



# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Nigel Tigwell, Wheal Lucky House, Rundlestone. Princetown, Yelverton, Devon. PL20 6SS

Telephone: 01822 890274, 07985 459 804

Email: [clerk@dartmoorforestpc.net](mailto:clerk@dartmoorforestpc.net)

Website: [www.dartmoorforestpc.net](http://www.dartmoorforestpc.net)

12 December 2014

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 8 December 2014 in Princetown Community Centre.

Present:

<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:</b>	<b>Princetown Ward:</b>	
	Cllr Stephen King	Cllr Wendy Stones
<b>Postbridge Ward:</b>	Cllr Gregg Manning	
	Cllr Cliff Palmer	Cllr David Worth
Cllr Val Greatrex	Cllr Mark Renders	

Cllr David Worth chaired the meeting.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Cllr Philip Sanders of DCC, WDBC and DNPA attended from agenda item 9.

### 1. **Apologies.**

Cllr Alison Geen, Cllr Wendy Watson and Cllr Paul Turnbull tendered apologies in advance of the meeting.

### 2. **Introduction of New Councillors.**

Mark Renders and Stephen King had been inducted by the Clerk and Cllr David Worth on 2 & 8 December respectively and were introduced as new councillors by the Chair. Their Declaration of Interests are required to be forwarded to the Clerk no later than 23 & 29 December respectively.

### 3. **Declarations of Interest.**

Nil

### 4. **Minutes of the last meeting.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair.

### 5. **Police Matters.**

The Clerk had circulated copies of the quarterly community policing report for Southern Link in advance of the meeting. Councillors expressed concern that in some instances criminal damage appeared to have been recorded as anti-social behaviour.

The Clerk has consulted WDH about young vandals but has been advised it is a Police matter as the vandalism is being perpetrated in the community rather than the housing area. This might be reviewed if the Police receive reports of problems within the WDH area. The Council instructed the Clerk to write to Acting Inspector Mark Sloman setting out the Council's concerns over the trend in criminal damage and the apparent lack of success of previous Police interventions.

A Parishioner has received a custodial sentence for their childrens' non-attendance at school.

A dark red hatchback has been reported on several occasions for speeding through Princetown and travelling on the wrong side of the traffic bollards. Councillors recalled a 'Speed Watch'



Police initiative some years previously to train nominated personnel to operate speed radar guns. The Clerk will enquire whether the scheme is still in operation.

It has been reported that several houses in Burrator Parish had received offensive 'religious' leaflets through the door. Councillors agreed to be alert and attempt to identify the perpetrator if similar material was circulated in Dartmoor Forest.

## **6. Repairs, Maintenance & Highways**

The Highways consultation on future (reduced) service provision has angered most Parishes. It was a central issue for the Southern Link meeting on 4 December, where Councillors spoke against 'cost transfer' measures; criticised the road warden scheme for top-down bureaucracy strangling a promising bottom-up creative proposal; and sought greater involvement in setting rural speed limits to help protect vulnerable road users.

Surfacing work on the approach to Dartmeet was planned to close the road on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December, but the closure signs were incorrectly left in place over Saturday and Sunday, leading to significant confusion and unnecessary diversions. Cllr Alison Geen was raising the issue with Highways and SWH.

The bridleway from B3212 to the old railway line has been badly damaged by SWH. The Clerk and Cllr David Worth have liaised with DCC, SWH and DNPA. The consensus is to leave it in its current state until spring when it will be refurbished as part of the Granite and Gears project as attempted repairs with the ground in its current state will do more harm than good.

Postbridge drain gullies have not been emptied for 2 years and contributed to localised flooding last winter. The Clerk will raise the matter with DCC Highways.

Sand bags have been delivered to Postbridge Village Hall car park and the sand is expected to be delivered on 12 December.

The Council had collaborated with Buckland Monachorum and other Parishes to bid for TAP funding to pay for 3 days effort from a 2 man Highways Lengthsmen team in the Parish, however, the bid was rejected.

## **FIRST PUBLIC SESSION**

Nothing was raised.

## **7. Review of Procedures.**

A review of procedures by the Clerk has identified the Council's Complaints Procedure dates from 2003 and does not meet current standards and currently there is no Grant Award Policy or Procedure, but it is a formal requirement. The Clerk had circulated draft procedures in advance of the meeting. Both procedures were adopted, subject to any comment by absent Councillors within 14 days.

