

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 10 May 2010
in the Village Centre, Princetown at 8.00 pm****Present****Princetown**

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

Postbridge

Mr Dave Fisher (Chair)
Mrs Wendy Watson

Hexworthy/Huccaby

Ms Alison Geen

Apologies**Princetown**

Ms Sarah Ruffles
Mr Paul Turnbull

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

None

Postbridge

None

Hexworthy/Huccaby

None

In Attendance

Serena Rouse (DNPA)

Two members of the public

A G E N D A

1	To receive apologies
2	To elect a chair and receive the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office
3	To elect a Vice Chair
4	To appoint Committees
5	Declarations of Interest
6	Report from Beat Manager
7	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2010
8	Matters arising from the previous meeting and not on the Agenda
9	Park Ranger service
10	Emergency Planning
11	HMCA update
12	Annual Parish newsletter
13	Play Area Development Group
14	Update on Highways jobs
15	Reports from Committees
16	Reports from meetings with other groups
17	Correspondence
18	Financial management
19	Planning applications
20	Urgent matters at the Chair's discretion
21	Any other business

Date 7 June 2010

Signature of Chair

1. Apologies

There was an apology from Paul who was on holiday, and from Sarah who had an emergency to deal with at work. Sarah had said that her legal contract was coming to an end and that this should improve her availability for Parish Council meetings in the future

2. Election of Council Chair

Dave F said that he was willing to stand as Chair for a further year. He was nominated by Gary, seconded by David W and voted in unanimously.

Dave signed the Declaration of Acceptance of office

3. Election of Council Vice Chair

Wendy said that she was not willing to stand as Vice Chair for a further year. Gary was nominated by Dave F, seconded by Wendy W and voted in unanimously.

4. Appointment of Committees

The Committees for the year were agreed as follows:

School	Wendy W
Cemetery	Dave F
Play Area	Cliff
Emergency Plan	David W

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Beat Manager's Report

Neither Dave Pickles nor Mark Canvin were able to attend the meeting, but had sent the following report:

“Overall, things are good in the Parish from a Policing point of view. I am glad to say that we have not had any more thefts from vehicles since a car was broken into outside the East Dart Pub in Postbridge recently. Unfortunately we believe that a professional gang from Somerset are interested in our area and have probably been responsible for some of our crimes this year. We hope that we will make the area too hot for them with patrols and Covert capture cars, and that people will make the pickings too thin for the trip down here to be worth their while, and they will go elsewhere.

Fires on the Moorland have caused concern recently, one near Whiteworks having been started accidentally by campers, while investigations are ongoing into two larger fires recently. The moor is increasingly vulnerable to fires, which could pose a fire and / or smoke hazard to Princetown.”

Wendy S expressed surprise that the report made no mention of the incident of two young men with guns shooting at cats and birds in the village. Two Officers from Tavistock had attended the incident.

Wendy S also said that the report did not mention the window being deliberately being smashed in the Village Centre

Date 7 June 2010

Signature of Chair

7. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 12 April were signed as a true record

8. Matters arising from the previous Meeting and not on the Agenda

- 8.1 **Parish Planning Consultation** – It had been decided not use HMCA's first anniversary event to start data gathering for the Parish Plan
- 8.2 **Picking up Broken Glass** – WDBC had confirmed that road sweepers had been told to pick up broken glass in future as this was in their job description

9. Park Ranger Service

The Chair welcomed Ranger Serena Rouse to the meeting.

Wendy S said that she had recently been in conversation with Geoffrey Cox MP who said that he did not have any knowledge of the ongoing review of Ranger services but would follow the matter up.

Serena said that she would inform the Parish Council when the projects for this year had been agreed.

In answer to a question Serena said that the Ranger service did not have any responsibility for dealing with the removal and disposal of dead animals. However, they will make the necessary call(s) if they are provided with sufficient information.

Serena said that the Authority's draft Recreational Strategy would be out for consultation in June, with an intended publication of the final version in November.

