



# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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10 June 2014

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on Monday 9 June 2014  
in POSTBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL.

Present:

<b>Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward:</b>	<b>Princetown Ward:</b>	
Cllr Alison Geen	Cllr Emma Derham	Cllr Wendy Stones
<b>Postbridge Ward:</b>	Cllr Jackie Gee	Cllr David Worth
Cllr Wendy Watson	Cllr Cliff Palmer	

There was one member of the Public present.

## 1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Val Greatrex, Cllr Gregg Manning and Cllr Paul Turnbull.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

No amendments were reported.

## 3. Minutes of the last meeting.

The Minutes were agreed subject to two amendments and signed by the Chair.

Item 21a. Amended Football Club seeking 'funding' from DNPA to seeking 'support'.

Item 21. Added sub-paragraph about loose slates on Creativity Centre roof.

## 4. The Dartmoor Classic Cycle Event

Ken Robertson, Guy Langworthy and Stewart Bergman of Mid Devon Cycle Club gave an informative talk about the organisations for the Dartmoor Classic Cycle Event planned for Sunday 22 June and answered questions from Councillors and the public. Key points were:

The Mid Devon Cycling Club (MDCC) has considerable experience at organising large cycle events and races successfully.

The Dartmoor Classic is a timed event and not a race. There are two routes through Dartmoor Forest: the Grande (107 miles) and the Medio (67 miles). 3000 cyclists will participate, starting in batches of around 100. All cyclists have event numbers on their cycles and backs and are briefed on event regulations in the starting pen. Cyclists who flout the regulations could be banned from future events.

The event is hugely popular amongst the cycling community and places usually sell out within 24 hours of going on sale. The Hexworthy section is seen as a key challenge and attraction.

The event brings many additional visitors with associated economic benefits to Dartmoor Forest, not merely during the event but for training camps beforehand; and helps raise Dartmoor's profile within the UK cycling community.



Signs giving advanced warning of the event will be erected on Saturday 14 June.

Marshals will be stationed on every junction, with around 100 marshals in total. They are trained to ensure safety of competitors and other road users alike, but inevitably will need to use individual judgement on occasions.

Litter collection points will be set up in Princetown and the Hexworthy turn. Each marshal will be issued with a bin bag and litter collection vehicles will follow the cyclists. All litter will be collected, not merely that caused by the event.

Warning signs for cyclists will be erected for the event, including 'Caution on Descent' signs with countdown markers on significant hills.

The MDCC signs are expensive and several have been stolen or destroyed on previous events.

All cyclists carry third party liability insurance cover through the British Cycling Federation.

In the discussion that followed:

Several Councillors asked the MDCC to understand the level of disruption caused by the event, particularly to the residents of Hexworthy and Postbridge; farmers who need to use the lanes and bridges to feed livestock; and care-workers visiting elderly residents. Many people are unable to pull out from their drives, or step out of their front doors in roadside cottages while the event is underway. The disruption is most severe on the day, but also occurs as cyclists practice for the event independently and in groups.

Alison Geen emphasised the narrow, steep lane in Hexworthy and felt 3000 cyclists through the hamlet in a single day was too many, causing disproportionate disruption and noise.

Based on experience of previous years, Wendy Watson suggested additional signs on Merripit Hill warning motorists about large numbers of cyclists ahead. Also on the narrow bridge at Postbridge asking cyclists to allow cars to cross. Ken Robertson agreed he would put up additional signs.

MDCC were asked whether it was possible to calculate key times when the peak number of cyclists would be at each location to inform residents to help plan their day. Ken Robertson agreed this would be possible and he would forward details to the Parish Clerk.

A member of the public suggested use of video cameras at potential black-spots, including Hexworthy Hill, where cyclists have been seen to cut blind corners at speed in previous years. Ken Robertson will place an additional marshal on the Hexworthy Hill double bend, possibly with a video camera. A further marshal will be placed on Huccaby Bridge to let vehicles over by stopping cyclists as and when needed.

