

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 4 October 2010
in the Forest Inn, Hexworthy at 7.30 pm**

Present

Princetown

Ms Emma Derham
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

Mr Gary Easton
Ms Sarah Ruffles

Postbridge

None

Hexworthy/Huccaby

None

Absent without Apology

Princetown

None

Postbridge

None

Hexworthy/Huccaby

None

In Attendance

Councillor Philip Sanders (DCC)

One member of the public was present

A G E N D A

1.	To receive apologies
2.	Declarations of Interest
3.	Report from Beat Manager
4.	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September
5.	Matters arising from the previous meeting and not on the Agenda
6.	Play Area Development
7.	HMCA
8.	Succession Planning
9.	Running Princetown Public Toilets
10.	Repairs & Maintenance
11.	Update on Highways jobs
12.	Reports from Committees
13.	Reports from meetings with other groups
14.	Correspondence
15.	Financial Management
16.	Planning applications
17.	Urgent matters at the Chair's discretion
18.	Any other business

Date 1 November 2010

Signature of Chair

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1. Apologies

There were apologies from Sarah and from Gary, who had business commitments

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors checked their business interests sheets. There were three changes to be made. Forms were completed and signed by the three Councillors concerned.

There were no interests to declare

3. Report from Beat Manager (from PC Dave Pickles via the Clerk)

Dave had asked for thanks to be given for all those who had helped to make the Moorland Challenge such a success

Wendy S said that the Challenge had raised approximately £257 for the Youth Club

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 6 September were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair

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

There were no matters arising

6. Play Area Development Group (Gary)

The Clerk had sent a letter to DCC asking for an update on the situation and re-iterating that the weather window was closing rapidly in Princetown. The reply stated that DCC had signed the contract with the Parish Council but had yet to receive funding to be able to honour it. Senior members of the Council were pressing the matter at the highest Government level

Paul said he would be seeing Highways with regard to the signage

7. HMCA (Dave F)

Notes were distributed from a meeting with HMCA and village residents to find a way forward for community involvement in running the Community Centre. Eighteen volunteers had expressed an interest in helping. HMCA had published its draft accounts, to allay fears of inherited debts. A further meeting was scheduled for the following day (5th October)

Dave F and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Tom Stratton from the Duchy. Arrangements were being made for the permanent tenancies (e.g. library) to be transferred from HMCA to the Duchy. Payment of insurance and utility bills would also transfer, with income from bookings to be used to assist the Duchy with its costs. Tom Stratton had said that, whilst the Duchy would take on responsibility for paying the cleaner, it would be unable to manage the Centre on a day-to-day basis (e.g. taking bookings, preparing rooms, caretaking). Dave F said that the objective of the community meeting the following day was to gain commitment from volunteers to run the Centre on a day-to-day basis

Date 1 November 2010	Signature of Chair

The Youth Club was detaching itself from HMCA and Paul Dobby was forming a separate Committee to provide facilities for young people and to run the Pavilion. Wendy S said that she had volunteered to serve on the new Committee. Paul Dobby was hopeful that his application for a grant would be successful. The decision will be known in April 2011

8. Succession Planning

Dave F had prepared a resume of the Chair's role and this was distributed to Councillors.

At the moment, all of the Councillors were intending to stand for office in the local elections next May

It was agreed that the matter of succession should be discussed at January's meeting

9. Running Princetown Public Toilets

Further information had been obtained, which included the fact that DNPA currently provides a grant of £3,000 per year towards the costs of the toilets, albeit this may not continue in the current financial climate.

