

Clerk to the Council:

Mr J.F. Vanderwolfe FILCM, Chartered MCIPD
Newenham
5 Halletts Way
Axminster
EX13 5NB
01297 34444
johnvw@tiscali.co.uk

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Tuesday 7th December 2021 at the Thorncombe Community Centre, commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr's J Higgs (Chairman), A Hiscock, D Marsh, M Stead and P Basham

In Attendance:-The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe) , Cllr S Christopher and one member of the public.

Draft until Approved

443	<p>Apologies No apologies were given.</p>
444	<p>Declarations of Interest Cllr J Higgs declared an interest under item 449 as there was a payment to him for the hedge cutting on the allotment site.</p>
445	<p>Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th October 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record.</p>
446	<p>Matters Arising Cllr A Hiscock was concerned about the arrangements for paying for repairs by the community shop and owner of the flat. The clerk stated that the lease agreements did cover these items. He had been asked to provide a plain English version of those documents, but stated that there could be legal difficulties in doing that. It was agreed that a meeting would be held early in the new year to clarify the situation and that the chairman of the shop would be invited to attend.</p> <p>The lantern parade, which was sponsored by the council, had gone well, with the lanterns being used again later in the month. Payment had been made, but would show on the next monthly sheet.</p>

447	<p>Democratic Period</p> <p>The owner of the planning application to be discussed later in the meeting was in attendance and provided the meeting with information as to why he had put the planning application forward and what his plans were for the site. He stated that he felt that this was a sustainable rural business. He also stated that highways had offered no objections to the plans. He stated that at present he had not discussed the plans with the Conservation Officer.</p>
448	<p>Dorset Council Report</p> <p>Cllr S Christopher had circulated his report prior to the meeting; and it was duly noted. There was a question regarding the Government push to improve the rural and urban bus services, with a bid being made by Dorset Council. However, he stated that at present he did not have any update on the progress of that project. Cllr A Hiscock made reference to a meeting that the clerk and he had attended in Bridport prior to the Covid-19 outbreak in which it had been noted that parish and town councils might be able to receive some funding to deal with potholes on minor roads and repair public rights of way. No update was available at present on this scheme, and he asked for an email to be sent to him by Cllr Hiscock so that it could be forwarded to the appropriate officer.</p>
449	<p>Accounts for Payment</p> <p>Resolved to ratify the following payments: HMRC PAYE £207.60, Dial a Grass Cut £595.00, J Vanderwolfe (Expenses) £81.00, J Higgs £20.00, Easy Space £63.02, Royal British Legion £25.00, Thorncombe Village Hall £22.00, DAPTC £30.00 and Dorset Community Transport £2,000.00.</p>
450	<p>Financial Update</p> <p>The finance update was approved. The financial assets of the Council as of the 5th December 2021 was £22,874.26.</p>
451	<p>Budget and Precept Demand</p> <p>The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had forwarded a draft budget to all members prior to the meeting. Members went through the recommendations and resolved to accept them. Resolved that the budget for 2022/23 be set at £23,730 and that the Precept Demand be £10,440, which is the same amount as the present budget year. The chairman thanked the RFO for preparing the budget.</p>
452	<p>Grant Applications</p> <p>There were three applications for grants: Thorncombe Lunch Club had requested £50 towards hall hire and lighting costs. Thorncombe Keep Fit Club had requested £50 towards hall hire and lighting costs The St Marys PTA had requested £250 towards specific items for the school. Resolved to pay the full amounts requested to all three organisations.</p>
453	<p>Playfield</p> <p>The AGM had taken place on the 10th November in which three officers and four committee members were elected.</p>
454	<p>Bus Services</p> <p>Cllr D Marsh stated that the number of passengers using our buses was reasonable. He was sorry to report that Tatworth and Forton Parish Council had turned down an</p>

	<p>application for a grant for the bus services even though the bus is well used from their parish. A councillor had suggested that the bus should be diverted to serve Forton, however because there is another service serving that village this would not be possible. The clerk would ask if there was a specific reason why the project had been turned down.</p>
455	<p>Community Shop This item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.</p>
456	<p>Allotments One of the hedges has been cut back and arrangements are in hand for the other hedge to also be cut.</p>
457	<p>Former Telephone Box A resident had voiced concerns at the siting of the former telephone box, however it was felt that once the box is fully restored it will not look out of place at this location. There was a need to fix the box firmly in place with cement. Cllr M Stead volunteered to assist with this.</p>
458	<p>DAPTC DAPTC had shown concerns and some of the possible changes to what will become the Dorset Local Plan</p>
459	<p>School It was understood that the Head Teacher would be leaving the school at Christmas.</p>
460	<p>Rights of Way Some concerns expressed regarding some tree felling that had taken place in Wild Woods near to public footpaths. The chairman would discuss this with our footpath officer.</p>
461	<p>Neighbourhood Watch It was reported that damage had been done to a key holder container at Hibbard's Garage</p>
462	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>P/Ful/2021/04331 P/LBC/2021/04332 Coggans Farm, Lower Holditch Lane, Holditch: Partial demolition and conversion of existing agricultural building into function room with accommodation.</p> <p>After some debate it was agreed not to support this application as it was felt that the proposal was over development. There were also traffic and waste management concerns. It was also noted that the application had stated that there would not be any ground works, however it was felt that this was not the case. Cllr P Basham voted against the motion to not support the application, and requested that his name be recorded as having been in favour of the application. There had been, the applicant stated, some aggressive opposition to his application from local people.</p>
463	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>It was agreed that the chairman would read one of the lessons at the carol service on behalf of the council .</p>
464	<p>Items of Urgency</p>

	Nil
465	Next Meeting The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1 st February 2022 at 7.30pm

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----