

**DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 1 February 2010  
in the Village Centre, Princetown at 7.30 pm**

**Present**

<b>Princetown</b>	<b>Postbridge</b>	<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby</b>
Ms Emma Derham		
Mr Gary Easton	Mr Dave Fisher (Chair)	Ms Alison Geen
Mr Cliff Palmer		
Mrs Wendy Stones		

**Apologies**

<b>Princetown</b>	<b>Postbridge</b>	<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby</b>
Ms Sarah Ruffles	Mrs Wendy Watson	
Mr David Worth		

**Absent without Apology**

<b>Princetown</b>	<b>Postbridge</b>	<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby</b>
Mr Paul Turnbull	None	None

**In Attendance**

PCSO Mark Canvin (items 1 to 5 only)  
 Robert Plumb Regeneration Officer, West Devon Borough Council (items 1 to 4 only)  
 Martin Rich Community Projects Officer, Community Council of Devon (item 4 only)  
 Jo Rumble Senior Planning Officer (Community), Dartmoor National Park Authority (items 1 to 4 only)  
 Sarah Taylor Fire & Rescue Service (items 1 to 5 only)  
 Craig Taylor Fire & Rescue Service (items 1 to 5 only)

One member of the public

**A G E N D A**

1	To receive apologies
2	Declarations of Interest
3	Report from Beat Manager
4	Parish Planning
5	Report from Fire and Rescue Service
6	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2010
7	Matters arising from the previous meeting and not on the Agenda
8	Update on Highways jobs
9	Play Area Development Group
10	Reports from Committees
11	Reports from meetings with other groups
12	Correspondence
13	Financial management
14	Planning applications
15	Urgent matters at the Chair's discretion
16	Any other business

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### 1. Apologies

There were apologies from Sarah, Wendy W and David W. Paul's absence without apology was noted. The Chair welcomed Jo Rumble, Robert Plumb, Sarah Taylor and Craig Taylor  
The Police report was moved to item 3 as Martin Rich had not yet arrived

### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Beat Manager's Report

Mark said that Princetown was not currently experiencing too many problems. A Section 59 warning had been issued to a young person in Princetown for driving a go-cart in an anti-social manner.

Mark said there were lessons to be learned from the recent period of bad weather. However, the crime of stealing from abandoned vehicles had been prevalent and could become a habit. Mark re-iterated the need to conceal/remove valuable items and to leave vehicles securely locked and drew attention to the need to observe these precautions when parking on the road outside Postbridge Village Hall to attend the forthcoming pantomime performances

Martin Rich entered the meeting

The Police are holding a meeting on 11 February with as many organisations as possible to review events during the bad weather and to identify opportunities for improvement. Mark said that attendees included DNPA, the Duchy, Highways, Fire & Rescue, Ambulance and the Prison. The Parish Council were invited to send a representative [**Post-meeting note:** David W attended on behalf of the Council]

Mark said that he was currently pursuing the possibility of the Police making a grant towards the new equipment for the Princetown play area

Dave F, Wendy S and the Clerk had been invited to a meeting with Superintendent Sarah Sharpe and members of the Neighbourhood team to talk about any issues affecting the Parish, in terms of policing or engaging with the community. Date is Friday 12 March from 4 pm to 7 pm. The Clerk was available and Wendy S and Dave F said that they would check their diaries [**Post-meeting note:** All three will attend the meeting]

### 4. Parish Planning

Martin Rich said that central funding for Councils wishing to draw up a Parish Plan had come to an end, however, the Community Council of Devon (CCD) continued to provide assistance. More than 50% of Parishes in Devon had produced a Plan and, with this critical mass, these Plans were having an influence on organisations' funding decisions. With budgets becoming increasingly tight, Parish Plans are now essential because re-active funding is no longer available. The CCD provides support for set-up and initial steps for the Steering Group and then ongoing help for the rest of the process.

Martin said that Parish Plans usually had an element that could be achieved locally and without external help, there was another element that could only be achieved with the help of partner(s) such as DNPA, the third element of the Plan was aspirational and, whilst being very difficult to achieve, brought pressure to bear on other organisations.

