

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 10 February 2014
in the Community Centre, Princetown at 7.30 pm

Present

Princetown
David Worth (Chair)
Emma Derham
Gregg Manning
Cliff Palmer
John Steele
Wendy Stones

Postbridge
Val Greatrex
Wendy Watson

Hexworthy/Huccaby
Alison Geen

Apologies

Princetown
Paul Turnbull

Postbridge

Hexworthy/Huccaby

Absent without Apology

Princetown
None

Postbridge

Hexworthy/Huccaby

In Attendance

PCSO Mark Canvin (part)
Nigel Tigwell (Clerk Designate)

There was one member of the public present

A G E N D A

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

Signature of Chair

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1. Apologies

There was a standing apology from Paul for Monday meetings due to Fire and Rescue commitments
The Chair welcomed Nigel Tigwell, the Clerk Designate

2. Declarations of interest

Nothing to declare

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Two small changes had been made to the draft minutes sent to Councillors. The statement about the vandalism of the Christmas tree lights had been improved and an item had been added to the list for Highways action (pothole/collapsed drain on the road from Slade to Saddlesbridge).

The minutes of 14 January were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair

4. Police Matters – Part I

There was nothing to report from PC Pickles or PCSO Carvin

John said that a young male had been trying doors on properties in Princetown and, reportedly, had managed to gain entrance via an unlocked door. There was also a report of a break in by the same perpetrator. Activity was limited to properties in Burrator Avenue and Hessary Terrace. John said that Neighbourhood Watch and the Police were dealing with this matter

5. Matters arising from the previous Meeting

- 5.1 **Clerk's Recruitment** – Satisfactory references had been received and Nigel Tigwell was now in post. The handover was ongoing and the current Clerk would leave on 5 April (i.e. end of the current financial year)
- 5.2 **Councillor Vacancy** – No-one had responded to the notice of casual vacancy . The co-option notice had been posted, with a deadline date for response being Wednesday 12 February. One person had applied so far and Nigel said that he had explained the process to her and told her that we would be in touch with her after 12 February
- 5.3 **Grass Cutting** – An up to date list was distributed of the areas being considered for inclusion in the new contract. There was an apparent duplication, with the Duchy and WDBC claiming to maintain the same piece of grass. This needed clarification. David provided maps for Princetown with the areas on the grass cutting list shaded in red
- 5.4 **Unadopted Track in Hexworthy** – A reply was awaited from the Duchy with regard to ownership of the track

6. Community Centre and Youth Club (Wendy S)

6.1 **Community Centre**

Wendy S said that there were vacancies for a Treasurer and a bookings administrator

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Gregg was invited to explain the situation that had arisen regarding the utilities bill for the Pre-School. He said that the number of children using the Pre-School varied widely (16 Children currently, likely to reduce to 4 next year). A utilities bill representing 65% of the overall costs for the building had been received, which was considered to be disproportionate to the school's actual consumption. There was an in depth discussion about the situation, but it was concluded that it was outside the Council's remit, albeit updates might be given by Wendy S from time to time, as part of her Community Centre report to the Council

A prisoner will take over the cleaning of the Centre in the near future

Bookings were now subject to a £20 surcharge, returnable if the hirers left the room in a satisfactory condition

Monthly meetings will re-commence, alternating between the third Tuesday and the third Thursday of the calendar month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 18 February

The recent storms had damaged the roof tiles and the lead flashing around some of the windows, causing water ingress. Repairs were taking place

6.2 Youth Club –

Wendy S said that she had a meeting scheduled with Adrian Kemp (Play Space, Stonehouse) on 12 February

PCSO Mark Canvin entered the room

7. Repairs & Maintenance –

Nigel reported that WDBC was planning to improve the disabled toilet entrance door to make it more robust

8. Highways Jobs

Alison said that she had reported a pothole on the DCC website, which had been rapidly repaired, albeit other potholes in the immediate vicinity remained untouched. Given the recent statement from Highways about the cessation of routine maintenance due to lack of funds, Alison said that she was now unclear as to exactly what was, and was not, being repaired.

ACTION: It was agreed that John Doswell, or his Line Manager, should be invited to a Council meeting to provide clarification on the repair priorities

Gregg reported a similar situation on Plymouth Hill, with several potholes being filled in an inferior fashion. The Clerk said that the long awaited resurfacing of Plymouth Hill was now highly unlikely to take place in the current financial year

The drain cover at the bottom of Pork Hill was still lifting when it rains

Water was still flooding across the Tavistock Road near the Prison entrance

The road between the Pixie shop and Dartmeet was breaking up badly and needed resurfacing

The Rundlestone sign had now been moved closer to the junction and it was agreed that there was now less possibility of confusion

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9. Police Matters – Part 2

With reference to the prowler in Princetown, Mark said that there was no cause for alarm, but residents needed to maintain their security and to remain vigilant, reporting anything suspicious to the non-emergency Police number (101)

Wendy S said that there had been two young people running around in the Centre prior to the meeting, and refusing to leave when asked to do so. Keys had been cut to enable various areas in the Centre to be “zoned” to reduce the risk of unwanted visitors

Mark said that all agencies continued to work hard to address low-level problems in Princetown

Mark said that the latest round of cost reductions would see changes to the Neighbourhood Beat structure, starting in March. There would be a return to a more geographically oriented use of resources. In addition, many of the front-office staff would go. It was agreed that the present method of actually being able to speak to an Officer was very unsatisfactory, and the 101 line was of limited use. In answer to a question from John, Mark said that police patrols in Princetown would continue, albeit the impact of the new resourcing arrangements on patrol frequency was not yet known. John said that there was ample evidence of the correlation between patrol frequency and low-level crime in the village and he hoped that this would be taken into consideration when patrol rotas were drawn up.

