

DARTMOOR FOREST PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 1 March 2010
in the Village Hall, Postbridge 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)
Mrs Wendy Watson

Hexworthy/Huccaby**Apologies****Princetown**

Ms Sarah Ruffles

Postbridge**Hexworthy/Huccaby**

Ms Alison Geen

Absent without Apology**Princetown**

None

Postbridge

None

Hexworthy/Huccaby

None

In Attendance

Sergeant Dave Anning (items 1 to 3 only)

PCSO Mark Canvin (items 1 to 3 only)

Councillor Isla McPhie, WDBC

Four members of the public

A G E N D A

1	To receive apologies
2	Declarations of Interest
3	Report from Beat Manager
4	To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2010
5	Matters arising from the previous meeting and not on the Agenda
6	Parish Planning
7	Play Area Development Group
8	Update on Highways jobs
9	Reports from Committees
10	Reports from meetings with other groups
11	Correspondence
12	Financial management
13	Planning applications
14	Urgent matters at the Chair's discretion
15	Any other business

1. Apologies

There were apologies from Alison and from Sarah. Paul's absence without apology was noted.

Date: 12 April 2010

Signature of Chair

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.
Amendments to be produced for Paul's change of details

3. Beat Manager's Report

Mark introduced Sergeant Dave Anning, the Neighbourhood Team Leader

Mark said that, although the Team was very busy, the situation was good in Princetown, and across the Moor generally.

Residents had expressed concern about a male who had come to the village, but this person had now gone away.

The "bad weather" meeting held on 11 February had produced some very constructive dialogue. The generally held view was that there was no single answer and the improvements were likely to be in the form of small contributions. Better communication had been highlighted as a key change, with better use being made of radio and other media. A follow-on meeting is to be arranged. It was noted that journeys into the area during bad weather to provide services such as refuse collection would be subject to restrictions as specified in the insurance policies held by service providers. The Neighbourhood Team wanted to provide input to the Emergency Plan, when it was drawn up.

Dave A said that four young children had spattered the Village Centre with paint. The Police had visited the children's parents, who were largely supportive of reparation being made. The detail of this is to be agreed. Dave A encouraged residents to give the children a hard time in order to impress on them the seriousness of their actions. He said that the HMCA Trustees did not wish to press charges

ACTION: - Cliff said that he would source a product to remove blackboard paint

Dave A said that a young person who formerly had a high profile in Princetown is currently in custody in connection with a robbery.

With regard to recently announced cuts in resources, Dave A said that jobs will go but front line officer roles should be untouched.

PC Dave Pickles is on holiday for a month but the resource gap will be filled during his absence

Dave A and Mark left the meeting

February's letter from Inspector Hammond was distributed to all Councillors

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 1 February were signed as a true record

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

- 5.1 **Boundary Review** – It had been confirmed during February that the Secretary of State had ignored the recommendations of the Boundary Committee for a Devon Unitary Authority, (excluding Plymouth and Torbay) and had opted for an Exeter Unitary and a Unitary for the remainder of Devon. DCC had taken Counsel's advice on the feasibility of mounting an appeal against the recommendation and received a very favourable response. As a result, the Council is now preparing its appeal case

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- 5.2 **Princetown Conservation Area** – This had been discussed at the monthly DNPA meeting on 5 February. There had been some issues raised relating to certain conservation area boundary changes for which more information had been requested, so the matter will be discussed at a future meeting, when the required information has been made available
- 5.3 **Dog Litter Warning Notices** – work is still outstanding
- 5.4 **Parish Council Website** – the framework for the website had been set up and the website designer is waiting for documents from the Clerk (e.g. minutes etc.) so that they can be loaded into the system
- 5.5 **Flooding on Plymouth Hill** – The South West Lakes Trust had now cleared the blocked gully and it is hoped that this will resolve the flooding problem affecting Mr and Mrs Pengelly's property

6. Parish Planning

The proposed Steering Group is:

- Gregg Manning (Chair of HMCA Trustees' Board and runs a business outside the Parish)
- Dave Fisher (Chair of the PC and represents Postbridge/Bellever)
- Wendy Stones (Represents Princetown on the PC, Chair of WI and Neighbourhood Watch)
- Mike Kinsey (Chair of Princetown Community Fund and runs a business in the Parish)
- Alison Geen (Represents Hexworthy on the PC and runs a business in the Parish)
- Ali Hirst (Headteacher and member of the Princetown Community Fund)

A person to represent the views of young people is required.

