

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 9 December 2013
in the Community Centre, Princetown at 7.30 pm

Present

Princetown
David Worth (Chair)
Cliff Palmer
John Steele
Wendy Stones

Postbridge

Hexworthy/Huccaby

Apologies

Princetown
Emma Derham
Gregg Manning
Paul Turnbull

Postbridge
Wendy Watson

Hexworthy/Huccaby

Absent without Apology

Princetown
None

Postbridge
Val Greatrex

Hexworthy/Huccaby
Alison Geen

In Attendance

Tom Stratton (Duchy of Cornwall) – Until item5

There were three members of the public present until the first Public Session had taken place

A G E N D A

1.	To receive apologies
2.	Declarations of interest
3.	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November
4.	Duchy update
5.	Police Matters
6.	Matters arising from the previous meeting and not on the Agenda
7.	Budget 2014/15
8.	Community Centre & Youth Club
9.	Repairs & maintenance
10.	Highways jobs
	PUBLIC SESSION
11.	Planning applications
12.	Reports from Sub-Groups and Special Interests
13.	Reports from other meetings
14.	Correspondence
15.	Financial management
16.	Urgent matters at the Chair's discretion
17.	Any other business
	PUBLIC SESSION

Signature of Chair

14 January 2014

1. Apologies

There were apologies from Emma, Gregg, Wendy W and a standing apology from Paul for Monday meetings
It was noted that Val and Alison were absent without apology.
David stood in for Alison as Chair

The Chair welcomed Tom Stratton

2. Declarations of interest

Nothing to declare

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of 12 November were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair

4. Duchy Update

The plans for the old Prison Officers' Club redevelopment were being finalised. It was likely that the Duchy would sell the site for development, which would comprise 27 open-market units of varying sizes. Residents in the village would be informed when the application was submitted to DNPA for approval. It was hoped that the application would be submitted in January, with a decision being made in March

Forestry plantations were now providing woodchip, which was being supplied around the National Park, including the Princetown Visitor Centre. Work was in progress on production of the wood management plan. In answer to a question, Tom said that the replanting would be with broadleaved trees

The drainage system was now in place for the football field, and grassing was awaited. The lease for the field was work in progress

The Youth Club lease was work in progress

HMP Dartmoor was likely to close within the next 10 years. In answer to a question, Tom said that he was unsure about the listing status of the Prison

The new tenant for the Duchy Square building would be the Torbay Development Agency. The hope was to provide a more mixed use than was the case with the previous tenant. An arts element would be retained if at all possible. It was noted that a more realistic pricing for art items was needed, to cater for the type of tourist that came to the village

Cliff expressed concern at the lack of repair to Devonport Leat. Tom said that the Duchy was working with South West Water and some leaks had already been repaired. Tom acknowledged that more work was needed to repair further leaks and to remove weed blockages. He said that funds were restricted at the moment

The Parish Council's tenancy agreement would be redrawn to exclude the patch of land opposite the war memorial in Tavistock Road

In answer to a question, Tom said that the Duchy's move from Liskeard to Lothwithiel had provided a more central base

Tom left the meeting

Signature of Chair
14 January 2014

5. Police Matters

Councillors and residents had long been concerned about the speed of some vehicles on the Tavistock Road. A recent serious accident between the junctions of Barrack Road and Hessary Terrace had simply served to make this point

Two panes of glass in the telephone kiosk opposite the war memorial had been smashed [Post-meeting note; now repaired]

Graffiti had been scrawled inside the bus shelter in Duchy Square. The perpetrators' images had been caught on CCTV

ACTION: Clerk to include these three items in the letter to Sgt Anning

6. Matters arising from the previous Meeting

- 6.1 **Meeting Dates for 2014** – These were accepted
- 6.2 **Clerk's Recruitment** – There had been four applicants so far. Deadline for applications was 19 December, and a short list would then be drawn up and agreed
- 6.3 **Grass Cutting** - Google maps print instructions to come from David. Rev'd Nick Shutt had confirmed that there were currently no arrangements in place for regular grass cutting in the cemetery of St Michael and All Angels.