Jo Rumble said that DNPA provides small grants to assist with the cost of producing a Plan. During 2009/10 grants had been approximately £250 each and the Authority is not prescriptive about how the

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grant is spent. She said it would be interesting to compare the new Plan with the one produced 15 years ago.

Robert Plumb said that the level of assistance provided by WDBC was dependent on the Council's requirements. Grants up to £250 were available and WDBC could provide statistics, local profile information, contacts for service providers and signposting to additional funding, such as DCC Councillors' locality budget. The Local Strategic Partnership offers support (subject to simple criteria) and will then discuss the Plan with the appropriate Partners to aid implementation.

In answer to a question regarding the relationship between the Parish and Emergency Plans, Martin said that the former would point to items in the latter.

In answer to a question regarding the overall cost of producing a Parish Plan, Martin said that it used to cost approximately £2,000 when central funding was available. Nowadays it is likely to cost approximately £1,000 but, since it takes about 18 months to produce a Plan, the cost would be spread across two financial years. Martin said that other Parishes had reduced the cost by obtaining local business sponsorship for printing the Plans

Jo Rumble, Robert Plumb and Martin Rich left the meeting

## **5. Report from Fire and Rescue Service**

Sarah Taylor and Craig Taylor thanked all those who had helped with the evacuation of Venville House. They also thanked those who had assisted the ferrying of residents to the air ambulance.

A programme is currently running a programme to raise awareness of the need to install a smoke alarm. Postbridge and Hexworthy are being targeted particularly. Alison and Dave F took a supply of awareness leaflets.

PCSO Mark Canvin, Sarah Taylor and Craig Taylor left the meeting

## **6. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of 4 January were signed as a true record

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

7.1 **Boundary Review** – The Boundary Committee's final recommendation to the Secretary of State was for the whole of Devon, excluding Plymouth and Torbay, to become a single Unitary Authority. There was a rumour that the Secretary of State had rejected this in favour of a Unitary Authority for Exeter and the rest of Devon to remain unchanged, including District/Borough Councils

## **8. Update on Highways Jobs**

### **8.1 New Jobs**

Gorse at the roadside opposite the Two Bridges Hotel is obscuring the view for drivers turning out from the B3212

### **8.2 Existing Jobs**

Grit bags have still not been delivered to Postbridge

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## 9. Play Area Development Group (PADG) (Gary)

Wendy S, Gary and the Clerk are going to Exeter on 11 February to present the Group's credentials to the funding Panel.

A meeting of the PADG will be held before this date to bring all the members up to date

## 10. Reports from Committees

### 10.1 School (Wendy W via the Clerk)

One of the vacant positions on the Governing Body has now been filled, the other remains unfilled

### 10.2 Playground (Gary)

Gary said that sheep netting would be the most appropriate to use on the fencing to enable the area to be operated as a dog exclusion zone. Installation of the new fencing was dependent on the footpath next to this boundary being repaired by ROK. To avoid using this footpath residents were currently entering the play area through the gap in the old fencing

The Clerk had written to the Duchy to ask for potential timing of the clearance of the willow hedging and a reply was awaited

### 10.3 Cemetery (Dave)

Dave said that the trunk of a large tree growing in the wall near the entrance was loosening the granite stones and causing them to fall out of the wall

**Decision:** It was agreed to ask Frank Martin for advice and an estimate of the cost of carrying out the necessary remedial work, which may involve reducing the height of the tree, or even cutting it down completely

## 11. Reports from Meetings with Other Groups

### 11.1 Southern Parishes Link Committee

Next meeting is on 25 March 2010

## 12. Correspondence

### 12.1 Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) – an invitation had been extended to the Parish Council to attend a workshop on 23 February at 2.00 pm to contribute to the assessment of the National Park. The Park Authority is keen to have input from people with local knowledge and expertise to assist with identification of priorities for the Landscape Character Types (LCTs). These are features or qualities (including perceptual qualities) most valued in the landscape; whose continued presence in the future is key to preserving underlying landscape character

**Decision:** Alison agreed to attend the workshop

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- 12.2 **DNPA Meeting** – calling papers for the monthly meeting to be held on 5 February had been received. The proposed changes to Princetown’s Conservation Area will be discussed at this meeting and Keith McKay, the Historic Buildings Officer, had undertaken to inform the Clerk of the outcome as soon as possible after the meeting.

