

**DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 7 February 2011  
in the Community Centre, Princetown at 7.30 pm**

**Present**

**Princetown**

Ms Emma Derham  
Mr Cliff Palmer  
Ms Sarah Ruffles  
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

**Postbridge**

None

**Hexworthy/Huccaby**

None

**Absent without Apology**

**Princetown**

None

**Postbridge**

None

**Hexworthy/Huccaby**

None

**In Attendance**

Councillor Philip Sanders (DCC)  
PC Dave Pickles  
Tom Stratton (Duchy of Cornwall)

There were 7 members of the public present

**A G E N D A**

1.	To receive apologies
2.	Declarations of Interest
3.	Report from the Duchy
4.	Report from Beat Manager
5.	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2011
6.	Matters arising from the previous meeting and not on the Agenda
7.	Running Princetown toilets
8.	Succession planning
9.	Play area development
10.	Community Centre & Youth Club
11.	Repairs & maintenance
12.	Update on Highways jobs
13.	Reports from Committees
14.	Reports from meetings with other groups
15.	Correspondence
16.	Financial management
17.	Planning applications
18.	Urgent matters at the Chair's discretion
19.	Any other business

**Date 7 March 2011**

**Signature of Chair**

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### 1. **Apologies**

There were apologies from Gary

### 2. **Declarations of Interest**

Sarah declared an interest in the planning application for a bunkhouse at the Prince of Wales Hotel

### 3. **Update from the Duchy**

Tom Stratton thanked the Council for the opportunity to bring Councillors up to date with events at the Duchy. He suggested that a six monthly update might be suitable and this was agreed.

Tor Royal Farm – The former Tyrrwhitt residence is being refurbished, with works due to complete in July. Councillors are invited to tour the building when it is finished

Prison Farm – This has been split into two good-sized farms, both of which are on 20 year tenancies

Tor Gatehouse – Refurbishment is due to complete in May

Prince Hall Farm – Planning for erection of a shed and silage clamp is being sought. A modification to the application is in the pipeline

Several projects in Princetown were put on hold in 2009 due to the downturn in the market and these are being reactivated currently. Prince Charles will approve the drawings and then a consultation will be carried out with residents. The projects are:

1. Seven plots behind the Creativity Centre are imminently to be sold to a developer for the erection of seven 2/3 bedroom dwellings. Duchy plans are in place for the properties
2. The former prison officers' club will be redeveloped with a combination of flats and a terrace of roadside flats, making 13 units in all
3. Bellever Close – Several new dwellings will be erected on the former site of garages. There will be off-road parking and allotments. Issues raised previously by residents had already been addressed, but there will be further consultation. Other garages will be built elsewhere
4. Royal Court – Cottages will be erected behind Royal Court, with some off-road parking. Paul queried the impact on traffic in Station Road when the new properties were built

The intention is for the plans for items 2, 3 and 4 to be submitted at the same time and Tom said that the new properties would be sold, so there would not be any impact on the priority of local residents waiting for Duchy rental properties

The Chair opened the meeting to members of the public.

A resident living in Woodville Avenue questioned the Duchy's continuing insistence on wooden window frames and external doors, given Princetown's climate. Tom said that Prince Charles would not allow PVC to be installed. Developers had the choice of using hardwood or, inferior, softwood. The resident queried the fact that some West Devon Homes properties did have PVC, despite that fact that they were in the Conservation Area. Tom explained that it would depend on the covenants in the lease.

Tom left the meeting

### 4. **Report from the Beat Manager**

Dave Pickles said that the new crime statistics website was now up and running. It was available on [www.police.uk/crime](http://www.police.uk/crime). He said that anti-social behaviour incidents were not, officially, crimes so the website was misleading in this respect.

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Dave said that the police had some ideas on the perpetrators of the egg throwing incidents, but he needed more information if possible. He said that there had been a burglary at Tor Gate Farm, which would be less of a target when it was occupied.

Dave said that he now had firm information about the deployment of resources as a result of the cutbacks. Mark's role would remain unchanged. Dave said that his own role was to be for back-up response, and this would mean different shift patterns from those previously in place

Paul asked about the impact of ASBO removal, as recently announced by the Government. Dave said that ASBOs tend to be used in cities and that there were none in the Parish. He said that the detail for the Government's proposals was not known at the moment

Dave said that the Neighbourhood Watch had asked for a barrier to be put across the car park in Princetown during periods of snow. This needs to be dealt with through the Park Authority, which owns the car park

Wendy S said that the coach parking problem in Station Road had returned, with coaches encroaching onto the road. Dave said that the Police do keep a close watch, as well as speaking to coach drivers and the café owner

Dave left the meeting

The Clerk had received a letter from the Police Authority regarding the proposed abolition of Police Authorities and the introduction of directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners in May 2012. Copies of the letter were distributed to Councillors and the matter will be raised at next month's meeting to decide whether the Council wishes to respond

## 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minute 6.4 (Arts and Crafts Centre) a sentence had been added that costs could be saved if the Centre turned off its outside lights overnight

Minute 9 (Play Area Development) Emma's comments about swings being wrapped had been added

Subject to these changes, the minutes of 10 January 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 **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

## 7. Running Princetown Toilets

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

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**Decision:** Councillors agreed that members of the public should be allowed to speak during this item

Wendy S clarified that the donation previously provided by the Park Authority to WDBC did not come from residents via rates. She said that the usage of the toilets by visitors should not be underestimated and cited the Ten Tors training as a case in point..