In answer to a question about swaling, Serena said that the Ranger Service's approach to fire fighting is likely to change in the future

10. Emergency Planning (David W)

Nothing to report

11. HMCA Update

The Council had held a special meeting on 26 April to discuss ways in which assistance could be provided for HMCA. It was decided that:

1. David W – would take care of the IT
2. Paul & Gary – would do caretaking and cleaning
3. Someone to do the books, subject to Don Agnew carrying out a pre-change audit to provide an agreed baseline
4. Council continue to do the grass cutting
5. Clerk will do invoices if needed, and only if volume is very low

Progress on these matters was reported as follows:

1. An advert had been put out asking for an IT volunteer and David W was invited to provide his CV. Pat Marshall was in post until the end of June and continued to support IT
2. The caretaker was still in post, so Paul/Gary were not needed at the moment
3. Don Agnew had left messages for Pat Marshall to call him but had not received any reply. Don was now trying to contact Pat via email

Date 7 June 2010

Signature of Chair

David W said that HMCA was setting up a Steering Group, with Chairs of other organisations in the village, to encourage communication and interworking

Wendy S said that there was a possibility of the library's opening hours being cut in September if footfall did not improve. Moira Andrews, the library Area Manager, is coming to Princetown on 19 July at 6.30 pm to give a talk about library services and to invite suggestions for improving the usage. Refreshments will be provided

Action: Clerk to put this item as an entry in the Parish Link and the Roundabout magazines to spread the word about the session

12. Annual Parish Newsletter

The draft newsletter was circulated for review and acceptance at next month's meeting

A photograph of Councillors will be taken at the same time

13. Play Area Development Group (PADG) (Gary)

The contract with DCC for the Playbuilder grant had been signed by the Clerk and sent back. This was a standard contract, so there was no opportunity for individual changes to be made. However, two important observations on the contract's content had been set down in a formal letter sent with the signed contract. These were as follows:

- The conditions of the annex are not properly included in the contract signed by the Parish Council and, therefore, the Council cannot be held to them
- The Parish Council cannot be held liable to pay for commitments made with suppliers if Government policy changes and the funding is withdrawn

A letter had been sent to Mr Martin instructing him to start the work on the new post and rail fence

The Play Area Development Group needs to restart its meetings urgently to move the project forward

Tom Stratton had written to the Clerk suggesting that a second gate be installed at the new entrance to prevent children running into the road. It was noted that this might present difficulties for parents with buggies/wheelchairs and would compromise the entrance's DDA compliance.

Dave F reported that the Duchy's contractor had refused to carry out the work to close the top entrance because of residents' opposition.

DECISION: Councillors agreed that an independent Risk Assessor should be engaged to review and report on both the DDA compliant entrance and the Tavistock Road entrance before any further actions were taken

14. Update on Highways Jobs

14.1 New Jobs

There is a pothole outside the Postbridge Stores

The road between the Bellever turn and Cherrybrook Bridge needs resurfacing

Date 7 June 2010

Signature of Chair

14.2 Existing Jobs

The drainage problem in Oakery Crescent has been resolved by West Devon Homes. A request has been sent to them to ask if the drain clearance can be added to the regular maintenance schedule so that the problem does not recur

Alison reported that the “no through road” sign by the Forest Inn had still not been replaced

15. Reports from Committees

15.1 School (Wendy W)

Wendy said that the Governing Body still had a vacancy for an LA Governor

15.2 Playground (Gary)

Emma, Cliff and the Clerk had attended a course run by the Community Council of Devon to explain the Council’s responsibilities in maintaining the play area and the level of inspection needed on a regular basis.

15.3 Cemetery (Dave F)

The burial of Frances Williams (Ravenscroft) had taken place on 1 May

16. Reports from Meetings with Other Groups

16.1 Southern Parishes Link Committee

The next meeting is on Thursday 24 June

17. Correspondence

17.1 **DNPA Monthly Meeting** – calling papers for the meeting on 7 May had been received

17.2 **West Devon Core Strategy** – several documents, including the Schedule of Focussed Changes had been received. There are out for consultation until 10 June. It was noted that the changes were to provide clarity and did not materially affect the proposals for development already in the Core Strategy

17.3 **DNPA “Hands on Heritage”** – This event will take place on 1 August and will be similar to the event held in May 2005. The Parish Council are invited to participate

17.4 **WDBC Environmental Health Service Changes** – The Council’s Pest Control Service was outsourced from 1 April. The contractor is County Mole and Pest Control, which is used by South Hams and is based in Redruth. South Hams have several years experience of this company and finds them to be reliable and customer focussed. Residents will still contact the Council directly for treatment and they will pass information to the contractor. Response will normally be the next day, and both rats and mice problems will be free of charge. Fleas, wasps etc will still be covered, but these will be chargeable services.

