

**Clerk to the Council:**

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**Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Thorncombe Village Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

**Present:** Cllr's R Arnold (Chairman), J Higgs, S Dunford, S Welford , N Higgins, D Marsh and R Peacock

**In Attendance:-**The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Cllr D Turner (Dorset County Council), Cllr Sewell (West Dorset District Council), Alaric Little, Community Highways Team Leader and nine members of the public. Dr Pierce-Butler was present for item 399.

**Non Attendance:** Cllr M Stead

Draft until Approved

<b>395</b>	<b>Apologies</b> No apologies had been received
<b>396</b>	<b>Declarations of Interests</b> There were no Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct made at this stage of the meeting.
<b>397</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 were adopted as a true record with the following additional items: Cllr J Higgs had reported that it was hoped that the police surgery would hopefully be reinstated. It had been agreed that the clerk would contact Wessex Water regarding the water leak at Holditch. It had also been agreed that parishioners would be informed via the Parish Magazine that grants could be made available to organisations on application.
<b>398</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> Agreed that an article would be placed in the Parish Magazine inviting someone to come forward to run the website.
<b>399</b>	<b>School</b> Dr Pierce Butler reported that the school was under significant financial pressure and were in budget deficit for the first time because of the falling number of pupils. She stated that fewer families were moving into the village possibly due to lack of

	<p>employment and public transport. An Ofsted inspection had taken place and they were awaiting the final report. Five staff had recently left the school. Of the five, three had left the profession, one had relocated nearer to their home; and the other had moved across to supply work. The Head Teacher has also handed in her notice. The school is at present going through a restructuring process which involves consultation with parents. New Governors are required for the school as there is currently one vacancy and Dr Pierce-Butler will be standing down at the end of the year. She agreed to keep the council posted on developments.</p>
<b>400</b>	<p><b>Democratic Period</b></p> <p>A parishioner complained that she had been unable to use her garden because of the continual landfill work being undertaken at Higher Farm. It was understood that Enforcement had given the landowners time to complete this operation, however that time had now passed; but the work still continued. Cllr Turner agreed that he would look into this as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>There had been a delay in the erection of the new bridge at Buddlewall due to an error in the drawings, resulting in the parts not being able to be assembled. Hopefully this will soon be rectified.</p> <p>A parishioner stated that he was pleased to see that the website was now up to date and contained the council's standing orders. He was also pleased that the council had purchased a Merchant Navy flag, and would ensure it was flown on the appropriate day.</p> <p>There are still water problems at Holditch. Cllr Turner agreed that he would investigate this.</p>
<b>401</b>	<p><b>County and District Report</b></p> <p>A final decision by the Secretary of State regarding the proposed Unitary for Dorset is now expected by the end of February. A shadow executive would be formed to ensure that the new authority is set up in the correct manner.</p> <p>Cllr Sewell had been appointed as the chairman of the Scrutiny Committee. The council were making the 'not spots' of West Dorset Super Broadband a priority.</p>
<b>402</b>	<p><b>Highways, Lengthsman and Rights of Way</b></p> <p>The Lengthsman had been very active. Lawrence Dunning had thanked the council for the work undertaken by the Lengthsman on the public footpath through the churchyard. Cllr Dunford asked Cllr Turner for assistance in accessing an overlay for drains on the Dorset for You website.</p> <p>There is a need to ensure that the Lengthsman has an updated Chapter 8 Certificate. Dorset County Council will carry out this training free of charge. It was noted that a gate had been padlocked on a ROW. Cllr Higgins would investigate this. Dorset ROW Legal section had replied to the question as to what was happening to the path between Yawlings and New House. Because there had been an objection to the proposed diversion route it would need to be dealt with by an Inspector. There was a big backlog of items to be dealt with under this process, and therefore it might take</p>