Neighbourhood Beat Co-ordinators (one in Tavistock and one in Okehampton) would replace the current role of Neighbourhood Beat Managers, which would be abolished. The Co-ordinators' role would be desk based. Response resources would be given a Neighbourhood to look after (e.g. Princetown), but the response (i.e. emergency) role would remain the top priority. However, more than one Officer would be assigned to a Neighbourhood, so time would tell how much resource could, practically, be available to fulfil this role

Mark said that his presence in Princetown was likely to reduce as he would, in future, be reporting to a Response Sergeant. Effectively, the Neighbourhood Beat Team would be disbanded, which meant that Dave Pickles would be looking for another position

It was noted that the current round of cuts would not be the last, as the cost cutting programme was only about 40% complete thus far

ACTION; It was agreed that a strongly worded letter should be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner expressing the Parish Council's grave concern about the impact of the cuts currently being put in place

Councillors extended their thanks to Mark and to Dave for all their support over the years, and for the difference that they had made in Princetown

PCSO Mark Canvin left the room

PUBLIC SESSION 1

The member of the public raised the question of anti-social driving in the Princetown DNPA car park during snowy weather. It was explained that DNPA had been told that, should barriers be erected at the entrance to the car park, the Parish Council (as part of its Emergency Plan) would raise and lower the barrier as appropriate, to prevent entry to the car park

The member of the public raised the matter of the condition of areas of the Devonport Leat, where banks had collapsed and weeds were growing, after money had been spent on these improvements. The situation was made worse because animals were allowed to run across the leat and this damaged the banks. Cliff said that he had seen workers carrying out repairs, largely unsupervised. It was noted that there were multiple agencies/organisations involved in keeping the leat in good repair, but that South West Water was the lead agency. It was agreed that the Council would raise the profile of the problems with the leat to South West Water

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10. Planning.

10.1 The current status of planning applications is shown in the table below.

Status	DNPA Ref. & Applic. Type	Description	Location	Comments
New	14/0065 Full PP	Installation of ground-mounted solar panels	Peat Cot Cottage, Peat Cot, Princetown	With Councillors for review. Return to clerk by 18 Feb 14
Awaiting DNPA	14/0010 Full PP	Provision of new steps and ramp access to the front entrance	National Park Visitor Centre Tavistock Road Princetown	Supported by DFPC subject to provision for Christmas tree lights.
Newly Granted	13/0656 Cert of Lawfulness	Removal of chimneys	1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 and 17 Burrator Avenue Princetown	Supported, but with reservations about the choice of properties. No conditions to DNPA approval.
Newly Granted	13/0647 Prior notific	Extension to existing agricultural building	Brimpts Farm Dartmeet	Supported by the Parish Council. To start within 5 years.
Awaiting DNPA	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, but with reservations about displaced parking in the immediate vicinity

11. Reports from Sub Groups and Special Interest Groups

- 11.1 **School (Wendy W)**. The school roll remains in the 70s. The Year 6 trip to London has been booked. Vacancies exist for Community Governors. Potential applicants should contact Miss Hirst, Head Teacher
- 11.2 **Play Area (Cliff, Emma)**. Cliff inspected the play area; it was waterlogged but otherwise correct. The replacement wood on the climbing frame will be fitted when the weather improves. The litter picker found unwrapped soiled nappies in the play area last week
- 11.3 **Cemetery (Val)**. Nothing to report
- 11.4 **Emergency Plan (David, Cliff, Paul)**. The long term weather forecast is for continued bad weather for the next 2 weeks but it will be too warm for snow to settle
- 11.5 **Parish Plan Sub-Group (Alison, Val, Wendy S)**. Nothing to report
- 11.6 **Parking Sub-Group (Gregg)**. The problem of visitors using the road outside the Princetown shops and pub car parks for long term parking to avoid the DNPA £1 car parking charge continues. Shopkeepers' and publicans' livelihoods are being affected. There has been no update on the Traffic Order from Councillor Saunders
ACTION: Clerk to raise the matter with Geoffrey Cox MP

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11.7 **Fire & Rescue Service (Paul)**. No report in Paul's absence.