It had been confirmed with DNPA, West Devon Borough Council and the Community Council of Devon that, whilst the Police are important Partners, they do not usually serve on the Steering Group

ACTION: - The Clerk will set up an inaugural meeting

7. Play Area Development Group (PADG) (Gary)

A meeting of the Group had been held on 8 February to explain the proposed layout that had been sent to DCC as part of the funding application.

Wendy S, Gary and the Clerk had attended a meeting in Exeter on 11 February to present the Group's credentials to the group that will oversee the awarding of grants and the monitoring of projects. The work done so far was approved, which includes the very important topic of selection of a preferred supplier. The Council is required to approve the following three statements:

- ***The Clerk is authorised to be the signatory to the contract with DCC and with the project contractor***
- ***Authorisation for signatory to contract with DCC and with the project contractor(s)***
- ***Authorisation for the Project Team, including the named contact, to work with DCC on this Project***

DECISION: The three statements were agreed without change

Gary said that DCC had stressed that the Parish Council was the Client for the duration of the project and was charged with the responsibility of raising concerns regarding health and safety with the chosen supplier during installation of the new equipment

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The Clerk's time is limited for the next few weeks and help is needed to keep the project on track. Paul volunteered to help with funding applications

8. Update on Highways Jobs

8.1 **New Jobs**

The hydrant sign outside Helena House on Tavistock Road in Princetown has disappeared

8.2 **Existing Jobs**

The Clerk had been notified that the gorse on the B3212 junction opposite Two Bridges Hotel is on Duchy land. Highways had reported the matter to the Duchy for action

In response to a query on progress, Highways had said that grit bags had not been delivered to Postbridge because "the road is gritted". The Clerk had explained the true situation to Highways and a proposal for a grit box had been put forward. There will be a consultation on the most appropriate position for the box before it is installed

The closure of Dartmeet Bridge was now finalised and, after intervention from Alison, a suitable diversion for heavy vehicles had been found. Alison is to write to Highways to explain that there was a lack of communication about the diversion and that there are lessons to be learned

Philip Sanders is still trying to find Lengthsman contacts, but has confirmed that there will not be any financial reduction in the delivery of this service in the 2010/11 financial year. At the moment, the five of the Parish Council's jobs have "been referred to the Lengthsman" but there is no notification system to inform the Highways Help Desk that jobs have been completed:

The Tavistock Road sign, formerly left leaning against the wall of the Creativity Centre, has moved

Check progress on the long outstanding need for double yellow lines on the corner of Bellever Close leading to Tavistock Road

Escalate the matter of vehicles parking in the lay-by on Tavistock Road and obscuring the view for those using the access road to the Village Centre

9. Reports from Committees

9.1 **School (Wendy W)**

Week commencing 15 March is Science and Engineering week and will include:

- A visit to the Eden Project on 15 March
- A Science Fair held in school on 11 March
- A waste audit being carried out at school on 24 March

The Easter concert will be held on 5 April and a Fair Trade café will be available

A project is under way to create a school garden. The Parents and Friend of the school are holding a meeting to discuss the project on 2 March

9.2 **Playground (Gary)**

Tom Stratton had informed the Clerk that the willow hedging will be removed when the weather improves, and the upper entrance will be closed off at the same time

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9.3 Cemetery (Dave)

The Clerk's action to contact Frank Martin about a tree damaging the wall near the entrance was carried forward

10. Reports from Meetings with Other Groups

10.1 Southern Parishes Link Committee

Next meeting is on 25 March 2010

10.2 Bad Weather Meeting held on 11 February 2010 (Dave F and David W)

Residents had reported the problems encountered during the bad weather and these had been noted, but no decision had been taken. Another meeting is to be arranged

10.3 Dartmoor Landscape Character Assessment Workshop 23 February 2010 (Alison report via the Clerk)

"Here is my report on this workshop that I attended as the Dartmoor Forest PC representative. The background behind this is that a key aim of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) is the involvement of local people in making decisions about the local landscape. A consultancy firm has already done a lot of work on identifying the Landscape Character Types (LCT) on Dartmoor, of which there are 10. Other Borough Councils are doing or have done similar investigations into the Landscape and its uses. The LCT are also used by them although Dartmoor has 3 unique types, as you would expect. The end report will be used by the National Park in its forward planning, to inform decisions re landscape policies and may also possibly be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document therefore affecting planning issues. Therefore it could impact directly on our work.