	<p>several years to deal with. The diversion at Western Mills required a new cast bridge that would cost more than the ROW budget.</p> <p>The chairman welcomed Alaric Little, our Community Highways Team Leader to the meeting. Alaric informed the meeting that an inspection of non-major roads was undertaken every year. He made the point that defects should always be reported on line. The chairman commented on the poor state of potholes within the parish. The clerk pointed out that in the neighbouring parish of Hawkchurch people are being trained up to be able to repair potholes themselves and wondered if this was something that Dorset could explore. Alaric agreed that this was possibly the way forward and certainly worth looking at. It was agreed that he would meet with a number of councillors to look at problem areas within the parish.</p>
<b>403</b>	<p><b>Future of the Community Shop</b></p> <p>Mr Greaves asked if the correspondence that he had passed to the chairman had been circulated, to which the chairman replied that it had. Mr Greaves went through some of those projected figures; although he pointed out that he had since done a recalculation of some of them. It was agreed that there would be an informal meeting between a number of councillors and members of the shop management committee. There was a question as to whether Cllr Peacock should be a representative for the council at this meeting. The clerk advised that as Cllr Peacock had the Shop Committee as a Declarable Interest on his Register of Interest this would not be appropriate. It was agreed that the Council's representatives would be Cllr R Arnold, Cllr S Dunford and Cllr S Welford</p>
<b>404</b>	<p><b>Cemetery and Allotments</b></p> <p>It was agreed that Dial a Grass Cut would be asked to cut the grass in the cemetery field on a regular basis. There was a need to investigate from the PCC when they thought that the churchyard would be full and that use of the cemetery would commence. One idea would be to have a wild flower meadow in the field until such time as burials commenced.</p>
<b>405</b>	<p><b>Casual Vacancy</b></p> <p>No Poll had been called to fill the vacant position on the Council by an election so a notice had been displayed on the notice boards and the website inviting any interested party to apply before the end of January. No one had contacted the clerk about the position. It would also be placed in the parish magazine.</p>
<b>406</b>	<p><b>Accounts for Payment</b></p> <p>The following accounts were agreed for payment: Society Local Clerks £85.00 (1331), SW Allotment Association £10.00 (1332), Dorset Community Transport £2000.00 (1333), Easyspace £52.13 (1334) &amp; Darren Strawbridge £540.00 (1335)</p>
<b>407</b>	<p><b>Financial Update</b></p> <p>The financial update of budget against actual spend had been circulated and was agreed. The bank balance stood at £10,582.01 on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and had been reconciled.</p>
<b>408</b>	<p><b>Councillors' Reports</b></p> <p><i>Bus Service:</i> Cllr Marsh informed the meeting that he had discovered that two more parishes were now also paying for their bus services. We had received £940 towards the cost of running the buses from Dorset Community, however this will be the final</p>

	<p>grant. The payment of the £2,000 has been authorised this evening to Dorset Community Transport. The Chard Tesco is going to include our bus service in their token scheme later in the year.</p> <p><b>Car Service:</b> Cllr Higgs informed the meeting that the service is well used. Cllr Welford asked if annual figures of the number of journeys made could be produced. Cllr Higgs stated that he did not have this data and did not see the purpose of such information. Cllr Welford returned to the subject stating that she felt, in her opinion, that it was not an onerous task, and felt it was an example of good practice and that the council should have that information. Cllr Higgs stated that he would not be willing to collect this data.</p> <p>Playfield: The Committee now consisted of seven members, some of whom have young children. Aviva had not approved the main grant application but had provided £100. The carol singers, led by Cllr Higgs, had raised £109.13. The committee were looking at safeguarding requirements and a possible grant application to Sports England. For goal posts. There would be a spring clean in March.</p> <p><b>DAPTC:</b> Cllr Welford had written to the chief Executive with our concerns that there is no official representation for parish councils on the Unitary committee. Whilst the Chief Executive attends the meetings it is only as an observer</p> <p><b>BVLAP:</b> Cllr Marsh attends these meetings and stated that Unitary issues are discussed there.</p> <p><b>BLAP:</b> Cllr Welford wondered if Thorncombe Could become members of this group. The clerk would investigate.</p> <p><b>Spring Clean:</b> Cllr Higgins stated that this would take place in March or April. There may be a small charge for the use of the hall.</p>
409	<p><b>Planning Applications</b>  <b>WD/D/17/002910 Rose Cottage, Hewood Farm Access Road, Hewood:</b> Removal and replacement of garage roof, incorporating 2 velux rooflights with flashing kits. Installation of cast iron effect gutter/downpipe and replace oil fired central heating boiler with condensing boiler. Agree to support this application.</p>
410	<p><b>Planning Determinations</b>  <b>WD/D/17/001747 Saddle Street Farm, Thorncombe:</b> Demolish existing building and erection of replacement building. The application has been approved with conditions.</p>
411	<p><b>Correspondence</b>  Had been dealt with during the meeting.</p>
412	<p><b>Matters of Urgency</b>  There were no matters to deal with</p>
413	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b>  Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm</p>

Signed ----- Chairman

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