

**Clerk to the Council:**

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**Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Thorncombe Village Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017**

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

**In Attendance:-**The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe) and seven members of the public.

Draft until Approved

<b>363</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b> Apologies received from Cllr C Sowerbutts (away) and Cllr D Marsh (away), Resolved to accept these apologies. Apologies noted from Cllr D Turner and J Sewell.</p>
<b>364</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interests</b> Cllr J Higgs declared a personal interest on the planning application for 5 High Street, Thorncombe.</p>
<b>365</b>	<p><b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were adopted as a true record; and were signed by the chairman.</p>
<b>366</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b> Cllr Welford had hoped that the payment for the Merchant Navy flag would have been agreed at this meeting rather than being a budget item for the next precept. Agreed it would be an agenda item for the November meeting.</p>
<b>367</b>	<p><b>Democratic Period</b> There was a complaint regarding people smoking in the bus shelter. A parishioner felt that the Council had a legal duty to display no smoking signs In the shelter. Cllr Welford offered to provide a no smoking sign.</p> <p>A question was asked regarding the proposed diversion of a footpath near to Yawlings. Cllr Higgins would ask the County for an update.</p>

	Apology that the Merchant Navy flag had only been flown for part of the designated day.
<b>368</b>	County and District Report No reports received
<b>369</b>	<b>Highways, Lengthsman and Rights of Way</b> The Lengthsman would be asked to clean village signs. The finger post at Yonder Hill, which had been repaired, has had its arm broken off. Cllr Higgins would arrange for it to be replaced.  The bridge at Buddle Wall is to be replaced with a metal one.
<b>370</b>	<b>Cemetery Maintenance</b> The Cemetery Committee recommended that the grass be cut back and the hedges attended to as soon as possible. This was agreed by the Council. The cost would be £60.
<b>371</b>	<b>Accounts for Payment</b> The following accounts were agreed for payment: J Vanderwolfe £104.46 (1319), HMRC £386.80 (1320), BDO LLP £156.00 (1321) and Dial a Grass Cut £320.00 (1322).
<b>372</b>	<b>Accounts update</b> Income/Expenditure against budget figures were agreed
<b>373</b>	<b>External Auditor's Report</b> BDO LLP had given the Council an unqualified audit. They had however insisted in changing the figures for the WDDC loan to the amount at the end of the financial year prior to the payment being made rather than the system they had accepted for the last few years. This was noted and the report was adopted.
<b>374</b>	<b>Budget Meeting</b> It was agreed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee would meet to discuss the budget for 2018/19 on Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November at Holditch Hall, 6.30pm. The budget would then be agreed by Full Council at the December meeting, which hopefully would avoid having a council meeting in January 2018.
<b>375</b>	<b>Councillors' Reports</b> <i>.Car Service:</i> Continues to be well used <i>Community Shop:</i> It was reported that the previous month had shown a profit in excess of £1,000. Cllr Dunford stated that he had been surprised at the comments made by the shop's treasurer at the last meeting. He felt that the council did support the shop where it could. He also commented that things in the shop seemed to be operating on a happier footing than in the past. <i>Playfield:</i> The AGM will now take place on the 18 <sup>th</sup> November <i>Website:</i> Societies need to update their details if necessary. <i>Village Hall:</i> Officers were returned with no changes at the recent AGM. <i>ROW:</i> There had been some 20 complaints made against maize crop obstructions, however no action would seem to have been taken against offenders. <i>Amenities:</i> We now have a supply of sandbags

	<p><i>School:</i> Clerk had emailed the school, but had not received a response. Cllr Peacock would take this item forward.</p> <p><i>DAPTC:</i> There has been a number of meetings with town councils and WDDC to discuss what services might be handed over to town and parish councils if the unitary option is approved by the Secretary of State. It is understood that no parish councils were represented. Cllr Welford is unable to attend the DAPTC AGM in November. There were no volunteers to attend in her place.</p>
<b>376</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>a) <b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>WD/D/17/002061 Hodgeditch Farm, Chantry Lane, Chard Junction: removal of Section 106 agreement. No objection</p> <p>WD/D/17/002021 2 Holway Cottage, Venn Hill, Synderford: Internal and external alterations. Support</p> <p>WD/D/17/001916 and 001917 5 High Street, Thorncombe: re-roof shed. Support</p> <p>b) <b>Determinations</b></p> <p>WD/D/17/001798 Yew Tree Farm, Saddle Street, Thorncombe: Solar array. Granted</p> <p>WD/D/17/001407 Bere Farm, Winsham: Replace windows and doors. Granted</p>
<b>377</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>a) Letter from the Birdsmoor Gate branch of the Royal British Legion informing the council that the branch was now closed and that the Standard would be laid up in Marshwood Church on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am. It was hoped that councillors would attend</p> <p>b) Remembrance Day Service at Thorncombe Church Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. The chairman would lay the wreath on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>c) The chairman made reference to a letter which had been sent to him by two members of the public regarding his comments made following the speech made by Mr Greaves in the democratic period of the September meeting. The chairman of the Community Shop committee apologised for the letter, which had not been sent with agreement from the shop committee. A member of the public supported the comments made by the Council at the September meeting. He stated that it had always been known that if the shop failed the rate payers of the parish would have to pay. Several members of the council gave their support to Cllr Arnold, and felt that the letter was uncalled for. It was however agreed that the shop and the council could work together. It was further agreed that a meeting would be arranged between members of both parties, and that one option might be a joint letter to all households in the parish regarding the facilities of the community shop. The chairman concluded the discussion on this item by stating that he felt that some form of business plan should be available for the proposed meeting.</p>
<b>378</b>	<p><b>Matters of Urgency</b></p> <p>There were no matters to deal with</p>
<b>379</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.25pm</p> <p>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm</p>

	Cllr's D Arnold and S Welford gave their apologies for this meeting The Finance Committee to meet at Holditch Hall 22 <sup>nd</sup> November at 6.30pm
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Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....