

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Mr N K Tigwell,

Wheal Lucky House, Rundlestone, Princetown, Yelverton, Devon PL20 6SS

Telephone: 01822 890274, 07985 459 804

Email: clerk@dartmoorforestpc.net

Website: www.dartmoorforestpc.net

Mr T Witton
Governor
HMP Dartmoor
Princetown
Yelverton
PL20 6RR

30 October 2014

Dear Mr Witton

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCHYARD PRINCETOWN

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council has become increasingly concerned about the unkempt state of the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels in Princetown. This is the responsibility of the Diocese, but the Council understands they have insufficient funds to maintain the churchyard. Informally, they have suggested closing the churchyard to new burials, which would in law transfer the maintenance responsibility to the Parish Council. The Parish Council is keen to prevent the loss to the village of its own graveyard and is exploring means for its maintenance.

Earlier this year, the Parish Council ran a competitive tender for all grass cutting in the Parish, including the churchyards. All subsequent tenders were unaffordable against the set precept. Subsequently, the Parish has paid local residents for grass cutting, but bringing the grass in the churchyard under control is beyond their capability. However, it may be possible that one of them could maintain the churchyard once it has been brought under control.

There is a very close historical and cultural link between the Prison and St Michael and All Angels Church, and prisoners have been used for grass cutting in the churchyard in the past. Dartmoor Forest Parish Council would be extremely grateful for the use of prisoners to strim and mow grass; weed pathways; and clear graves to achieve a standard the Parish Council can then maintain. The Parish Council is willing to meet all direct and incidental expenses such as fuel and consumables for trimmers and lawnmowers. The trimmings and arisings of the work may be composted on site.

This project would be a significant service to the local community and Dartmoor Forest Parish Council would be most appreciative if you give it favourable consideration. Should you require any further information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Tigwell'.

Nigel Tigwell
Parish Clerk