

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Thorncombe Village Hall on Tuesday 6th March 2018.

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

In Attendance:-The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Cllr D Turner (Dorset County Council), Cllr Sewell (West Dorset District Council), and six members of the public

Draft until Approved

414	Apologies All Councillors present
415	Declarations of Interests There were no Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct made at this stage of the meeting.
416	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 th February 2018 were adopted as a true record with the following alterations: Minute 402 Western Mills to read Westford Mills. Minute 408 Funds had been received from Dorset County Council not the Community Transport group, Minute 408 Cllr Higgs has the data for all journeys booked through him but not any journeys booked directly with the driver.
417	Matters Arising The clerk had sent an article to the magazine informing parishioners about the arrangements for grants and the fact that we have a casual vacancy. He had reported the water leak at Holditch to Wessex Water, and had received a very prompt response. It was understood that the problem had now been resolved
418	Democratic Period A parishioner questioned why a non-elected member had been permitted to speak under a council agenda item even though that person was no longer a member of the organisation being discussed. He felt that the information being relayed to the council could have been dealt with during the democratic period. The chairman noted his comments.

419	<p>County and District Report</p> <p>Cllr D Turner informed the meeting that the Secretary of State had now approved the two Unitary authorities for Dorset. There would be 82 elected on the council and the council will be called Dorset Council. Cllr J Sewell stated that she was on the committee involved with communication and they would be looking at the not spots that do not at present have Super Broadband. The first meeting is scheduled for May.</p>
420	<p>Highway, Parish Lengthsman and ROW Issues</p> <p>A date would be arranged by Cllr Arnold with the Highways Officer for the tour of defect areas in the parish. It was noted that most of the works identified when the last inspection took place some four years ago had been dealt with, however with the passage of time most of them would probably need attention again. The recent bad weather had resulted in a big increase in the number of potholes. Buddlewall bridge had now been completed. There are a great number of gullies that need attention in the parish. There would be some major work undertaken by Railtrack at both Axe and Broom Level Crossings in the Autumn. Concerns regarding the route that lorries will take.</p> <p>A letter had been received from a councillor in Winsham seeking support for the extension of the 30mph limit near to the River Axe bridge due to proposed development in the area. Agreed to support this. The clerk would contact Winsham Parish Council to say we would have no objections to their proposal.</p>
421	<p>Annual Parish Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 1st May prior to the Annual Council meeting. It was agreed that the Beaminster Local Area Partnership (BAVLAP) and the fire service would be invited to attend.</p>
422	<p>Accounts for Payment</p> <p>The following accounts were agreed for payment: Thorncombe Community Shop £112.43 (1336), J Vanderwolfe £81.70 (1337), Darren Strawbridge £450.00 (1338) & Thorncombe Village Hall £22.00 (1339).</p>
423	<p>Financial Update</p> <p>The budget v actual figures were agreed. The current account stood at £150.00 and the Reserve Account at £10,174.00.</p>
424	<p>Internal Audit Procedures</p> <p>Resolved that the present procedures were adequate and that no changes were required.</p>
425	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p>Bus Services: Numbers using the Chard and Axminster weekly services continue to be good, however this is sadly not the case for the Wednesday service to Bridport. There is a need to promote the service in order to generate more income, therefore timetables are to be displayed in the bus shelter, on the parish noticeboards and in the parish magazine.</p> <p>Playfield: There is to be a breakfast in aid of funds for the playfield on the 18th March. There will be a clean-up day on the 24th March</p> <p>Community Shop: Cllr Dunford reported that in addition to the rent payment due in March/April 2018 the shop currently has enough reserves to cover the payment due in 2019. He stressed that at the moment there is no need for the parish council to be concerned about the financial state of the shop.</p>

	<p>Website: The clerk had requested a volunteer to operate the website through the parish magazine. There was a need to ensure that email and telephone contacts were shown on the site.</p> <p>Village Hall: a recent health and safety inspection had revealed the need for some fire detectors to be installed. The toilets are going to be decorated. The committee are looking at the possibility of installing Wi-Fi.</p> <p>DAPTC: The next meeting will be on the 24th May. Cllr Welford reported from the February meeting that the Task and Finish's Community Engagement had proposed to hold a consultation meeting in April, where three representatives from each of the six DAPTC areas, each representing large and medium size towns and small parishes would be invited to attend. They would be representing those groups on Unitary issues. Cllr Welford expressed her concerns at how these representatives were to be selected, and how they would cavass their groups on issues within such a short period of time.</p> <p>Cllr D Marsh reported that at the recent Strategic Transport Review on the 26th February Matthew Piles, Head of Economy, Dorset Travel had stated that Dorset could be a pilot project for introducing concessionary transport rather than the present country wide free policy. He had also discovered that subject to availability the public can use First school buses.</p> <p>Cllr Welford questioned what had happened to the housing available list that was available from the shop. Cllr Sewell agreed to investigate this.</p> <p>First Responders: All agreed that it would be nice to do something to mark 20 years since the formation of this group; the first in the country. It would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting. The chairman had arranged for a celebratory cake to be made and presented at their April event. It was understood that BBC Spotlight were planning to film interviews on the 14th May.</p>
426	<p>Planning Applications No planning applications received although one had been notified by the particulars were not yet available on the planning website.</p>
427	<p>Planning Determinations None received</p>
428	<p>Correspondence A survey had been received and circulated from WDDC with the purpose of gauging the views of town and parish councils specifically I respect of potentially contributing or taking over local services. This survey requested information regarding the services or assets currently operated by the parish council, and also those operated by WDDC. It also asked if the parish council would be interested in running in partnership other services currently provided by other councils. Members voiced their concerns that the six WDDC towns offered in the list as the local town for use of facilities and for shopping did not include Chard, Axminster or Crewkerne. The clerk pointed out that because this was an on-line survey he thought you were unable to leave anything blank; although he would try. Cllr Welford requested that a separate time be allocated for discussion so that a fully considered response could be</p>

	made to the survey, particularly to the final question, as she feared that this may be the only opportunity allowed to express our concerns. The clerk agreed to make enquires to see if there were to be further opportunities for discussion on this important matter.
429	Matters of Urgency There were no matters to deal with
430	Next Meeting: Tuesday 3 rd April 2018 at 7.30pm

Signed Chairman

Date