There will be other procedure updates in coming months.

## **8. Request for Donation.**

Saint Gabriel's Church has requested a £200 donation to fund an engraved brass plaque inside the church commemorating Postbridge's war dead. Councillors were content with the principle of making a donation but questioned the veracity of the costing. Cllr Val Greatrex agreed to contact Sue Hammett to seek details regarding the size and design of the plaque with quotations for the work.

## 9. Grass Cutting Options 2015.

The Clerk briefed that grass cutting costs dominate the precept considerations. An investment appraisal is being prepared but is not yet complete and the Clerk sought the Council's view on which options to take forward in detail. After some discussion the Council agreed to discount using an outside contractor and employing a Lengthsman. The Clerk is to focus on: using local contractors; the Council buying its own equipment and employing/contracting a handyman to use it; and entering a partnering arrangement with local clubs or Parishes.

## 10. Precept

The Clerk's draft report on the precept for 2015/16 and the alternative assumptions paper have been updated to reflect the decisions made at the November meeting

The Duchy has proposed raising the Play Area & Green rental from £60pa to £70pa for the next 3 years. This is a large percentage increase (17%) but in cash terms it is small. Councillors were not happy with the proposal. The Clerk is to respond to the Duchy proposing that the land at the corner of Tavistock Road and Bellever should be returned to Duchy stewardship and the rent remain the same.

## 11. Bellever Close and other Duchy Housing Proposals

The Duchy is obliged to conduct a new housing needs survey and has written to the Clerk seeking clarification on the Council's position regarding the affordable housing percentage for 3 bedroom properties. The Council agreed it would not specifically seek any and the Clerk will respond formally to the Duchy.

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

### Princetown Community Centre.

A letter had been received from Geoffrey Cox MP regarding the ongoing dispute with the Pre-School and the PCC Secretary will reply. CCTV and other electrical work is ongoing. Tracey Colebrook-Clarke resigned as trustee as she has moved out of area and Audrey Vigny has been appointed PCC treasurer. Mike Fitzpatrick intends to contact Warren Homden with regards a possible grant for landscaping, access and parking.

**Pavilion Youth Club.** The next meeting will be on 19 January.

**Parking Committee.** The Traffic Order for Tavistock Road will be fully implemented this month. The Chair thanked everybody that had been involved. The project has been protracted but will make an improvement to the well-being of the village.

**Princetown Primary School.** No report in Cllr Wendy Watson's absence.

**Emergency Planning Sub-Group.** The Met Office Contingency Planning forecast indicates this will be an unremarkable winter. Cllr David Worth has inspected the redundant stable block adjacent to the old Railway Station site as storage space for salt and tools. The roof appears sound but the walls and fittings are in poor condition. The Council agreed not to request use of the building.

**Public Library Sub-Group.** A lengthy email has been sent to the PCC Trustees by Mr Bryan Harry regarding the library, with a list of proposals concerning a pilot scheme for library to adopt as it moves forward. A meeting had been arranged with Mr Harry for 1 December but was cancelled due to Mr Harry having a work commitment. It is unlikely Princetown will be selected for the pilot scheme.

**Parish Plan Sub-Group.** No report in Cllr Alison Geen's absence.

**Play Area Sub-Group.** Cllr Cliff Palmer had inspected the play area and reported all was in order. The Clerk will make a warranty claim for rust on the see-saw. The Clerk will also determine the formal maintenance requirement for the equipment.

**Princetown Toilets Sub-Group.** Nothing to report

**Postbridge Village Hall.** The Village Hall has been awarded £6500 by DNPA to complete the car park and install a bore hole for the hall. There are 4 applicants to be interviewed for the committee. The new Village Hall sign post has been erected and is waiting for the new sign.

**Fire & Rescue Service.** No report in Cllr Paul Turnbull's absence.

**Food Bank.** Nothing to report. This will be removed from future agendas.

**Cemetery.** Following the Clerk and Cllr Val Greatrex attending a course on Cemetery management, it is clear the Council's processes for managing the Cemetery will need to be revised. This will be programmed after the Clerk has completed the procedure review for the main Council activities.

**Training.** A new councillor course will be run by DALC on 28 January, but Cllr Mark Renders and Cllr Stephen King both intended to wait for the TAP funded local courses in May.

