

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 10 January 2011
in the Community 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)

Hexworthy/Huccaby

Ms Alison Geen

Apologies**Princetown**

Ms Sarah Ruffles

Postbridge

Mrs Wendy Watson

Hexworthy/Huccaby

None

Absent without Apology**Princetown**

None

Postbridge

None

Hexworthy/Huccaby

None

In Attendance

Stephen Belli (Planning Director DNPA)
PC Dave Pickles
PCSO Mark Canvin

There was one member of the public present

A G E N D A

1.	To receive apologies
2.	Declarations of Interest
3.	Discussion with DNPA
4.	Report from Beat Manager
5.	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2010
6.	Matters arising from the previous meeting and not on the Agenda
7.	Adoption of precept for 2011/12
8.	Grass cutting contract 2011 to 2014
9.	Play area development
10.	HMCA & Youth Club
11.	Repairs & maintenance
12.	Update on Highways jobs
13.	Reports from Committees
14.	Correspondence
15.	Financial management
16.	Planning applications
17.	Urgent matters at the Chair's discretion
18.	Any other business

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1. Apologies

There were apologies from WW and SR

Tom Stratton had sent an apology and would attend February's meeting

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests to declare

3. Discussion with DNPA's Planning Director

Mr Belli said that he was well acquainted with rural issues, having worked for Gwent County Council, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Monmouth District Council, South Somerset District Council and East Devon District Council before joining DNPA. He said that his priorities were conservation of the landscape and the avoidance of dormitory based properties.

DNPA's planning department will be hit hard and was facing an income reduction of 28% to 30%. Mr Belli said that, nevertheless, he was still keen to maintain a responsive service. The financial year 2011/12 was likely to survive without further cuts, but the DEFRA cuts would bite in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

The aim was to provide a slick planning procedure and to help Councils to understand the thinking behind planning application decisions. Planning Officers were contactable about queries on specific applications. For bigger developments, Officers could visit the Parish to provide advice and guidance.

Mr Belli said that the Authority was concerned that the Localism Bill overestimated the planning skills in Parish/Town Councils. To address this concern, the Authority was in the process of researching the Localism Bill and would produce a paper for discussion at its March meeting.

Mr Belli undertook to respond via email to specific questions, which were:

- Rules concerning external cladding of buildings within the Park and within the Conservation Area
- Rules on installing solar PVs and solar thermal equipment on buildings within the Park and within the Conservation Area
- Progress report on the Council's objections to the proposed extension of the Princetown Conservation Area

[Post-meeting note: Mr Belli's answers were emailed to Councillors]

ACTION: DNPA's planning survey return date extended to 31 January. Councillors to complete forms and return the to the Clerk

ACTION: Copies of the DNPA Planning Team organisation chart and contact list to be sent to all Councillors

Mr Belli left the meeting

4. Report from the Beat Manager

An invitation to the Police Authority conference had been received. Councillors were concerned that the choice of venues was limited to Exeter and Barnstaple, making attendance difficult.

ACTION: Clerk to write a letter of complaint regarding accessibility to the conference

It was reported that the perpetrator of damage to a car parked in Lords car park had been convicted in court.

The full impact of resource changes as a result of cost cuts was still not completely clear. However PCs would be deployed from a centre in Okehampton from May onwards. PCSOs would be deployed out of Tavistock.

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Councillors expressed concern that PCSOs' lack of arrest powers might cause problems under the new working arrangements. Dave and Mark said that this did not present at problem at the moment and that the PCSO presence was the most important factor.

Emma said that, with the closure of the Tavistock Police station desk it was unclear how a resident might know where to hand in, for example, a wallet found in the road.

PC Pickles explained that the fact that rural crime is not escalating was a prime consideration when defining the deployment of resources in the future

Mark was asked to ensure that the Community Centre was checked regularly on the PCSOs' rounds to ensure that it was locked

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minute 18.3 (Street light switch off) had been changed to indicate that Councillors were not all in agreement with the proposal to join the pilot exercise

Subject to this change, the minutes of 13 December were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair

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

- 6.1 **Princetown public toilets** – It was noted that the figures provided for Princetown by WDBC (given below) were incorrect in respect of a current contribution of £2,470. The Clerk had checked this information and had been told that this was an annual donation from DNPA, which would cease with effect from 2011/12.

