

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 4 January 2010
in the Village Centre, Princetown at 7.30 pm****Present****Princetown**

Ms Emma Derham
Mr Gary Easton
Mr Cliff Palmer
Mrs Wendy Stones
Mr Paul Turnbull
Mr David Worth

Postbridge

Mr Dave Fisher (Chair)
Mrs Wendy Watson

Hexworthy/Huccaby

Ms Alison Geen

Apologies**Princetown**

Ms Sarah Ruffles

Postbridge**Hexworthy/Huccaby****Absent without Apology****Princetown**

None

Postbridge

None

Hexworthy/Huccaby

None

In Attendance

Councillor Philip Sanders (DCC)

One member of the public

A G E N D A

1	To receive apologies
2	Declarations of Interest
3	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2009
4	Report from Beat Manager
5	Matters arising from the previous meeting and not on the Agenda
6	Update on Highways jobs
7	Play Area Development Group
8	Service delivered by the Lengthsman
9	Reports from Committees
10	Reports from meetings with other groups
11	Correspondence
12	Financial management
13	Planning applications
14	Urgent matters at the Chair's discretion
15	Any other business

Date: 1 February 2010

Signature of Chair:

1. **Apologies**

There was an apology from Sarah, who was on holiday.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of 7 December were signed as a true record

4. **Report from the Beat Manager**

The Local Policing Review had been received for 2009/2010.

No Officers were present to make a report

5. **Matters arising from the previous Meeting and not on the Agenda**

Nothing to report

6. **Update on Highways Jobs**

6.1 **New Jobs**

- Flooding in Postbridge – a letter had been received from a resident of Kit Lodge, which is being flooded
- Grit bags not delivered to Postbridge and Merripit Hill this season so far
- Princetown road signage smashed on the B3357 near Beardown Lodge
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6.2 **Existing Jobs**

- The Tavistock Road sign is still propped up against the wall of the Creativity Centre
- Clearance of the lane by Alison's property is not done

7. **Play Area Development Group (PADG) (Gary)**

The Play Area Development Group had been informed that its application for funding had been accepted. DCC had lowered the maximum amount from £45,000 to £35,000 in order to be able to spread the funding to more projects. Representatives from the Group are to go in front of the selection Panel to give more detail about the proposed project. This will take place in January/February (date to be agreed). Only when the Panel has seen all successful applicants will the amount of the grant be known.

The Devon Playing Fields Association (DPFA), of which the Parish Council is a member, is running a course called "Play it Safe" on 28 April. The aim is to improve the knowledge, expertise and confidence of those involved in maintaining and running play areas. The course is heavily subsidised and the cost

Date: 1 February 2010

Signature of Chair:

per person is only £30, which can legitimately be funded from grant monies. Gary, Emma, Cliff and the Clerk have applied to attend. This should ensure that there is sufficient knowledge in the Parish Council to operate an internal inspection rota when the new equipment is installed

8. Service delivered by the Lengthsman

Councillors had been sent a copy of a DCC paper from 2007 explaining the new Health and Safety law that had necessitated a change in the way jobs were commissioned from the lengthsman. The new law means that the lengthsman's safety is the responsibility of his employer (the "Contractor"), who is commissioned by DCC (the "Client") to provide the service. Thus, the lengthsman's day to day work instructions can only be allocated by his employer.

At the previous meeting, Councillor Sanders had said that some Councils had improved their lengthsman service by partnering, and he had given Exmouth as an example. He undertook to find out more information. Councillor Sanders also undertook to provide the Clerk with contact details of the person in DCC who has responsibility for delivery of the lengthsman service.

Once this information is known, work can start on understanding the end-to-end process used to deliver the service, identifying problem areas and devising options for their solution

9. Reports from Committees

9.1 School (Wendy W)

Wendy said that eight children had joined the Reception class at the beginning of the new term. There are still two Governor vacancies

9.2 Playground (Gary)

Gary had obtained a quote for fencing and this was discussed. It was noted that a decision on acceptance was not urgently required.

Action: Gary took an action to establish which of the types of netting available would be best suited for the fence in question.

Action: the Clerk will check with the Duchy on potential timing for clearance of the willow hedging and will also ask if the existing fencing can be cleared at the same time

9.3 Cemetery (Dave)

Dave said that the bench had now been removed for refurbishment and will be returned in the spring

10. Reports from Meetings with Other Groups

10.1 Southern Parishes Link Committee

Next meeting is on 25 March 2010

10.2 Social Housing

Wendy S had attended a meeting on 10 December, as reported in the previous minutes.

She said that one of the changes being made was that adverts for vacant social housing properties would no longer appear in the Tavistock Times. Allocation of Princetown properties would retain the priority given to people who were locally employed

Date: 1 February 2010

Signature of Chair:

11. Correspondence

- 11.1 **Boundary Review** - as a result of the Sussex judgement being overturned in the Court of Appeal, the Boundary Committee had now made its recommendations to the Secretary of State. In Devon this was for a single Unitary Authority for the whole of Devon, excluding the existing Unitaries of Plymouth and Torbay. The Committee saw no merit in the Exeter option. The Leader of WDBC, Councillor McInnes, had sent out a letter to all Parish and Town Councils summarising the situation and giving details of the response that the Borough Council would be making during the final consultation period, which ends on 19 January.

A copy of Councillor McInnes' letter and a summary of the Boundary Committee's recommendations were distributed to all Councillors.