We were asked to contribute our thoughts on the "valued attributes" of the different LCT and I hope I made it clear that the "Upland Moorland with Tors" area that we are situated in is more than just a wild/isolated space that a lot of comments seemed to suggest. We then broke into smaller groups to think about the short listed valued attributes using ELC terminology under the following headings: Protect, Manage and Plan.

Sally Parker of Land Use Consultants will be sending a report of this workshop to Parish Clerks and while we may consider this to have been a talking shop and just organised to tick boxes because the final report will possibly be used in the ways I suggested above it is important that we make our voice heard. I would be interested in going to any follow up meeting in this regard."

10.4 DNPA Annual Planning Workshop 10 February 2010 (Wendy S and the Clerk)

Wendy S and the Clerk had attended the workshop. DNPA is producing a summary of the session and papers will be distributed when they arrive

10.5 Community Safety Forum 25 February 2010

The Clerk said that she had been unable to attend the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Forum but had asked for any relevant papers to be forwarded to her. These will be distributed when they arrive

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10.6 WDBC Housing Meeting 16 February 2010 (Wendy S)

Wendy S said affordability remained a key issue in these difficult times. WDBC implemented Devon Home Choice on 6 January. Its housing register had reduced from approximately 2,000 to just over 800. There are now five local authorities in Devon operating the new system, with the remainder to follow by the end of March. Residents wishing to bid for a property can be given help in the form of someone who will complete the paperwork on their behalf and submit it online.

Current financial difficulties mean that shared ownership remains a problem. Lenders have a responsibility to inform the Housing Department if residents are to be made homeless.

Care and repair funding finishes in 2011, with nothing yet known about funding from 2012 onwards.

Affordable housing predictions show that Devon is likely to meet only 78% of its current three year target due to the decline in funding

11. Correspondence

- 11.1 **Public Transport Survey** – the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is undertaking a survey of local transport as results of a survey in 2008 showed the lowest level of resident satisfaction in Devon. The result was also below national and regional averages
ACTION: Clerk to contact LSP about organising an event to remind residents about the Fare Car Scheme. Clerk to contact DCC to restart the regular figures for usage of the Fare Car Scheme
- 11.2 **Police Authority Liaison Meeting** – the next meeting will be on 4 March at 7.30 pm in The Charter Hall, Okehampton
- 11.3 **DNPA Monthly Meeting** – calling papers for the meeting on 5 March had been received
- 11.4 **Celebration of Appointments** – The Rt Revd John Ford, Bishop of Plymouth, had extended an invitation to residents to attend a service on 19 March at 7.30 in St Paul's, Yelverton. The service will celebrate the appointments of Revd Nick Shutt as Rector and Revd Nicola Hunt as Team Vicar for the West Dartmoor Benefice
- 11.5 **Constituency Boundaries** – new boundaries come into effect for the General Election and notices will be posted in all Parish notice boards to inform residents of the Ward in which they live. In fact, the changes do not affect the Parish
- 11.6 **West Devon CAB** – notices advertising the CAB's home visiting service will be posted in all Parish notice boards
- 11.7 **Dartmoor Biodiversity Newsletter** – the 2009/10 newsletter has been received. The Clerk drew attention to an article written by Tom Stratton on Operation Wader
- 11.8 **NSPCC Helpline** – an information leaflet about the Helpline had been received

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12. Financial Management

12.1 Summary for February

Payments made	Ref 446	HMCA – hire of hall	£15.00
	Ref 447	M J Williams – litter picking	£49.66
	Ref 448	DNPA – planning fees for St Raphael's	£85.00
Receipts			
Balance in bank 28 February			£4,099.02
To Receive	Ref 449	Santander dividend payment	£8.61
To pay	Ref 450	M J Williams – litter picking	£49.66
	Ref 451	Postbridge Village Hall hire	£15.00
	Ref 452	HMCA – hire of hall for PADG meetings	£57.00
	Ref 453	DAPC – New Councillors' courses	£58.75

12.2 Princetown Church Costs – figures for the last three years were:

	Income	Outgoings	Surplus/Deficit
2009	£157.00	£560.00	-£403.00
2008	£394.00	£480.00	-£86.00
2007	£503.00	£480.00	£23.00

The Clerk recommended that a small payment to help to meet 2009 deficit, as the late arrival of the figures meant that no allowance has been made in the precept for 2010/11. There is still a need to agree a percentage and capping of the donation for future years.