7. Budget 2014/15

The SWH quote for work to open up the area between 24 and 25 Burrator Avenue was £12k. This needed further investigation, and would not figure in the 2014/15 budget at this stage

The toilets cost calculations were;

	Gross contribution	Cash collection	Door income	Net contribution
2013/14	£5,862	£578	**£2,700	£3,740
2014/15	*£5,978	£578	***£2,700	£3,856
Change	+£116			+£116

* Increased by inflation (1.97%)

** This income was £2,405 to end of November 2013. The figure of £2,700 was an educated guess

***Taking a conservative view: that income would not change in 2014/15

The budget would be finalised and agreed at January's meeting

Signature of Chair

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8. Community Centre and Youth Club (Wendy S)

8.1 Community Centre –

Wendy S said that a meeting of the Trustees' Board was somewhat overdue.

The Duchy was funding the cost of repairing the double entrance doors

8.2 Youth Club –

Wendy S had received a detailed up date from the youth worker, Pam Carter. She had also received a copy of a letter sent by PCSO Mark Canvin to Pam, thanking her for the work being done in the village with young people, and highlighting the positive impact that this was having on reducing crime [**Post-meeting note**; copy of both documents sent to all Councillors]

ACTION: Clerk to invite Pam Carter to the February Council meeting

ACTION: Clerk to contact a West Devon Homes Officer who is well versed in setting up food banks

9. Repairs & Maintenance –

Nothing to report

10. Highways Jobs

Lack of action on the following;

- Streetlight permanently on at junction of Station Road and Hessary View
- Potholes in Tor Royal Lane and Station Cottages are increasing in size
- Plymouth Hill road surface continues to deteriorate
- Dropped manhole cover outside the Prince of Wales in Tavistock Road had been repeatedly repaired without sustained success

PUBLIC SESSION -

Members of the public present were living in properties in Hexworthy that were served by an unadopted road/track that was becoming unfit for purpose. The residents had made efforts to discover the organisation responsible for the upkeep of the road/track, but without success

ACTION; Clerk to establish where responsibility lay and inform the residents

Signature of Chair
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11. Planning

11.1 The following planning applications were received in November

DNPA Ref. & Applic. Type	Description	Location	Comments
13/0647 Prior notific	Extension to existing agricultural building	Brimpts Farm Dartmeet	With Councillors for review
13/0633 Prior notific	Lean-to extension for agricultural storage adjoining existing cattle shed	Pizwell Farm Postbridge	With Councillors for review
13/0598 Full PP	Erection of two storey extension to rear of existing property	2 Station Road Princetown	Supported by the Parish Council
13/0581 Full PP	Conversion of former Methodist chapel to form three open market dwellings, incorporating new access onto highway	Wesley House Two Bridges Road Princetown	Supported by the Parish Council
13/0533 Full PP	New roof to former silage clamp to provide building for cattle and equipment storage	Riddon Farm Widecombe-in-the-Moor	Granted: Work must start within three years Building to be used only for agricultural purposes. Upon the building becoming redundant, it shall be removed and the land re-instated to its former condition within six months

12. Reports from Sub-Groups and Special Interest Groups

12.1 School (Wendy W)

Nothing to report in Wendy W's absence

12.2 Play Area (Cliff)

Cliff said that he had inspected the play area and had found one problem, which was that an area of wood on the climbing frame had started to rot. He said that he would address this as soon as was practically possible, given the current weather situation

12.3 Cemetery (Val)

Nothing to report in Val's absence

12.4 **Emergency Plan (David)** – David reported that the Met Office had issued a statement that there would be no snow in the area before Christmas. The Clerk reported that PC Dave Pickles was keen to follow up the idea of a barrier to be installed at the entrance to the DNPA car park in Princetown to prevent cars from using the area for joy riding during snowy conditions. He would be contacting Ally Kohler at the Park Authority to express his support. The Clerk had informed PC Pickles that the Parish Council had already expressed its support for this solution, and would be able to undertake opening and closing the barrier as needed, as part of the emergency plan

12.5 **Parish Plan Sub-Group** – Nothing to report

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- 12.6 **Parking Sub-Group** – The erection of a barrier in the car park (see 12.4 above) would need input from this Sub-Group. The Clerk reported that Highways had been in Princetown recently, painting out unused disabled bays, thereby freeing up space for other members of the public to use
ACTION: Clerk to ask Ally Kohler at DNPA for an update on progress of the Traffic Order for Tavistock Road
- 12.7 **Fire & Rescue Service** – Nothing to report in Paul's absence

