



Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

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11 February 2015

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at 1930 on 9 February 2015 in Princetown Community Centre.

Hexworthy/Huccaby Ward: Cllr Alison Geen	Princetown Ward: Cllr Stephen King	Cllr Wendy Stones
Postbridge Ward: Cllr Val Greatrex	Cllr Gregg Manning	Cllr David Worth
	Cllr Mark Renders	

Cllr David Worth chaired the meeting

There was one member of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies.

Cllr Stephen King, Cllr Cliff Palmer, Cllr Paul Turnbull and Cllr Wendy Watson apologised in advance of the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

No amendments were reported.

3. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Planning applications

With the Parish Council		Nil
Recent DNPA decisions (all conditional approval)	0619/14	Convert telephone exchange to bunkhouse - Postbridge Telephone Exchange
With DNPA	0719/14	Single & 2 story side extensions, rear terrace and extension of outbuilding to form car port – amended Dartlands Hexworthy - supported
	0713/14 & 0714/14	Barn conversion Dunnabridge Pound Farm - supported
	0684/14	Demolition of existing dwelling and building new Tor View Bungalow, Postbridge – detailed response submitted.
Awaiting enforcement action	0164/07	Beardown Farm un-authorized chalet. Clerk has written to Stephen Belli and Tom Stratton and is awaiting a reply.

5. Irresponsible drivers

Since snow and ice have appeared there have been problems with blocked access through poor car parking; drivers performing 'doughnuts' in car parks, road junctions and on the main roads; drivers taking cars onto the open commons; animals killed on the road; elderly residents in Royal Court were too frightened to leave their homes; residents were kept awake at night; and in Princetown a young girl was hurt when struck by a racing car that mounted the pavement. The police have been involved and have requested residents to report all incidents on 101 try to obtain objective evidence such as car registration numbers, photographs and videos.

10 March 2015

Signature of Chair



DNPA has announced closure of the Haytor car park during hours of darkness for similar reasons. Articles have been published in the Tavistock Times Gazette and the Plymouth Evening Herald highlighting the problem and police powers to impound and crush the cars of offenders.

Councillors felt this perennial problem had been significantly worse this year and was particularly acute in Princetown with the greater risk of a fatal accident. Possible ways to prevent or discourage this irresponsible behaviour were discussed that included: closing car parks; gritting car parks; monitoring hotspots and taking the car registration numbers and videos of irresponsible behaviour; installing permanent CCTV monitoring of hotspots; encouraging police to exercise their powers to impound and crush cars.

The Council decided to:

Write to DNPA requesting the Princetown car park is closed during hours of darkness in cold weather; Cllr Mark Renders volunteered to be the local key holder. Also to request DNPA place stones around the perimeter of the car park above Dunnabridge Farm to prevent cars accessing the common at that point.

Write to the Police requesting a more active presence in the Parish during snow and ice conditions to suppress irresponsible driving and to implement enforcement action more readily.

NOT encourage parishioners to put themselves at risk by trying to take number plates, photographs or videos of offending vehicles.

6. Pre-salting and Gritting Policy

Complaints have been received about the state of the pavements in Princetown, which have not been pre-salted or gritted and residents were unclear who was responsible. The grit bin at Bellever Close had been emptied and residents had been uncertain who was responsible for replenishing it. Residents had contacted the county council, the borough council and the parish council and received different guidance from each.

Cllr David Worth clarified that the Snow Warden scheme covered Princetown only, was for severe weather only and was not for routine cold weather maintenance. The Parish Council has a reserve of 3½ tonnes of salt for use by the snow wardens but this was not for refilling grit bins, which is the responsibility of SWH as service provider to DCC Highways. Each DCC grit bin has a serial number and telephone number under the lid to request replenishment. The content of DCC grit bins may be used by the public for gritting pavements and roads not on the gritting network (ie not on the B3357 and B3212) but must not be used for private or commercial roads, driveways, yards or footpaths.

Concern was expressed that the doctors had refused to attend surgery as the private road and footpath to the Community Centre had not been salted/gritted. Treatment of this road and footpath is the responsibility of the Princetown Community Centre Trustees who have a locked grit bin for the purpose, but it had not been used. Additionally, elderly residents at Royal Court had been unable to leave their homes as the yard had not been salted/gritted.

