploaded to the website. Items that may require action and are not covered elsewhere on the agenda are:

- Evidence sought by HoC Select Committee inquiry on rural broadband (8)
- Healthwatch Devon care and support services survey (5)
- Future development of West Devon workshop 5 December (4)
- West Devon Business Survey 2014 (1)

16. Financial management

a. Cheques to be approved this month:

806	A Jaques - Litter Picking	£ 56.33
807	Around and About - donation	£ 60.00
808	Parish Link - donation	£ 60.00
809	West Devon CAB - donation	£ 60.00
810	Nigel Tigwell - Southern Link Dec	£ 150.00
812	Pavilion Youth Club - Rent & Loan	£ 1,000.00
813	D Coles - Cemetery bank repair	£ 28.00
814	Nigel Tigwell - administrative expenses	£ 10.00
815	Steve Ball - Defibrillator Electrics	£ 100.00
816	Wendy Stones – RBL Wreath	£ 17.00

b. Bank Reconciliation.

Balance on last statement (30 September)	£ 29277.80
Outstanding Income	

811	Charity Shop donation for war memorial setts	£ 176.00
Outstanding Cheques		
796	A Jaques Litter Picking	£ 53.65
797	Nigel Tigwell - Pay & Defibrillator Expenses	£ 562.81
798	HMRC - Income Tax	£ 86.00
799	Wendy Stones - Mortar Expenses	£ 176.66
800	Duchy - village green rent	£ 36.00
801	Bere Ferrers PC - Defibrillator Cabinet charge	£ 18.00
802	TASS - donation	£ 75.00
803	WDBC - half yearly cemetery rates	£ 62.00
804	DNPA – PVH Planning Application	£ 97.50
805	WDBC – dog bins Apr-Sep	£ 71.76
Reconciled total		£28,214.42

c. **Forecast of Outturn.** See separate document.

17. **Progress reports on previous actions, not on the Agenda**

Defibrillators. The Hexworthy defibrillator is being connected by a certified electrician on Wednesday 5 November at an outline estimate of £100. I still need to speak to Gerald Smerdon about the Postbridge cabinet. The best route to getting the cabinet codes onto the 999 system appears to be through Community Heartbeat, although we will need to meet the governance regime agreed between them and the South West Ambulance Trust: essentially weekly checks/maintenance recorded on their online database. If we fall behind on the checks the defibrillators are deemed unreliable and removed from the system.

Postbridge 3G Signal. Application submitted with 29 suitable properties signed up as volunteers to house the aerial boxes.

Banking arrangements. Other banks have been approached but none provide any meaningful interest for Council reserves. Ongoing.

Grass cutting contract. Mike Druett has cut the play area and plans to cut the village green 6/7 November. The Clerk has formally written to the Prison Governor seeking help in bringing the Churchyard under control. Also see Precept briefing document.

Outline plans for Play Area improvements Phase 3 and investigate grants for a skate park.
No further action to date

Approach local businesses for chargeable links and adverts. No action since last meeting

Training. The evening course on management of parks, open spaces, sports pitches, children's play parks plus halls on 22 October was cancelled as too many attendees pulled out at the last minute. The next course is an all-day course on Cemetery Management on 12 November that will be attended by Val and the Clerk.

18. **Urgent decisions since the last meeting.** None.

19. **Valedictories.** This is Emma's last meeting and Jackie resigned after the last meeting.

20. **Meeting dates and venues 2015.** See separate briefing document.

21. **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be at 1930 **Tuesday 9 December** 2014 at Princetown, which is a change to the advertised date.