MDCC are happy to receive specific reports of any cyclists failing to abide by event regulations or otherwise misbehaving. Reports need to be accompanied with the cyclist's number and any videos or photographs of an incident would be welcome.

On completion of the discussion the Chair thanked Ken Robertson, Guy Langworthy and Stewart Bergman for coming to talk to the Council and for responding positively to the views of Councillors and the public.

## **5. Police Matters.**

Police were called to a domestic disturbance in Princetown where the use of an offensive weapon was suspected.

## 6. Repairs, Maintenance & Highways

While many potholes have been repaired, a list of previously reported defects remain outstanding.

## 7. Traffic Regulation Order.

All contributors to the costs of the Princetown Traffic Order have now confirmed their funding. Highways will invoice DFPC for £500 once the process is complete.

To meet DFPC's agreement to promote the scheme in advance of formal advertisement and consultation, an article was submitted to the Princetown & Tavistock Times Gazette (front page lead story 29 May) and posters placed on all DFPC noticeboards, in Princetown shops and cafes. All feedback from residents and the public has been positive. It has been suggested by members of the public that a significant improvement to the scheme would be to extend the double yellow lines from Station Cottages past the War Memorial to the Prince of Wales Hotel to ease traffic congestion. The Clerk was tasked to seek an amendment to the scheme and to write to Mr Jenner at the Old Police Station Café requesting delivery truck park at the rear of the café rather than on the main road.

Post Meeting Note: DCC Highways have agreed to incorporate this amendment to the parking scheme.

## 8. Defibrillator.

The second defibrillator has been ordered. Costs are less than forecast as additional training will not be required, at £1336+VAT=£1603.20, leaving around £464 of the budget to pay for installation costs. The additional cabinet is on back order so may not be available for 21 June, but will be forwarded as soon as possible.

In order to mount the defibrillators in telephone kiosks BT will sell the kiosks to the Duchy for £1 each. The Duchy will give DFPC a lease for the kiosks with no charge and BT will cover the electricity usage until further notice. Both BT and the Duchy are happy with this. The drawback is that BT will not permit the defibrillators to be mounted in the telephone kiosks unless the telephones are first removed. Consequently, Postbridge and Hexworthy would lose their public telephone. According to BT the Hexworthy box has not been used in the last 12 months and the Postbridge box is used on average 3-4 times per week.

The Council was unanimous in rejecting the loss of the Postbridge telephone kiosk as there is no mobile signal in the village so the kiosk is an essential facility for tourists in the event of an emergency. Wendy Watson will ask whether the defibrillator can be mounted on Postbridge Stores at a suitable moment.

Hexworthy has a mobile signal on the top road and as it was uncertain whether the Forest Inn would be available for mounting the defibrillators, the Council agreed to proceed with the conversion of this kiosk. The Clerk will liaise with BT and the Duchy.

Came and Company have confirmed that our existing insurance will cover us against any third party claims over use of the defibrillators.

Training will take place 0900-1300 21 June 2014 at Buckland Monachorum Chapel. Five of eight places have been allocated to date. It was felt there should be at least one trainee from Postbridge. Wendy Watson agreed to try to find volunteers. Travel expenses will be paid. Participants may wish to take something comfortable to kneel on. Course content is:

- The role of the first aider
- Managing an emergency
- Communication and casualty care

- Chest pains
- Getting to know the AED (any type)
- Operating the AED
- Treatment of an unconscious casualty
- Resuscitation (CPR)

## 9. Reports from Committees, Sub- Groups and Special Interests.

**Community Centre.** Wendy Stones attended a Village Centre meeting May20th. Most of the meeting taken up with discussions concerning "Big Lunch". The coffee /tea machine is now up and running and 15 flagstones have been donated to be used for the path. Audrey Vigny will take over as the new Treasurer. There was no feedback on the play-School. Next meeting 19th June.

**Pavilion Youth Club.** Wendy Stones attended a meeting held on June 2nd. The Youth Club has Received £1000 from Sports Relief but is still awaiting a reply on the Health Lottery grant bid. An application will also be made to Sustainable Transport Cycling for a grant. The fair originally booked for July12th has been moved to August 3rd, as it clashed with Tavistock Carnival.