Parish/ Town	Facility	30% of total running costs	Less contribution from Parish/ Town (based on 2009/ 10 figure)	Additional contribution required from Parish/ Town (and effect on WDBC's budget)
Brentor	Brentor	£780		£780
Buckland Monachorum	Magpie Bridge Yelverton	£2,760	-£3,180	£1,530
Chagford	Chagford	£1,950		
Dartmoor Forest	Princetown	£3,090	-£1,100	£1,990
Hatherleigh	Hatherleigh	£5,610	-£2,470	£3,140
Hatherleigh	Hatherleigh	£1,830		£1,830
Lydford	Lydford	£1,560		£1,560
Okehampton	Fairplace Market Street	£4,980		
		£4,410	-£6,000	£3,390
Tavistock	Bedford Guildhall Square	£7,590		
		£8,790	-£5,270	£11,110
				£25,330

DECISION: It was agreed that the Parish Council's offer should remain at £5,000 and not be raised to £5,610 as indicated on the table above. It was also agreed that this figure should not be raised in future years and that the Parish Council should be allowed to make the payment to WDBC in two equal parts, corresponding to the receipt of the two payments for the precept

- 6.2 **Hexworthy notice board** – Still awaiting a letter from Duchy, as the landowner, that the proposal is approved. Tom Stratton had been reminded
- 6.3 **Street light switch off pilot** – The Council's request for inclusion in the pilot had been noted and details were on their way

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- 6.4 **Viability of Creativity Centre** – Councillors declared themselves satisfied with Karen Bridgford's response to their concern about viability (see December's minutes, reference 18.2). Emma said that the Centre could reduce its overheads by turning off its outside lights, which are illuminated all night
- 6.5 **July meeting date** – The Clerk was unable to make the date of 4 July. It was agreed that this could be moved to 5 July. An updated list would be distributed
- 6.6 **WDBC Arrears Collection** - Councillor Sanders was asked to enquire into the reason for WDBC arrears collection figures no longer being sent to Parish Councils. Item carried forward in Councillor Sanders' absence

7. Precept 2011/12

The latest version of the Electoral Register had been used to draw up the table below. The 2010 inflation rate was provisional at the time of writing

	Dec '05	Dec '06	Dec '07	Dec '08	Dec '09	Dec '10	Increase '05 to '10
Princetown	590	630	659	709	721	720	22.0%
Postbridge	110	109	124	126	125	134	21.8%
Hexworthy	59	60	64	62	61	62	5.1%
Totals	759	799	847	897	907	916	20.7%
Precept	£5,700	£6,000	£6,125	£7,500	£7,725	£13,325	£7,625
Precept % increase		5.3%	2.1%	22.4%	3.0%	72.5%	133.8%
Cost per resident	£7.51	£7.51	£7.23	£8.36	£8.52	£14.55	93.74%
Increase/(decrease) per resident		Zero	(£0.28)	£1.13	£0.16	£6.03	£7.04
Inflation rate		3.2%	4.3%	4.0%	0.3%	3.3%	

It was noted that the additional amount required to fund the £5,000 for the Princetown toilets was £6.03 per resident per annum

DECISION: It was agreed that the precept for 2011/12 should be raised to £13,325

8. Grasscutting

The Clerk explained that a 50% increase in the annual cost of grass cutting had been allowed for in the budget for 2011/12 (i.e. From £2,000 to £3,000)

Councillors agreed that two contracts should be advertised: for Postbridge and for Princetown

It was noted that there was a risk that the budgeted amount of £3,000 might prove to be too small and an alternative approach might need to be sought in that case

9. Play Area Development Group

Chris Jordan, who was acting as the Council's Contracts Manager for the project, had sent a list of required conditions to Sutcliffe for inclusion in the contract. The Clerk would sign the contract on behalf of the Council before work started on 31 January

When the contract had been signed, an independent risk assessor would review the design to ensure that it was compliant with the latest legislation. To ensure continuity, the Assessor would be the same person

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who had carried out the risk assessment for the access road.

DCC had indicated that a degree of tolerance would be shown, should Princetown's extreme climate delay completion of the project beyond the 31 March deadline

The play area project had been confirmed as being within the scope of GDLeaf funding and an application pack was awaited

Mike Kinsey had been asked to take some pictures of the removal of the old equipment to support an article in the Tavistock Times

Emma said that the existing swings were frequently wrapped around the top of the frame and she asked that consideration be given to purchasing additional anti-wrap devices or, replacing the swings with a design that could not be wrapped

10. HMCA & Youth Club (Wendy S/David W)

Nothing to report

11. Repairs & Maintenance

11.1 **Cemetery wall** - Provision of a quote had proved difficult since the true condition of the wall could not be determined until work started.