It was noted that Chris France, Director of Planning and Sustainable Development, would be leaving the Authority on 1 April after four years in post

- 12.3 **Mobile Library Service Questionnaire** – use of the mobile service has declined by 40% over the last 10 years and DCC is consulting with residents about improvements that might be made to the service. The poster and a supply of questionnaires will be given to the Postbridge Post Office and Stores
- 12.4 **Annual West Devon Mayoral Awards** – Nomination forms had been received for this year’s awards. Dave F nominated Gregg Manning in the over 18 group, which was seconded by Gary and voted unanimously
- 12.5 **Dartmoor Folk Map Project** – an organisation called Wren Music is undertaking a project to produce a map of Dartmoor represented by songs, singers and the collector Sabine Baring-Gould amongst others. Wren is asking for the Parish Council to supply a letter of support for its funding application. A template for the letter had been supplied  
**Decision:** It was agreed that a letter of support should be sent

### 13. Financial Management

#### 13.1 Summary for January

<b>Payments made</b>	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
<b>Receipts</b>			
<b>Balance in bank 31 January</b>			£4,248.68
<b>To Receive</b>			
<b>To pay</b>	Ref 446	HMCA – hire of hall	£15.00
	Ref 447	M J Williams – litter picking	£49.66
	Ref 448	DNPA – planning fees for St Raphael’s	£85.00

- 13.2 **Princetown Church Costs** – figures for the last three years had now been received. These were as follows:

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Outgoings</b>	<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>
2009	£157.00	£560.00	-£403.00
2008	£394.00	£480.00	-£86.00
2007	£503.00	£480.00	£23.00

The total outgoings for 2009 had been supplied, but only the grass cutting costs were known for 2008 and 2007

**Action:** It was agreed that Councillors would consider the matter individually and a decision would be made at March’s meeting

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- 13.3 **Hexworthy Room Costs** – the Clerk had checked out the room available at the Forest Inn for the October meeting and found it fit for purpose. There would be no charge for use of the room. The Clerk suggested that the budgeted cost of £15 should be donated to a Hexworthy related organisation.

#### 14. Planning Applications

- 14.1 The following planning application correspondence was received in January

DNPA Ref. & Application Type	Description	Location	Comments
09/0602 Prior notification	Creation of hardstanding for timber stacking	Brimpts Farm Dartmeet	Granted: Work to be completed by 31 December 2014
09/0578 Full PP	New affordable dwelling with parking and gardens	Land adjacent to 1 Hessary View	DNPA had sent minor changes: for a sash window in the porch and for the fascia to be white painted timber. This application is not scheduled for consideration at the February Development Management committee meeting

- 14.2 **DNPA Development Management Committee** – calling papers for the meeting on 5 February had been received
- 14.3 **Planning Condition at Youth Hostel, Bellever** – Dave F was to check whether the shed had been removed. He asked for this action to be carried forward
- 14.4 **Princetown Grass Cutting** – Mr Druett had been reminded of the need for a quote, but nothing had yet been received

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

- 15.1 It was confirmed that the Parish Council had previously approved the purchase and installation of poles to carry dog litter warning notices. This will be actioned directly by the Neighbourhood Watch and the Council will pay the cost

#### 16. Any Other Business

- 16.1 **Annual Parish Meeting** - the minutes of the meeting in April 2009 were distributed ready for the next meeting on 12 April
- 16.2 **Parish Council Website** – the Clerk has a meeting on 4 February with a resident who had volunteered to assist with design and implementation of the website. This is an essential stage in the achievement of Quality Council status

#### PUBLIC SESSION

Nothing to report

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**Next Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be at **7.30 pm on Monday 1 March 2010** in the **Village Hall, Postbridge**

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