The Council decided to:

Write to the Princetown Community Centre seeking assurance the road and pavement would be adequately salted/gritted to enable doctors and parishioners to attend surgery in the future.

Write to South Devon Rural Housing Association to request Royal Court is adequately salted/gritted in future.

Contact DCC Highways to determine the process for reporting when pavements need salting/gritting.

7. Review of Procedures

Snow Warden Risk Assessment & Fitness to Participate. Following discussions at the last meeting these two documents have been developed based on examples used in other councils. The council adopted both documents.

Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. This is a mandatory new code for councils with an annual turnover of less than £25,000 per annum. Thus in a year when DFPC does not receive grants, for example for the play park, Dartmoor Forest would not need to submit to external audit (saving £200)

but would need to meet specific disclosure rules on the website, which would require only minor modification of our current information practices. The council adopted the code.

8. Implications of Elections 2015

The Clerk briefed councillors on the arrangements for the forthcoming elections. A copy of the brief has been placed on the website.

Owing to statutory constraints in the event of a contested election and a deferred count, the council agreed to move the May meeting to 19 May.

9. Financial management

a. Cheques approved this month:

828	A Jaques - Litter Picking	£56.33
829	Nigel Tigwell – Reimburse TAP Fund Projector etc costs	£2086.39
830	Retention for Play Area Upgrade	£392.50
831	DALC – Training Course	£25.00
832	Nigel Tigwell – Admin expenses – Reference Books	100.75

An invoice for the TAP Fund projector etc will be submitted to WDBC shortly, which will reclaim the ex-VAT cost of the equipment £1,739.56 and the remainder will be recouped in the VAT claim at the end of March. This project will be a zero cost to the Parish Council.

b. Bank Reconciliation.

Balance on last statement (31 January)		£26519.40
Outstanding Income		
	Nil	£0.00
Outstanding Cheques		
824	Litter Picking	£56.33
Reconciled total		£26463.07

c. **Forecast of Outturn.** The forecast is for a moderate underspend at the end of the financial year, which has been factored into the budget for 2015/16.

d. The Duchy has replied to the Council's letter with regard rent increases with a counter offer of keeping the rent fixed this year and raising it by £10 next year. The Council agreed to accept this offer.

e. The Clerk is developing a more accurate and comprehensive assets register.

f. Requests by the Pre-School and St Raphael's Church for donations have been received. These are the first grant applications handled using the new procedure adopted at the December meeting. The Clerk had forwarded copies of the new Grant Application Form for completion and a copy of the Council's policy. There was some debate whether the full procedure was needed for small donations. The Clerk will clarify what is needed.

10. Committees, Sub-Groups & Special Interests

Community Centre. Cllr Wendy Stones attended a PCC meeting on 29th January. The Police have closed the roof damage case as two boys concerned were not seen breaking the tiles, only heard from inside building. The expected update on the Library from Bryan Harry was not available.

Cllr Gregg Manning declared a personal interest for the short discussion on the Pre-School. The financial dispute with the Pre-School is still awaiting documentation from DCC. The Pre-School OFSTED Inspection on 8 December reduced its performance level from the previous Grade 2 to Grade 4, although it is understood DCC is appealing one of the more serious findings on behalf of the Pre-School.

The Charity Shop has contacted DCC asking if a room could be rented at Duchy Square but has

received no reply as yet. DCC is in the process of finalising transition of management of Duchy Square to Torbay Development Agency. Tom Stratton is to meet with them early February to discuss proposals for the building.

Pavilion Youth Club. Cllr Wendy Stones attended a meeting 19th January. Seven young people have joined the committee; one of whom is a student from MarJon. The young people will be the voice for the Youth Club members. The number of junior members continues between 20-30. Senior numbers have gone down, but is still fairly well attended. The Youth Club is halfway through its Peoples Health Trust funding programme. Dartmoor Sustainable Development funding comes to an end in March. The committee is researching possible further funding applications. The young people would like to repeat last year's music festival with stalls and rides as a community event. The next meeting will be at the end of March.

Parking Committee. WDBC has not started the consultation on DNPA parking charges. All other matters to report had been discussed under Item 5.