13. Reports from Meetings with Other Groups

- 13.1 **West Devon Homes (WDH)** – John had attended a meeting on 21 November in his capacity as Tenant Panel Representative (TPR). He said that it became obvious during the meeting that WDH saw a conflict of interests between his role as TPR and being a Parish Councillor
ACTION; Clerk to post a notice asking for a volunteer to undertake the TPR role in his place
 John reported that WDH was considering the possibility of setting up garden schemes, in addition to the existing properties gardens

14. Correspondence

- 14.1 **Electoral Review** – The first consultation had resulted in a proposal to retain the same number of West Devon Borough Councillors as at present: i.e. 31. There was now another consultation taking place that was asking for views on any changes in the boundaries of the existing wards. This consultation would run until 3 February 2014. For the purposes of this exercise, the Parish is considered to be part of the Lydford ward. For a very clear view of the present boundaries, follow the link; <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>
- 14.2 **Tavistock Times** – A letter had been received asking the Council to report any matters it may consider are worthy of publication in the Times
- 14.3 **Princetown Neighbourhood Watch (PNW)** – A letter had been sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Tony Hogg, expressing extreme concern about the impact that Police resource reduction was having on the crime rate in the village

15. Financial Management

15.1 **Summary for November**

Payments made			
	Ref 725	West Devon CAB – annual donation	£60.00
	Ref 726	Tavistock Ring and Ride – annual donation	£40.00
	Ref 727	Sutcliffe SW – part payment for play area phase 2	£15,307.12
	Ref 728	W Stones – wreath re-imburement	£17.00
	Ref 729	E Derham – re-imburement for electrical parts for tree lights	£38.99
	Ref 730	DALC – New Councillors' course	£30.00
	Ref 731	Youth Centre – donation for rent/loan	£1,000.00
	Ref 732	A Jaques – litter picking	£53.65
	Ref 733	P Turnbull – cement for signpost	£5.70

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Receipts			
		Nil	
Balance in bank 30 Nov			£15,418.96
To receive			
	Ref 734	DCC grant for play area	£7,888.00
	Ref 735	Santander dividend	£3.10
	Ref 736	Commonwealth War Graves Commission - 3 yearly payment	£18.00
	Ref 737	HMRC - VAT refund	£3,605.18
To pay			
	Ref 738	M J Druett - grass cutting for Sept and Oct	£540.00
	Ref 739	A Jaques – litter picking	£53.65

15.2 **Change of Bank** – The Lloyds Bank branch in Plymouth had processed a cheque sent via post. There is a sub-branch of the bank in the small parade of shops at Southway, which accepts cash payments. In view of these facts, the Clerk proposed that the Council should stay with Lloyds for the time being to assess how the new arrangements worked

15.3 **Letters of Thanks** – Received from Ring 'n' Ride and the CAB

16. **Urgent Matters at the Chair's Discretion**

16.1 John said that he wished to make it known that he would be resigning, as it was his intention to move out of the village. He said that he hoped to remain in post until his replacement was found

ACTION: Notice of casual vacancy to be posted

17. **Any Other Business**

17.1 The annual carol service in Princetown had been well attended although, unusually, there were no prisoners at the service

17.2 More than 80 Christmas meals were served to pensioners by members of the WI

17.3 Ticket arrangements for the annual Postbridge pantomime would be advertised shortly

17.4 Councillors asked for formal thanks to be recorded for Emma, who had managed the installation and decoration of the Christmas tree in Duchy Square

PUBLIC SESSION – Nothing to report

Next Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be at **7.30 pm TUESDAY 14 January 2014** in the **Community Centre, Princetown**

Alison will chair the meeting.

Signature of Chair

14 January 2014

List of Sub-Groups and Special Interests

Parish Emergency Group – Cliff, Paul and David	
Parish Plan Sub-Group – Alison, Val, Wendy	
Parking Sub-Group – Gregg, Paul	Special Interest Princetown Community Centre – Wendy S
Play Area Sub-Group – Emma and Cliff	Special Interest Princetown Primary – Wendy W
Princetown Toilets Sub Group – Paul and Wendy S	Special Interest Southern Link – Paul
Website Sub-Group – Gregg and David	Special Interest Youth Club – Wendy S

Signature of Chair

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