12. **Reports from Meetings with Other Groups.**

- 12.1 **Defibrillator Funding**. The Clerk (Ann) had attended a meeting with Bere Ferrers and Buckland Monochorum Parish Councillors to draft out the TAP (Town and Parish) application form. This application will be discussed at the next Southern Link meeting on 6 March
- 12.2 **Princetown Street Signs**. David met with Jo Rumble DNPA. DFPC proposals to enhance DNPA plans for signposts has been rejected by DNPA as regulations require a formal road crossing to be constructed if the signpost is on the opposite side of the road to the pavement to be used

13. **Correspondence**

- 13.1 **National Park Affordable Housing**. Consultation on the Supplementary Planning Document for affordable housing will complete on 28 February
- 13.2 **NALC's Conference on Localism**: This has been moved to Wed 26th March 2014 at the Royal National Hotel, London. The one day conference explores the fundamental question of what next for localism and where next for parish and town councils
- 13.3 **Dog Control Orders**. WDBC is exploring the introduction of Dog Control Orders across the Borough from October 2014 and has drafted 4 orders for initial consultation by 28th February 2014. DFPC is also invited to join the current Dog Warden Scheme and receive Dog Warden patrols
ACTION: Clerk to forward draft Dog Control Orders to all Councillors, Football Club and Youth Club for comment.
- 13.4 **Affordable Housing Surgeries**. WDBC are holding one hour surgeries on Mon 10th and Tue 11th March at Kilworthy Park to provide Parish Councils advice on: Plan-It Lite, Local Lettings Plan, Empty Homes, Community Land Trusts, Funding, Affordable Housing Sites, Housing Benefit, Community Right to Build, Private Sector Loans, Local Allocations Policy, Custom Build, Reducing risks to health from poor housing & Improving the private sector housing stock. Only one time slot is available per Parish Council
ACTION: John will attend.
- 13.5 **Devon Countryside Access Forum**. DCAF is advertising for members. Applications are particularly welcome from landowners and younger people who enjoy outdoor activities. The closing date is 21 February 2014
- 13.6 **National Rural Crime Network**. This has been endorsed by 18 P&CC (inc Devon& Cornwall) to tackle countryside crime, with 8 more considering joining the group. The network will provide an online resource for police, community safety practitioners and others to interact, to share information, training development, access to case studies and link up with other mechanisms for reporting crime and/or suspicious behaviour. Detailed TOR are being developed and optimum means to fund ICT infrastructure are being explored
- 13.7 **South West Water**. SWW is planning to invest almost £160million in improving its services in 2014-15, while freezing standard tariffs and standing charges for households and businesses until April 2015. This is the 4th year of a 5 year £700million programme to further improve bathing water quality; upgrade water and sewage works, reservoirs and pipe networks; and renewable energy schemes. The £50 Government Contribution for all SWW household customers will reduce bills this year

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- 13.8 **Holming Beam**. The Duchy and Forestry Commission will start felling in Long Plantation within 2 weeks to minimise risk of road blockages from fallen trees. Subsequent planting will be deciduous rather than conifer
- 13.9 **Princetown Toilets**. DNPA want to assess the overall costs and contributions from other agencies before making a decision on financial support and plan further discussions with WDBC this month. Meanwhile Jill Skelton reports WDBC are looking at reconstructing the Gents' toilet door and closer to make it more robust
ACTION: Clerk to formally write to Ali Kohler DNPA seeking funding contribution.
- 13.10 **Council Tax Referendum Principles**. This new scheme will not apply to Parish Councils
- 13.11 **West Devon Community Voluntary Services**. WDCVS have introduced a new look newsletter, which includes some guidance on obtaining grant funding
ACTION: Clerk to forward to Alison
- 13.12 **War Memorial Granite Setts**. Jo Rumble has asked the DNPA works team to suggest appropriate improvements

14. **Financial Management**

14.1 Summary for January

Payments made	Ref	Details	Amount
	740	A Inman - Clerk's expenses	£182.56
	741	A Jaques – litter picking	£53.65
	742	WDBC - dog bin servicing Apr to Sept	£64.90
Receipts			
		Nil	£0
Balance in bank 31 Jan			£21382.20
To receive			
		Nil	£0
To pay			
	743	A Jaques – litter picking	£53.65
	744	PCC Hire Oct, Nov, Dec	£45.00
	745	PCC Hire Jan Interviews	£24.38

- 14.2 **Change of Responsible Financial Officer**. Letters have been signed to change RFO details with Lloyds and Santander from Ann to Nigel.

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

David raised the potential reopening of the railway through Tavistock in the wake of recent damage to the Dawlish line and suggested DFPC support this option as economically beneficial to West Devon and Dartmoor.

ACTION: Clerk to write to SoS for Transport, Geoffrey Cox MP, and CE Network Rail supporting the Tavistock line option.

16. **Any Other Business**

- 16.1 Wendy S led congratulations to Phyl's Follies for an excellent Postbridge Pantomime

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- 16.2 Alison reported on the current closure of the Forest Inn and that one option being considered was the Community Asset Transfer scheme

Public Session 2. Nothing further raised.

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

Next Meeting. The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30 pm TUESDAY 11 March 2014 in the Community Centre, Princetown. Alison will chair the meeting.

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

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