The Environmental Services team will provide the stray dog service

These changes are brought about by shared service arrangements with South Hams and will deliver savings of £15,000

Date 7 June 2010

Signature of Chair

17.5 **South Western Ambulance Service**– the latest newsletter had been received

17.6 **Dartmoor Access Forum** – the annual report for 2009 had been received

18. Financial Management

18.1 Summary for April

Payments made	Ref 454	L D Parr – Posts for PNW	£180.00
	Ref 455	Allianz Insurance – annual premium	£653.83
	Ref 456	DPFA – annual membership fee	£35.00
	Ref 457	Community Council of Devon – Village Green magazine	£6.50
	Ref 458	WDBC – NNDR for Postbridge cemetery	£83.52
	Ref 459	HMCA – hire of hall for meetings	£50.00
	Ref 460	Duchy of Cornwall – rent for land in Princetown	£29.38
	Ref 461	M J Williams – litter picking	£50.27
Receipts			
Balance in bank 30 April			£2,838.72
To Receive	Ref 462	Burial fees – Frances Williams	£316.00
	Ref 463	WDBC - First half-year precept	£3,825.50
To pay	Ref 464	DALC – annual subscription	£207.20
	Ref 465	HMCA – hire of hall	£10.00
	Ref 466	W Stones – masonry paint for bus shelter	£28.78
	Ref 467	M J Williams – litter picking	£50.27
	Ref 468	West Dartmoor Benefice	£100.00

18.2 Small Business Rate Relief

To help small businesses as the economy recovers from recession, the Government is providing temporary relief from the business rate. Properties with a rateable value less than £6,000 will not pay the business rate for the twelve months from 1 October 2010 until 30 September 2011.

19. Planning Applications

19.1 The following planning application correspondence was received in April

DNPA Ref. & Application Type	Description	Location	Comments
10/0181 Prior notification	Erection of porch extension	Hillside Cottage Merrivale	This is a re-application. Councillors will consider the papers
10/0151 DPP	Silage clamps to replace two existing clamps	HMP Dartmoor	Supported

19.2 **DNPA Development Management Committee** – calling papers for the meeting on 7 May had been received

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20. Urgent Matters at the Chair's Discretion

- 20.1 **Action on Pavement Signage** – the Clerk had prepared papers giving information on the approach taken by DNPA, DCC and WDBC. These were distributed for information and the item will be on June's agenda for consideration
- 20.2 **Postbridge Phone Kiosk** – this had been cleaned by BT but was in need of repainting

21. Any Other Business

- 21.1 **Standing Agenda Item** – a standing item called "Repairs & Improvements" will be on agendas from June. This provides a link to the end-of-year accounts and will, hopefully, mean that Urgent Items and Any Other Business can be minimised
- 21.2 **Ponies around the Village Centre** – this problem had now been solved
- 21.3 **Prison Learning Centre** – Wendy S took names of Councillors interested in a trip to the Learning Centre and said that she would inform the organisers at the Prison
- 21.4 **Partial Boundary Walk** – Cliff said that he was planning to do the walk between Princetown and Babeny on 9 August and would welcome the company of anyone else who wished to undertake the 19 to 20 mile walk
Action: Clerk to put the invitation in the Parish Link and the Roundabout magazines
- 21.5 **Mattresses dumped** – to be reported to WDBC
- 21.6 **Princetown bus shelter** – this had now been repainted. The bench in the shelter will be repaired in the near future
- 21.7 **Geoffrey Cox MP** – Wendy S said that he is prepared to come to a Parish Council meeting if he is invited
- 21.8 **WI & Friends' sleep out** – the money raised had purchased four Shelterboxes that had been sent to China

PUBLIC SESSION

Nothing to report

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 7 June 2010** in the **Village Centre, Princetown**

Date 7 June 2010

Signature of Chair