Cliff said that none of the residents that he had spoken to were in favour of the proposal to make a donation.

Councillor Sanders said that he views the closure of public toilets as discriminatory. Many older people, for example, need to be sure that toilet facilities are easily available and may not visit if this was not the case.

WDBC had confirmed that the Parish Council would not be required to make its donation until the end of each financial year

## **8. Succession Planning**

Gary had asked it to be made known that, due to ongoing work commitments, he would not be standing as a Councillor in May.

Dave F said that he would stand again, if no-one else from Postbridge stepped forward, but he declined to continue as Chair

## **9. Play Area Development Group**

The Clerk said that the Contract had been signed with Sutcliffe, work had started and was due to complete later that week. The final risk assessment audit and identification of snags was due the following day

The Council recorded its formal thanks to Cliff and Paul who had organised removal of the old iron equipment, raising £81 in the process. Letters of thanks will be sent to those who had helped with the removal by providing a trailer, a mini-digger and a grinder.

Paul said that the sign had been straightened

The Clerk is sourcing additional funding, with the GDLeaf application form due to be submitted before 15 February

## **10. Community Centre & Youth Club (Wendy S)**

Wendy S said that the new Community Centre Group was working on its constitution and would then be seeking charitable status. She said that there would be six or seven Trustees.

Wendy S said that the Youth Club had received a grant of £2,500 from Youth Opportunities to assist with overheads such as wages. This was due to the efforts of Paul Turnbull's son, to whom the Council recorded its thanks.

Six workshops had been organised for Easter and there was a dance project in the pipeline

## **11. Repairs & Maintenance**

Emma asked for some help to re-insert one of the Perspex panes in the Tavistock Road telephone kiosk

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## 12. Update on Highways Jobs

### 12.1 **New Jobs**

Potholes have opened up on Station Road near the Fire Station

### 12.2 **Existing Jobs**

The potholes at Postbridge have been repaired

## 13. Reports from Committees

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

A group of children, including pre-school children, would be visiting the Aquarium in Plymouth shortly

The school's severe weather plan was now in place

The school was collecting tokens from the Mirror newspaper for the purchase of books

### 13.2 **Playground (Cliff)**

Nothing to report

### 13.3 **Cemetery (Dave F)**

Nothing to report

### 13.4 **Emergency Plan (David W)**

WDBC had cancelled the Flood Awareness presentation scheduled for last year. This will now take place in April/May this year

The Council had received a booklet from the Environment Agency giving advice on dealing with flash floods, plus a copy of its Flood Link newsletter. These were passed to David W.

Councillor Sanders said that there was a demonstration at Westpoint on 15 February of a towed gritter. This was part of a trial to help evaluate the equipment and reflect on its suitability for small scale use by volunteers in a locality alongside and complementing the Snow Warden initiative.

**Action:** Clerk to send details to David W

## 14. Reports from Meetings with Other Groups

### 14.1 **South Hams & West Devon Partnership (David Worth) 3 February**

David W said that the Partnership's sharing of resources had, thus far, saved £1.6m. The Government cutbacks mean that there will be a cut of 11% in the year 2012/13 and of 10% in 2013/14

It had been agreed that the format of the Southern Parishes Link Committee meetings needed to be changed

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## 14.2 HMP Green Paper (Wendy S)

Wendy S said that the meeting with the Governor had been set for 17 March at 14:00

## 15. Correspondence

- 15.1 **West Devon Mayoral Awards** – Paperwork for the 2011 awards had been received. No nominations were made
- 15.2 **Local Elections** – Notices had been posted on all notice boards inviting anyone wishing to stand as a Councillor for WDBC to attend an fact finding session on 5 February in Okehampton) from 10.00 am to midday or 10 February at Kilworthy Park from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm
- 15.3 **DNPA Ranger Sectors for 2011** – Copies were distributed to Councillors and had been posted on notice boards
- 15.4 **DNPA Monthly Meeting** – calling papers had been received for the meeting on 4 February
- 15.5 **Southern Parishes Link Committee** – Papers received, not meeting specific. The next meeting is on 17 May
- 15.6 **Public Forest Estate Consultation** – A pre-consultation event is to be held on Wednesday 9 March to provide information about the consultation, which runs from 27 January to 21 April. Forests in our area are Bellever and Fernworthy. **[Post-meeting note:** This event was subsequently cancelled in the light of the Government's change of direction on forest management]
- 15.7 **Delivering for Dartmoor 2011** – DNPA had sent a report on progress at the end of the third year of its Management Plan. This is available on the DNPA website
- 15.8 **Other Correspondence** – the following had also been received:
- Senior Council for Devon – January newsletter
  - Care Direct – leaflets and fact sheets
  - Dartmoor Hill Farm Project – latest newsletter
  - Duchy Square – February newsletter
  - Best Kept Village – It was agreed to look at this matter in three months time