For information, the Clerk distributed a copy of a recent article in the NALC's magazine that made reference to a Government led initiative called Total Place, which is being run as a pilot in several selected local authorities around the country. Total Place is described as "*an ambitious 'health check' of public money to ensure that every £ spent is delivering value for money and putting customers first*". The spend on the pilot projects will be closely scrutinised to see where duplication can be cut or gaps filled

- 11.2 **Electoral Register** – the latest version of the Register had been issued. Figures as at 1 December 2009 showed a continuing, albeit slower, increase. The picture for the last five years is as follows;

	Dec '05	Dec '06	Dec '07	Dec '08	Dec '09	Increase '05 to '09
Prinetown	590	630	659	709	721	22.2%
Postbridge	110	109	124	126	125	13.6%
Hexworthy	59	60	64	62	61	3.4%
Totals	759	799	847	897	907	19.5%
Precept	£5,700	£6,000	£6,125	£7,500	£7,725	£2,025
Precept % increase		5.3%	2.1%	22.4%	3.0%	35.5%
Cost per resident	£7.51	£7.51	£7.23	£8.36	£8.52	13.4%
Increase per resident		Zero	(£0.28)	£1.13	£0.16	£1.01
Inflation rate		3.2%	4.3%	4.0%	0.3%	

David W asked if the inflation rate could be added to this table [**Post-meeting note:** rates have been added to the table. It should be noted that the 2009 rate was provisional at the time these minutes were produced]

- 11.3 **WDBC Core Strategy** – the Council's leader had written to all Parish and Town Councils refuting local criticism that the Core Strategy ignores the needs of many rural communities
- 11.4 **DNPA "Delivering for Dartmoor"** – the latest newsletter had been received. This illustrates the Authority's progress in achieving the goals set out in its Management Plan. Limited hard copies are available, and the newsletter is on the Authority's website
- 11.5 **DNPA Meeting** – calling papers for the monthly meeting on 8 January had been received
- 11.6 **Duchy Works** – the Duchy had given notice that it had commissioned a tree surgeon to carry out work on the small plantation of beech trees opposite the woodland on the Two Bridges Hotel side of the Oakery Sewerage Works. Work is likely to last one day and the date is yet to be agreed
- 11.7 **Postbridge Village Hall Questionnaire** – the Clerk had responded to a questionnaire from a member of the Village Hall Improvements Sub-Committee regarding the Council's use of the Hall

Date: 1 February 2010

Signature of Chair:

- 11.8 **Community Safety Forum Event** – the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is running an event on 25 April in Ivybridge offering an opportunity for organisations to influence the Partnership's priorities for 2010/11
- 11.9 **Parish Planning** – the Community Council of Devon (CCD) had queried the Parish Council's progress on its Plan and offered to attend a Council meeting to answer any questions and give advice
Decision: It was agreed that a representative from CCD should be invited to speak at a future meeting
- 11.10 **Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Trust** – the Trust's latest newsletter had been received

12. Financial Management

12.1 Summary for December

Payments made	Ref 439	M J Williams – litter picking	£49.66
	Ref 440	Postbridge Village Hall – donation for refurbishment	£500.00
	Ref 441	HMCA – hire of hall	£15.00
	Ref 442	CEF (Launceston) - Christmas tree lights	£87.81
Receipts			
Balance in bank 31 December			£4,318.02
To Receive			
To pay	Ref 443	M J Williams – litter picking	£49.66
	Ref 444	HMCA – hire of hall	£15.00
	Ref 445	Paul Turnbull – re-imburement for dog litter bin post fixing	£4.68

13. Planning Applications

- 13.1 The following planning application correspondence was received in December

DNPA Ref. & Application Type	Description	Location	Comments
09/0602 Prior notification	Creation of hardstanding for timber stacking	Brimpts Farm Dartmeet	With Councillor for comment
09/0578 Full PP	New affordable dwelling with parking and gardens	Land adjacent to 1 Hessary View	Supported, but with reservations regarding the need for another affordable home in the village. A request for information about the definition of "affordable" and the means of ensuring ongoing affordability of the property was requested from DNPA
09/0501 Full PP & 09/0500 Listed building consent	Retrospective application for erection of a temporary classroom	HMP Dartmoor	Granted: Temporary building shall be removed and the land restored to its former condition on or before 30 November 2012

- 13.2 **Appeal at Hillside, Merrivale** – the Appeal had found in favour of the Appellant and the structure can remain in place

Date: 1 February 2010

Signature of Chair:

- 13.3 **DNPA Development Management Committee** – calling papers for the meeting on 8 January had been received
- 13.4 **Planning Condition at Youth Hostel, Bellever** – In 2007 permission had been granted to erect a temporary shed to be used as storage and as a digital media studio. The condition was that the shed must be removed and the land re-instated to its former condition by 19 March 2009
Action: Dave F undertook to check whether the shed had been removed

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

Nothing to report

15. **Any Other Business**

- 15.1 Paul had received complaints from residents about the security alarms being triggered regularly at the Village Centre.
Decision: this item will be mentioned at the informal HMCA meeting
- 15.2 Paul reported that the noticeboard on Tavistock Road was beyond economic repair

PUBLIC SESSION

Nothing to report

Next Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05 pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be at **7.30 pm on Monday 1 February 2010** in the **Village Centre, Princetown**

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