Bere Ferrers Parish Council had taken over its toilets and a meeting will be arranged to find out more detail. The next step will then be to talk in detail to WDBC to see what the opportunities might be. It is hoped to provide recommendations at the next meeting so that any precept implications can be identified

Action: Clerk to set up a meeting with WDBC: Dave F to attend with the Clerk

10. Repairs & Maintenance

10.1 **Cemetery wall** - the work will be carried out on 20, 21, 22 and (possibly) 23 October. Notices will be posted in the village

10.2 **Disused Notice Board, Tavistock Road** – Emma volunteered to paint the metal posts that formerly supported the notice board. Les Parr to supply paint. Paul to speak to Chris Jordan, who had offered to make another notice board

11. Update on Highways Jobs

11.1 **New Jobs**

A deep pothole had opened up opposite the sign for the cattle grid at Dunnabridge

11.2 **Existing Jobs**

The Clerk had spoken to an Officer from Highways Traffic section regarding the near misses in Bellever Close as vehicles exit the service road. The give way priority could be improved by adding a white triangle on the road, adjacent to the dotted lines, however, since there had not been any reported accidents, Highways were reluctant to use resources on this type of request

Action: Clerk to ask for white triangle to be painted

11.3 **Other Matters**

Highways' winter services questionnaire had been completed and returned. A request had been made for a secondary network spur for Hexworthy and for Bellever. Councillor Sanders had set aside funding for a grit bin in Postbridge and another one (for Saddlesbridge) was requested on the returned questionnaire

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12. Reports from Committees

12.1 **School (Wendy W)**

Wendy W said that the school had recently been inspected by Ofsted and had received an overall rating of "Good". She said that, whilst she remained as a Governor, Kath Beattie had taken over as Chair of the Governing Body.

12.2 **Playground (Cliff)**

Cliff said that he had inspected the play area that day and had not found any problems

12.3 **Cemetery (Dave F)**

Dave F said that the contractor had missed one grass cut, but will trim the cemetery hedge in the lane to recompense for this

12.4 **Emergency Plan (David W)**

David W had attended the Extreme Events conference hosted by DCC on 28 September. He said that the prognosis for the coming winter was that it would "not be too bad".

The conference highlighted the fact that, successive relatively mild winters, meant that experience of extreme weather conditions had been lost over time and last winter's harsh conditions had led to a number of lessons being learned.

The salt supply will be better managed this year and moorland roads will not be defensively salted. The threshold is communities of 100 residents or more before defensive salting will be carried out. Attendees at the conference challenged the calculation of the number of residents, since the electoral register is not being used

Action: Clerk to seek clarification on the calculation from Chris Cranston the DCC Officer in charge of winter services

David W said that local use of farmers to help in extreme conditions was being actively considered. There was some reticence about this option as the health and safety implications were unclear. National guidelines are awaited on the implications for snow clearing

13. Reports from Meetings with Other Groups

13.1 **Southern Parishes Link Committee (Paul)**

Paul had attended the meeting on 23 September. Dave F had sent apologies.

Paul said that a DCC Officer had explained the work of the Winter Maintenance Task Group. This covered much of the same ground as David W had described for the Extreme Events conference.

There had been an item on schools federation

There had been an update on the new waste contract, which was due to come into force on Monday 18 October

The next meeting is on Thursday 2 December

Date 1 November 2010	Signature of Chair

13.2 Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC)

The Clerk had attended DALC's AGM and seminar on 25 September.

The AGM was routine, with members voting for a zero increase in annual fees payable to DALC for their services to town and parish councils.

The speaker after the AGM gave a talk entitled "Community Resilience – the role of town and parish councils". This was somewhat uninspiring and did not provide the insight that the speaker's credentials implied.

Topics for debate after lunch were also somewhat simplistic and the council-type debating forum, with strictly timed slots for members to make their point, would have made challenge difficult. For this reason the Clerk left before the debate sessions started

14. Correspondence

14.1 **Extending the Princetown Conservation Area** – DNPA has requested further consultation with the Parish Council.

Action: Paul to assist the Clerk in providing a response

14.2 **WDBC Flood Presentation 2010** – the Council is seeking input from town and parish councils about their interest in a presentation some time in November

Action: Clerk to register an interest on behalf of David W

14.3 **Future of Standards Framework** – Whilst the framework remains in operation for the time being, the Government has signalled its intention to abolish the Standards Board regime. This will necessitate the relevant legislation being passed

14.4 **DALC Newsletter**

Points of note in the latest newsletter are:

- NALC's proposals for dealing with a non-cheque environment had been submitted to the Cabinet. No major difficulties are expected, so the changes could be in place from July 2011.
- The Audit Commission is to be abolished, but the timeline for its abolition is not yet known. Accounts for 2010/11 and for 2011/12 will operate without change
- There have been suggestions that the national referendum for a change in the voting system for general elections should take place separately from the local elections due to be held in May 2011. The local elections may be deferred to June.