## 16. Financial Management

### 16.1 Summary for February

<b>Payments made</b>	Ref 520	M J Williams – litter picking December	£50.27
	Ref 521	Duchy of Cornwall – Community Centre hall hire	£40.00
<b>Receipts</b>			
<b>Balance in bank 31 January</b>			£6,226.27
<b>To Receive</b>	Ref 522	Burial fees – Mrs P Hill	£228.00
<b>To pay</b>	Ref 523	Review of play area design - Playbrokers	£240.00
	Ref 524	Grass cutting advert – Tavistock Times	£97.20
	Ref 525	Litter picking – M J Williams	£50.27

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## 17. Planning Applications

17.1 The following planning application correspondence was received in February

DNPA Ref. & Applic. Type	Description	Location	Comments
11/0033 DPP	Installation of photovoltaic cells on roof	Fire Station	With Councillors for comment
11/0014 LBC	Replace one ground floor window on existing A Wing building	HMP Dartmoor	Supported by the Council
11/0005 DPP	Change of use from redundant brewery to bunk house accommodation	Prince of Wales Hotel	Supported by the Council

17.2 **Proposed Tree Works** – Felling a spruce in the grounds of Moorstones at Princetown  
**Decision:** This was supported

17.3 **DNPA Development Management Committee** – calling papers for the meeting on 4 February had been received

17.4 **Postbridge Village Hall** – the applications for extensions/alterations and for a change of use to accommodate the car park extension had been approved

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

18.1 **Parish Plan** – The Clerk proposed that the Council invited Martin Rich, from the Community Council of Devon, to the annual Parish meeting in April to give us some practical advice about getting started on the Plan  
**Decision:** The proposal was agreed

18.2 **Pre-School Signage** – A letter was given to the Chair at the meeting from the Chair of the pre-school regarding the lack of signage to the pre-school from Tavistock Road. Paul explained that the sign would need to be brown, because the pre-school is a commercial organisation i.e. it charges for its service. There is also a National Park constraint that the sign must be below the height of the wall. Wendy S pointed out that HMCA had not drawn the Council's attention to the matter of pre-school signage when the topic had been discussed  
**Action:** Clerk to investigate the signage options, in consultation with DNPA and the Duchy. The cost of signage will need to be borne by the pre-school

18.3 **Dog Litter** – Residents had, again, reported dog litter in Woodville Avenue. This matter had been investigated previously, without any evidence being found. It was agreed that a watch would be kept on the area

18.4 **Dog Litter Sign** – Mr Parr was asked to replace one of the signs

18.5 **Lights in Princetown Toilets** – It was reported that the toilet lights were on at 5:00 am  
**Action:** Clerk to investigate with WDBC

Date 7 March 2011	Signature of Chair

## 19. Any Other Business

- 19.1 **Princetown Car Park** – The approaching tourist season is beginning to put pressure on parking availability in the village. Clerk to ask DNPA for an update on improvements suggested at a meeting held in 2009
- 19.2 **Refuse in Station Road** – A concerned resident had written to the Parish Council asking for letters to be sent to properties in Station Road, where bags, put out on the wrong day, are being ripped open by animals causing refuse to be spread around  
**Decision:** Letters to be written
- 19.3 **Bus Subsidy Impact** – Councillor Sanders expressed surprise that the withdrawal of the bus subsidy had not brought a response from Princetown, particularly as the 9:15 am Beacon bus from Princetown to Yelverton was no longer running  
**Action:** Sarah to check with residents and report back

## PUBLIC SESSION

1. Councillor Sanders sought to allay any fears of library closure, saying that the County Council's policy was not to target libraries in the current round of cost cutting measures
2. The run off from the moor at the kissing gate in Woodville Avenue is now severely eroding the right of way. This was raised with DNPA some time ago, but there appears not to have been any action. Councillor Sanders confirmed that the County Council is responsible for this type of maintenance, via a service level agreement with DNPA. He provided a contact name at the County Council  
**Action:** Clerk to check correspondence in relation to this matter and to contact the County Council
3. The hunting gate from the Fire Station to the moor requires attention.  
**Action:** Clerk to write to DNPA and contact the Ranger

## 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 March 2011** in the **Village Hall, Postbridge**

Date 7 March 2011	Signature of Chair