

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Tuesday 1st February 2022 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

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| 466 | Apologies No apologies were given. |
| 467 | Declarations of Interest There were no Declarations of Interest made at this stage of the meeting |
| 468 | Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 th December 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record. |
| 469 | Matters Arising Cllr D Marsh asked if the clerk had contacted Tatworth PC regarding the bus funding, to which he replied that he would do this towards the end of the financial year as we were rather close to our income ceiling limit at present. This was accepted. The chairman suggested that now that restrictions were being lifted it would be a good idea to reinstate the monthly parish council surgeries. All agreed that this was a good idea. Agreed the first surgery would be on Monday 28 th February between 1pm and 2pm in the Community Shop. The clerk informed the meeting that the D rate parish council contribution had been confirmed for 2022/23 to be £32.31, an increase of only 8p per year. This was due to decrease in the D rate equivalent figure from 321.9 in 2021/22 to 323.1 in 2022/23. |

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| 470 | <p>Democratic Period</p> <p>A parishioner asked a question regarding the responsibility for maintenance of the Community Shop, which was answered.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed at the large number of potholes in the Forde Abbey area. Cllr Christopher agreed to investigate that with the appropriate Dorset Council portfolio holder.</p> |
| 471 | <p>Dorset Council Report</p> <p>Cllr S Christopher had circulated his report prior to the meeting; and it was duly noted. The report covered the latest Covid-19 figures for West Dorset, the ongoing negotiations regarding the Dorset Council Budget from April this year, in which he made the point that 17% of the budget goes to social care. He made reference to the Dorset Local Plan, farming and the river Char. He stated that there would be a delay in the adoption of the plan whilst the council considered whether to continue to expand towns and villages or decide on having a new town where the majority of houses could be located and the infrastructure set up.</p> <p>Cllr A Hiscock informed Cllr Christopher that he felt there was a poor relationship between Dorset Council and the town and parish councils. He compared the relationship that Devon County Council has with their parish and town councils, where parishes have been empowered to be trained to fill potholes on minor roads and deal with problems on public rights of way, and asked why Dorset could not also delegate such services.</p> |
| 472 | <p>Accounts for Payment</p> <p>Resolved to ratify the following payments: PAYE £207.60, SWCAA £10.00, M Bonome £110.00, Thorncombe Lunch Club £50.00, Thorncombe Keep Fit £50.00, Dial a grass cut £125.00, TPFA £250.00 and Thorncombe Village Hall £20.00. A total of £822.60</p> |
| 473 | <p>Financial Update</p> <p>The finance update was approved. Financial assets as of the 28th January 2022 were £19,559.86.</p> |
| 474 | <p>Business Risk Assessment</p> <p>Members had assessed the financial risks of the council and felt that the present measures in place were adequate and suitable with the risks involved.</p> |
| 475 | <p>Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemorations</p> <p>Cllr M Stead informed the meeting at the Sports and Social Club were planning a number of events during the extended June bank holiday period. Members felt that the council should have some form of commemorative plaque to mark this historic achievement. This would be discussed in more detail at the March meeting.</p> |
| 476 | <p>Playfield</p> <p>A special concert was being organised on the 8th April to raise funds for equipment for the playfield. The committee were also applying for funds from an initiative</p> |

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| | being brought forward by Dorset Council, which, if successful, would provide 20% of costs |
| 477 | Bus Services Cllr D Marsh provided the council with passenger numbers for service 14, 688 and the Plus Bus for 2021 compared to those pre-pandemic in 2018. The figures show that figures improved in the second half of 2021, and that trend has continued into 2022. He provided the meeting with an overview of the WATAG AGM which was held on Zoom on the 27 th January. Cllr Marsh was now a member of the WATAG Advisory Committee. There would appear to be no plans at present to permit passengers to utilise school buses. |
| 478 | Community Shop The shop continues to operate effectively and make a profit. |
| 479 | Allotments Hedges have been cut. |
| 480 | Former Telephone Box Cllr A Hiscock reported that work was in progress. There was a need to getting the concreting of the base done during February. |
| 481 | DAPTC Various newsletter and circulars had been received by members and were noted. |
| 482 | School A new Head Teacher had started at the school. Cllr J Higgs informed the meeting that some funds from the carol singing prior to Christmas had been donated to the school. This money is to be used for book tokens for the child who has made the most progress during the year. |
| 483 | Rights of Way Our Honorary Footpath Warden had expressed his frustration that the Rights of Way section at Dorchester do not respond to telephone answerphone messages and that very little improvements to the rights of way network seem to happen. Cllr Christopher agreed to investigate this. |
| 484 | Neighbourhood Watch No issues |
| 485 | Community Car Service Service continues to operate in an effective manner. |
| 486 | Planning Applications P/HOU/2022/00436 Magdalen Bungalow. Maudlin Lane, Winsham: Extension and alterations: It was agreed that a site visit would be arranged over the next week or so and that the corporate view would be relayed to the clerk. |

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| 487 | <p>Dorset Council Consultation Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme (Bus Services)</p> <p>The document was noted.</p> |
| 488 | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>Correspondence was being circulated via email</p> |
| 489 | <p>Items of Urgency</p> <p>Cllr Marsh stated that there was a special offer being made available through Dorset Council for solar panels on roofs. Cllr Stead urged caution unless the panels became the property of the home owner as there could be problems in the future regarding selling the property and maintenance.</p> |
| 490 | <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1^s March 2022 at 7.30pm</p> |

Signed Chairman

Date