Emergency Planning Sub-Group. For the remainder of February and up until the end of April the Met Office sees no clear signal for any type of weather to predominate. Their calculations indicate that the chance of the period being characterised as very cold is 15% and of being significantly warmer than average is 30%. In terms of rainfall the next three months are expected to be statistically average. The 30 day forecast indicates a quiet period with few or no significant weather events, overnight frosts and calm dry days are indicated to predominate.

Public Library Sub-Group. No update was available from Bryan Harry.

Play Area Sub-Group. The retention on the Phase 2 upgrade has been paid. The manufacturer reports the seesaw 'rust' is actually is acid seepage from the welds: sometimes after galvanising and powder coating acid residue seeps out of air pockets causing a brown staining that looks like rust. This staining can be cleaned off with a mild detergent and will not come though again.

Postbridge Village Hall. The new hall sign has been erected and a new outside light will be attached to the new post. A new notice box is being investigated to be attached to the old post. The borehole work is being commenced in a week or two. A member of the committee has been commissioned to purchase some cupboards for the kitchen and a folding door to close off the china store for hygiene purposes. A meeting has been attended with consultants to finalise the bid for funding for the Hall improvements. Letters of support for the improvement project would be appreciated.

TAP Fund. The Council agreed to join Lydford in a bid for VAS signs, one for Postbridge and one for Tavistock Road in Princetown. Decisions will be made either at the March or June meetings of the Southern Link.

Princetown Primary School. Nothing was reported.

Fire & Rescue Service. Nothing was reported.

Cemetery. Nothing was reported.

Training. Nothing was reported.

Christmas Tree. A storage box has been purchased for storing the tree lights in the Parish Council store.

Emergency Committee. Nothing was reported.

11. Reports from other meetings

The Clerk will attend the WDBC Link Chairmen's Pre Meeting on 10 February.

12. Other Issues Requiring Decisions

The Council decided Cllr Alison Geen and the Clerk will represent DFPC at the DNPA Parish & Town Council Workshop.

The Council decided there was no need for it to respond to the public transport consultation on No. 98 bus timetable.

The Council decided not to declare any pubs or other assets in the Parish as being of community value.

The Council agreed to set up a small sub-group comprising Cllr David Worth and Cllr Mark Renders to assess whether current grant opportunities might be of benefit to the Council or other Parish organisations.

13. Project progress reports

Postbridge 3G Signal. Vodafone had selected the Visitors Centre, the Village Hall, Higher Lydgate Farm and Forest Cottage to host the rural open sure signal boxes to provide 3G mobile phone coverage in Postbridge and Bellever. The technical team will be visiting the parish on the afternoon of Wednesday 11 February from about 2pm to do the detailed design work for installation based on the outline design from the previous survey, requiring access to the interior of properties.

The owners of the properties are required by Vodafone to sign a simple agreement that defines their mutual responsibilities. After reading the draft agreements both the selected and the reserve properties in Bellever decided to withdraw from the scheme. The Clerk will endeavour to find an alternative host site.

Primary Health Trust Grant Application for a Gardening Club and Equipment. The application was put together by Cllr David Worth and assessed as 'good' by the Devon Community Foundation advisor before being submitted. Decisions are expected in around two months.

Defibrillators. The clerk is meeting with Ali Bright of DNPA to agree installation arrangements for the Postbridge defibrillator on the afternoon of 11 February. DNPA wish to use their electrician for installation. As a point of interest North Bovey Parish Council has contacted the Clerk seeking the costs of the Hexworthy installation as they are considering a similar project.

Cemetery improvements. The Clerk will issue the invitation to tender for Cemetery improvements, but has not yet done so.

Grass cutting options. The Clerk has not progressed the detailed costings as yet. However Cllr David Worth has arranged for DPA volunteers to make a clearance of the churchyard commencing 14 February. The Clerk has discussed proposals with Pam Law who is fully supportive and will open the church for shelter and provide a kettle for hot drinks.

Risk assessments and procedures. Progress has been reported at agenda item 7 above. There is still a considerable way to go before the Council meets modern standards.

Outline plans for Play Area improvements Phase 3 & a skate park. Both these projects have not been progressed owing to higher priorities.

14. Urgent decisions since last meeting

Nil.

15. Exchange of Information

Concern was expressed about the number of cigarette butts littering the pavement outside the Prince of Wales pub.

16. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be at 1930 Tuesday 10 March 2015 at Princetown.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 2112.