DECISION: It was agreed that a donation of £100 should be made towards the 2009 costs

12.3 Grass Cutting Costs – Mr Druett had given a verbal quote of £100 per cut of the play area, which is the same as under the contract to Smerdon Services. Cutting the grass at the front and behind the Village Centre has been quoted as £45 per cut (approximately £500 per year). This is well covered in the budget where a figure of £1,000 had been allowed for this additional work.

13. Planning Applications

13.1 The following planning application correspondence was received in February

DNPA Ref. & Application Type	Description	Location	Comments
10/0065 Prior notification	Erection of porch extension	Hillside Cottage Merrivale	With Councillors for comment
10/0062 LBC	New vestry and car park extension	St Raphael's Chapel Hexworthy	Plans submitted were as per those viewed with the architect at November's meeting. Supported without further discussion
10/0061	New vestry and car park extension	St Raphael's Chapel Hexworthy	As above

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- 13.2 **Planning Condition at Youth Hostel, Bellever** – Dave F had asked at the Youth Hostel why the shed had not been removed and had been told that an extension of time had been granted. The Clerk awaits a reply from DNPA regarding the new deadline date for removal
- 13.3 **St Raphael's vestry and car park** – Church Wardens, Mr and Mrs Andrews, had written a letter of thanks to the Council for its support in paying for the application fees
- 13.4 **Delegation to Proper Officer** – Councillors were asked to vote on continuing to delegate to the Clerk, as Proper Officer, the responsibility for summarising comments on planning applications for submission as the Council's response to DNPA
DECISION: – it was agreed that the Clerk should continue with this responsibility
- 13.5 **Section 106 Template** – DNPA had provided an Affordable Housing template in response to the Council's comments regarding the proposed construction of a house on land adjacent to 1 Hessary View
ACTION: Clerk to provide printed copies of the 15 page document to Gary, Dave F, Paul and David W
- 13.6 **DNPA Development Management Committee** – calling papers for the meeting on 5 March had been received

14. Urgent Matters at the Chair's Discretion

- 14.1 **"A" Boards in Princetown** – the pavement outside Lords Restaurant has an increasing number of advertising boards that represent a hazard to pedestrians and wheelchair users. This is an ongoing problem
ACTION: Clerk to seek advice and guidance on the legal position from DNPA, WDBC and DCC
- 14.2 **Leat fencing** – A fence has been erected across the leat path adjacent to 11 Arches
ACTION: Clerk to check with the Duchy that this is allowable
- 14.3 **Barbed wire danger** – Wendy S said that old and now unused barbed wire needed to be removed from the field on the Two Bridges Road where the Duchy had recently carried out repair work. The wire was a hazard for sheep
- 14.4 **Princetown Post Office and Stores** – Paul said that he and Bridget wished to thank everyone who had supported them during their time at the Post Office and Stores. They had now officially retired and handed over to Chris and Jane Jordan, who intended to keep the shop largely unchanged
- 14.5 **Emergency Plan** – Paul and David W volunteered to lead the Council's project to produce an Emergency Plan for the Parish. This topic will be a standing agenda item from May onwards

15. Any Other Business

- 15.1 **Notice Board for Hexworthy** - a secondhand notice board was made available free of charge. Alison had collected it and is storing it on her property until its position can be finalised
Action: Clerk to check planning requirements with DNPA

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PUBLIC SESSION

1. Isla said that FOCSA would take over WDBC's refuse collection contract with effect from 1 April. There would be increased recycling, with weekly food collections being rolled out to more homes and with the introduction of weekly plastic bottle collections. The collection of non-recyclable materials (i.e. black bags) will be decreased to fortnightly. An education exercise for residents will be carried out
2. Isla said that tenders for the refurbishment of the public toilets in Princetown would be dealt with in the next two weeks. The work will start after Easter

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 12 April 2010** in the **Village Centre, Princetown**

Date: 12 April 2010

Signature of Chair