**Parking Committee.** See agenda item 7.

**Princetown Primary School.** Pupils' reading ability has been assessed as significantly above the national average. New playground equipment has been installed. Sports day will be held on 25 June. Years 4, 5 and 6 will go on a trip to London in early July. School breaks up for the summer holidays on 24 July.

**Emergency Planning Sub-Group.** A copy of the North Tawton Local Directory and Emergency Plan has been received. This document contains both a directory of local businesses and services for that area as well as a simple outline of the Emergency Plan that has been adopted. DFPC may consider following a similar model if it ever decides to issue a printed plan for every household in the Parish.

The latest DCC Emergency Management leaflet issued by Devon County Council highlights ongoing concerns with the repair of the road system and transport links following the severe weather of the winter, business continuity concerns, and offers advice as to how to manage the conditions likely to arise if a severe heatwave should happen.

Western Power Distribution have sent a demonstration pack of items likely to be of use in the event of a power cut. This contains items such as a torch, radio, space blanket, etc., that would be of use to a household in the event of a power outage. A list of recommended contents will be placed on the website.

**Public Library Sub-Group.** The Sub-Group will attend the Library Drop-in Session on 23 June to discuss options. Currently, there are enough volunteers to man the library into the future but it will be difficult to raise the £3200 rent and utilities costs. Although other options exist to house the library, it is feared the Community Centre might be unable to survive the loss of this income, which would be a major loss to the community. Wendy Stones intends to propose volunteer manning of the library in the existing site while requesting DCC continues to cover rent and utilities, which would represent a 75% savings on current running costs.

**Parish Plan Sub-Group.** There was some debate whether Dartmoor Forest would benefit from having a Neighbourhood or Community Parish Plan owing to the constraints of being wholly within the National Park. It was agreed the Sub-Group will canvass parishioner opinion at the Youth Club Fair on 3 August and report back to the Council at the meeting of 11 August with a recommendation.

**Play Area Sub-Group.** Emma Derham inspected the Play Area on 9 June. The green plastic crawl tube has been damaged. Emma and Cliff Palmer will assess the most suitable repair.

**Princetown Toilets Sub-Group.** Nothing to report.

**Postbridge Village Hall.** Nothing to report in Val Greatrex's absence.

**Fire & Rescue Service.** Nothing to report in Paul Turnbull's absence.

**Food Bank.** Wendy Stones and Jackie Gee will attend a meeting with Tavistock Trestle Trust Food Bank on Friday 13 June to determine whether a Princetown Food Bank was merited.

**Emergency Committee.** Nothing to report.

## 10. Reports from other meetings

Nothing to report.

## 11. Planning applications

a. The current status is:

With the Parish Council	0272/14	29 Blackabrook Avenue Princetown, Demolition outbuildings & single storey extension
	0262/14	Wheal Lucky House, Rundlestone, Slate hanging additional external elevations
Recent DNPA decisions (all conditional approval)	0198/14	5 New London Princetown, Single storey extension
	0202/14	Beardown Farm, Dung storage roof
	0184/14	Dartlands, Hexworthy extensions, garage and terrace
	0169/14	Waldrons Farm dung storage roof
	0163/14	Postbridge Village Hall car park entrance
	0581/13	Wesley House, Princetown conversion
Awaiting enforcement action	0164/07	Beardown Farm un-authorized chalet. Clerk is awaiting update from Jo Burgess.

The Council agreed to support applications 0262/14 and 0272/14.

The Clerk reported the Football Club had requested their planning application for improvements be submitted in DFPC's name. The Council agreed to this and also voted to meet the application cost of £97.50.

## 12. Correspondence

Correspondence has been uploaded to the DFPC website. The more significant papers included:

- Broadband update from West Devon Borough Council Rural Broadband Working Group.
- WDBC update on 'Our Plan'.
- Activity in support of the Okehampton-Tavistock railway, centred on Okehampton Town Council and the Links meetings.
- Further cycle events planned to come through the Parish.