14.5 **DNPA Monthly Meeting** – calling papers had been received for the meeting on 1 October

14.6 **Other Correspondence** – the following had been received:

- Posters for the Dartmoor & Exmoor Low Carbon Festival (9 & 10 October)
- CAB Annual Report 2009/10
- Original Mountain Marathon 30 October Hexworthy

Date 1 November 2010

Signature of Chair

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15. Financial Management

15.1 Summary for September

Payments made	Ref 492	WDBC – NNDR for cemetery	£42.00
	Ref 493	HMCA – fees for Hall hire	£50.00
	Ref 494	M J Druett – grass cutting	£435.00
	Ref 495	M J Williams – litter picking	£50.27
	Ref 496	High Moorland WI – Youth Challenge donation	£25.00
Receipts	Ref 490	Santander dividend	£8.95
	Ref 491	Locality Budget play area grant	£3,500.00
Balance in bank 30 September			£6,060.76
To Receive	Ref 497	WDBC – 2 nd half-year precept	£3,750
	Ref 498	WDBC – correction to precept	£112.50
To pay	Ref 499	DALC – Clerk’s attendance at AGM	£15.00
	Ref 500	Duchy – 2 nd half-year rent	£29.38
	Ref 501	M J Williams – litter picking	£50.27
	Ref 502	Paul Turnbull – padlock for play area gate and road paint for the Community Centre access road	£54.86

- 15.2 **Precept Payment** – WDBC paid the second half-year’s precept at last year’s rate (i.e. £3,750). The mistake was quickly realised and a further payment (£112.50) was made to correct the situation

16. Planning Applications

- 16.1 The following planning application correspondence was received in September

DNPA Ref. & Applic. Type	Description	Location	Comments
10/0474 Full PP	New dwelling, demolishing the old dwelling to create parking and turning area	Sunnymead Postbridge	To Councillors for comment
10/0472 Change of use	Change of use to C1/C3 (dwelling/guest house)	Tor Royal Farm Princetown	To Councillors for comment
10/0436 Full PP	New covered silage clamp and adjoining cattle building	Prince Hall Farm Princetown	With Councillors for comment
10/0413 Listed Building Consent	Internal alterations and refurbishment of existing windows	Tor Royal Princetown	This is supported by the Council

- 16.2 **Plymouth Hill Objection** – the Council’s comment about this proposed development (DNPA ref. 10/0385) being “out of step with the housing needs survey” was misconstrued as an objection to the affordable dwelling, whereas, it was intended to indicate that the survey had found no need for the market rate property. Indications from DNPA are that the application will be refused on Highways grounds

Date 1 November 2010	Signature of Chair

- 16.3 **Ward Boundary** – application 10/0413 at Prince Hall Farm should have gone to Alison as it is in the Hexworthy ward. For future reference it was noted that Moorlands Farm is also in Alison's ward
- 16.4 **DNPA Development Management Committee** – calling papers for the meeting on 1 October had been received

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

- 17.1 **Speeding on Tavistock Road** – Speeding and parking outside the school are still presenting a problem
Action: Clerk to send a reminder to the Police about Councillor training for use of the speed Advisor equipment

18. **Any Other Business**

- 18.1 **Arts & Crafts Event** –Wendy S said that the event would take place in the school from 27 to 29 October

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Councillor Sanders offered to assist with the purchase of the two additional grit bins requested by the Parish Council in the Winter Services Audit return
2. Councillor Sanders said that the new West Devon Inspector, Jonathan Perry, was known not to favour preventive policing as highly as his predecessor. The preventive approach had, thus far, served Princetown very well and Councillors agreed that a reduction in the use of this policy might not be beneficial for the village

Next Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

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

Date 1 November 2010

Signature of Chair