DECISION: A ceiling quote of £250 had been provided and this was agreed

11.2 **War memorial** – A quote was still awaited from DNPA's Conservation Team for repair of the loose granite setts

11.3 **Community Centre sign** – the new sign was leaning. Paul volunteered to correct this

12. Update on Highways Jobs

12.1 **New Jobs**

There were potholes on the B3212 in Postbridge, opposite the DNPA car park

The dropped kerb outside number 10 Plymouth Hill had sunk below the required level

The Tavistock Road opposite the prison was flooding

12.2 **Existing Jobs**

The problematic drain on the Sherberton road had still not been cleared

12.3 **Other Matters**

Ask the Duchy if some stones can be removed from the wall opposite Sunnyside, on the Two Bridges Road, to avoid flooding

13. Reports from Committees

13.1 **School (Wendy W via the Clerk)**

There are now 59 pupils in school, an increase of 7 on this time last year

There is a whole school visit shortly to see Sleeping Beauty

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13.2 **Playground (Cliff)**

Cliff had inspected the play area and had not found any problems

13.3 **Cemetery (Dave F)**

The funeral of a Bellever resident was due to take place the next day

13.4 **Emergency Plan (David W)**

David W said that local residents had not shown a great deal of interest in setting up a self-help scheme for clearing snow and he asked for some help in setting up a meeting to try and get the scheme off the ground. Gary volunteered to help with the meeting

14. Correspondence

14.1 **Electoral Register for 2011** – The figures show little change for Princetown and Hexworthy and an increase for Postbridge (see minute 7 above)

14.2 **South Hams and West Devon collaboration** – An invitation had been received to an event to provide Parish Council input to developing collaboration between the two Councils. David W volunteered to attend

14.3 **Tough Choices** – A report had been received outlining the ideas put forward to DCC as part of their consultation on cutting costs
ACTION: Clerk to provide a copy for Councillors

14.4 **DNPA Monthly Meeting** – Calling papers had been received for the meeting on 7 January

14.5 **DALC Summary of Major Changes** – A newsletter had been received from the Devon Association of Local councils outlining the major changes covered by White Papers

14.6 **National Park Authority Performance Assessment (NPAPA)** – This is the Park Authorities' equivalent of an Ofsted inspection. The Clerk had accepted an invitation to provide the Parish Council's input on 10 February

14.7 **Prison Invitation** – The Prison's Governor had extended an invitation to a Councillor responsible for community affairs to join a discussion at the Prison on elements of the Government's recent Green Paper on Prison reform. The Clerk had sourced an Executive Summary outlining the proposals in the Green Paper. Wendy S volunteered to represent the Parish Council at the discussion

14.8 **Other Correspondence** – the following had also been received:

- "What's On" listings for April to December
- Mobile library service changes from January – to be posted on Postbridge and Bellever notice boards
- Letter from Ray McCaughey – requesting permission for areas to be used for the Princetown village fete
- WDBC Standards Committee – papers for the meeting on 11 January
- Poppy Party Week-end – guidance on arranging an event

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15. Financial Management

15.1 Summary for December

Payments made	Ref 515	M J Williams - litter picking November	£50.27
	Ref 516	DNPA – Hexworthy notice board application fee	£85.00
	Ref 517	SW Highways – Play Area signage	£182.13
Receipts	Ref 514	Santander dividend	£8.31
	Ref 518	Community War Graves donation	£18.00
Balance in bank 31 December			£6,316.54
To Receive			
To pay	Ref 520	M J Williams – litter picking December	£50.27
	Ref 521	Duchy of Cornwall – Community Centre hall hire	£40.00

16. Planning Applications

16.1 The following planning application correspondence was received in December

DNPA Ref. & Applic. Type	Description	Location	Comments
10/0565 Full PP	Extensions to existing agricultural building	Runnage Farm Postbridge	Granted: Work to start within 3 years Cladding to match existing

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

17. Urgent Matters at the Chair's Discretion

17.1 **Ash dumping, Postbridge (from Wendy W via the Clerk)** - It had been noted that the new owners at the East Dart Hotel were throwing their fire ashes into the public ditch opposite the Hotel, which is already subject to flooding
ACTION: Clerk to write to the owners explaining the problem and asking for the practice to cease

17.2 **Dog litter** – It was noted that the presence of dog litter around Princetown had increased markedly whilst snow was on the ground

18. Any Other Business

18.1 **Banner outside Lords Restaurant** – DNPA's Enforcement Officer had written a letter to Mr Jenner asking for the banner to be removed

18.2 **MBE for Local Resident** – Steve Parker had received an MBE in the new year's honours list for his work in raising money for children's charities in Devon. He organises the annual Dartmoor Challenge 30 mile walk and had raised more than £100,000 in the last 19 years

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PUBLIC SESSION

1. A request was received for the pre-school to be included on the new sign at the head of the Community Centre access road. The Council gave no commitment to this
2. Concern was registered that the annual donation to WDBC of £5,000 towards operating Princetown toilets had been agreed by the Parish Council without consultation with residents

Next Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be at **7.30 pm on Monday 7 February 2011** in the **Community Centre, Princetown**

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