**War Memorial.** Cllr David Worth reported Derek Collins wanted his late son, who died on active service in Afghanistan, to be added to the War Memorial; and Christine Faulkener has established there is a name missing from 1914-18. The Clerk will contact the War Graves Commission.

**Emergency Committee.** Nothing to report

### 13. Reports from other meetings

**Southern Parish Link 4 December.** The Clerk had circulated draft notes in advance of the meeting. Of the two TAP fund applications forwarded by the Council: the shared asset projector and laptop had been accepted; and the Tavistock and District Local Economic Blueprint rejected. The Clerk will proceed with procurement for the shared assets.

**Super Parish Link 8 December.** This meeting had been called by DCC Leader, Cllr John Hart, to explain the DCC budgetary position next year. Cllr Philip Sanders, who had come from this meeting, reported that most but not all Councillors accepted localisation of some services but insisted DCC must lead on public relations aspects if Local Council precepts are to rise to cover DCC reduced services. Early bus services may be lost through subsidy reductions. It was unlikely the Highways salt bins measure would be taken but the Road Warden scheme would progress although less than 3% of Local Councils have expressed an interest to date.

## 14. Planning Applications

The current status is:

With the Parish Council	0651/14 0650/14	Demolish 1 story extension & build new 2 story 5 Forestry Houses, Bellever Extension and new disabled access Postbridge Village Hall
Recent DNPA decisions	0577/14	Single Story Extension Dartmoor Brewery Princetown approved
With DNPA	0609/14 0522/14	Rear extension 10 Moor Crescent Princetown Agricultural livestock building - Smallwaters, Postbridge – an additional Devon bank has been required
Awaiting enforcement action	0164/07	Beardown Farm un-authorized chalet. Clerk is awaiting update from Jo Burgess.

The Council agreed to support 0650/14 and object to 0651/14 on the grounds that the proposed extension: was too large, impinging on the symmetry of the cottages; had inappropriate patio doors; and overshadows neighbouring properties to the detriment of their privacy and outlook.

## 15. Correspondence

Correspondence has been uploaded to the website but no items required discussion or action by the Council beyond that covered by other agenda items.

## 16. Financial management

The Clerk reported DALC have recommended the Clerk should hold additional reference books and should be a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks. The Council agreed to pay for the Clerk's membership and buy the books at the discounted price for members.

Cheques approved this month were:

818	DALC - Training Course	£ 144.00
819	A Jaques - Litter Picking	£ 56.33
820	Society of Local Council Clerks - new membership	£ 81.00
809	Citizens Advice Bureau (replacement cheque)	£ 60.00
821	Diane Malley – payroll services	£ 24.00

Bank Reconciliation.

Balance on last statement (25 November)		£27756.62
Outstanding Income		
		0.00
Outstanding Cheques		
809	West Devon CAB - donation	£ 60.00
812	Pavilion Youth Club - Rent & Loan	£ 1,000.00
813	D Coles - Cemetery bank repair	£ 28.00
816	PCC - Hall Hire 2015	£ 150.00
Reconciled total		£ 26518.62

**Forecast of Outturn.** The Council agreed to use the underspend on the repairs budget to fund a new opening from the Cemetery to the Cemetery extension field. The Clerk will seek competitive tenders.

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

**Defibrillators.** The Postbridge Stores may be put up for sale in the near future. To avoid complications, the Clerk has approached DNPA about mounting the defibrillator on the Visitors Centre. DNPA have agreed in principle but we need to go through the details.

**Postbridge 3G Signal.** Vodafone have selected Postbridge and Bellever as one of their 100 sites nationwide. Cllr Val Greatrex and the Clerk will meet their technical surveyors 1000 Friday 16 December to escort them around the village to enable them to assess technical viability and plan installation.

**Outline plans for Play Area improvements Phase 3 and investigate grants for a skate park.** The Clerk has reviewed the more recent documentation for Phase 3. Costs appear to be high and alternative options need to be investigated, especially for the shelter. Cllr Mark Renders has agreed to get involved and the Clerk will arrange a handover in the New Year.

**18. Urgent decisions since the last meeting.**

None.

**19. Exchange of Information.**

The Co-Chairs and Clerk will meet before the January meeting to consider potential time management arrangements to reduce the length of meetings while ensuring effective debate and management of all activities.

**SECOND PUBLIC SESSION**

Nothing was raised.

**20. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be at 1930 Tuesday 13 January 2015 at Princetown.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 2210.