Councillors were content with the information on the website and did not discuss any items further.

**13. Financial management****a. Cheques approved this month:**

768	David Worth - reimbursement for varnish	£ 15.95
769	A Jaques Litter Picking	£ 53.65
770	PCC - Room hire 30 Apr 14	£ 7.50
771	St John's Ambulance - defibrillator & cabinet	£ 1,603.20
772	Mike Druett - grass cutting	£ 410.81
773	Nigel Tigwell - administrative expenses	£ 88.83
774	DALC - J Gee training course	£ 30.00
775	St Gabriel's Church – donation	£ 750.00

**b. Bank Reconciliation.**

Balance on last statement (28 May)		£ 27,519.58
Outstanding Income		
	Nil	£ 0.00
Outstanding Cheques		
761	Postbridge Village Hall donation	£ 400.00
762	WDBC Toilets Contribution	£ 4,266.24
766	Don Agnew - Internal Audit	£ 50.00
Reconciled total		£ 22,803.34

**c. Forecast of Outturn.** The forecast of outturn was examined. There was no requirement for any further action.

**14. St Raphael's Church donation.**

The Council agreed to make a £750 donation to St Rafael's towards the cost of replacing floorboards and eradicating woodworm.

**15. DFPC lead Councillor for Broadband.**

Cllr John Sheldon has requested each Parish Council appoint someone to represent that Council on 'broadband' matters. John sits on the West Devon Borough Council Rural Broadband Working Group and is keen to have a direct interface with the Parishes. It was agreed David Worth would be the Council's representative for the Princetown and Postbridge Wards (01822) and Alison Geen for Hexworthy (01364).

**16. Councillor Back Pocket Briefs.**

The Clerk had produced a sample small booklet with information for Councillors containing the Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Councillors had differing preferences whether they preferred to have a booklet or access information on the website. Jackie Gee agreed to read the booklet and consider what other information might be usefully included.

**17. Training.**

Training in current best practice for developing Neighbourhood or Community Parish Plans was discussed. This will be addressed after the August meeting when a decision will be made whether a Parish Plan was needed.

**18. Progress reports on previous actions, not on the Agenda**

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Status</u>
May	Report highways defects	Paul Turnbull Wendy Watson	Ongoing
	Check on PVH deeds whether culvert PVH or Highways	Val Greatrex	Not known
	Let new grass cutting contract	Clerk	Clerk will issue a letter of instruction to Mike Druett pending contract award. Additional revenue sources will be investigated to fund Churchyard grass cutting.
	Investigate debit card & interest paying account	Clerk	Lloyds rates are poor at present: 0.05%. Further options will be investigated, including bonds.
	Arrange a stall for Youth Club fair	Wendy Stones	Will be done
	Poppy field in Post office garden	Cliff Palmer	Seeds ordered. ¼ plot dug. Approaching Youth Club for volunteers.
April	Investigate feasibility of grants for bowling green & skate park	Clerk	Skate Park likely to be opposed by local residents (as before). Bowling Green to be investigated.
	Approach local businesses for chargeable links and adverts	Clerk	Outstanding
	Councillors to provide photographs for website	All	Some outstanding
	Monitor progress on the biomass boiler	Jackie Gee	Difficulties encountered with response from DNPA. Intend to escalate issue within DNPA management and raise issue with WDBC Environmental Health.

**19. Urgent decisions since the last meeting**

None.

**20. Any Other Business.**

Wendy Stones reported the D Day Wreath Laying ceremony had gone well. Similarly the dedication ceremony for the new Church East Window was well attended although no formal invitations had been issued to local representatives.

The area in front of the Creativity Centre was becoming unsightly, particularly with weeds around the trees. The Clerk is to raise this with DCC.

The Tarrant family wish to plant memorial trees in the village to replace those planted by the Community Centre and which died in the poor soil. Councillor's are requested to propose a suitable site.

**21. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be at 1930 Tuesday 8 July 2014 at Princetown.