

Clerk to the Council:

J.F. Vanderwolfe FILCM, Chartered MCIPD Mr

Newenham

Halletts Way 5

Axminster

EX13 5NB

01297 34444 □

□ johnvw@tiscali.co.uk

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Thorncombe Village Hall on Tuesday 1st November 2016 commencing at 7.30pm

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

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

Draft until Approved

219	Apologies No apologies received
220	Declarations of Interests There were no Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct at this stage of the meeting.
221	Minutes The minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 4 th October 2016 were adopted as a true record, and were signed by the chairman.
222	Matters Arising

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grit bin was now at the clerk's house awaiting collection having been delivered to Tiverton Town Council. ● Clerk had contacted Openreach to ask that the dispute be dealt with as soon as possible so that Superfast Broadband can be installed in the village ● County Highways Officer had visited Goughs Barton along with Cllrs D Turner and S Dunford. The water problem is the responsibility of the landowner whose field is beside the highway. Our lengthsman to deal with gullies.
223	<p>Police and Neighbourhood Watch</p> <p>No reports. Clerk requested to contact police requesting that a short report be sent in if an officer is unable to attend the council meeting.</p>
224	<p>Democratic Period</p> <p>A member of the public suggested that the parish lengthsman could be utilised to clear gullies prior to the winter weather setting in. The Council would look at the possibility of employing the lengthsman for a day a month, but it was made very clear that the lengthsman had no remit to go out looking for jobs.</p> <p>There had been an incident of fly tipping in Spearhay Lane. A white van had been seen in the area and it is thought that the owner might be the culprit.</p>
225	<p>County and District Council Report</p> <p>Discussions regarding moving towards the Unitary model continue with discussions now to take place regarding what powers could be passed down to town and parish councils in the future. Concerns expressed in relation to WDDC insisting that they will only communicate with the council if they have a 'GOV' email address as from the 1st April 2017. Concerns were expressed at the possibility of devolved powers with no additional funding to enable them to be carried out.</p>
226	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) The following accounts were agreed for payment: Wayne Dowell £80.00 (1283), Glasdon £177.83 (1286), Darren Strawbridge £268.75 (1287).</p> <p>b) The Income/expenditure v budget was examined and agreed.</p> <p>c) Date of budget meeting to be agreed.</p> <p>d) Grant forms had been sent to all councillors for circulation</p>
227	<p>Highways and Lengthsman</p> <p>More trouble with contractors entering private land without permission with concerns as to whether they hold adequate insurance cover. No requests had been made for the services of the lengthsman. Question as to where the various fire hydrants are located and whether a map could be provided. Cllr Higgins would investigate.</p>
228	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p><i>Amenities:</i> Cllr M Stead would install the gritbin at Birdsmoor Gate and number the bins. Cllr Arnold had painted the Holditch Notice Board.</p> <p><i>ROW:</i> Awaiting permission and funding to complete works</p> <p><i>Transport:</i> Axminster, Chard and Bridport bus passenger numbers continue to be high (average 75% -85% full) There will be a coffee morning and craft sale on 12th November to raise funds for the bus services. Application to be made for match funding for the £500 already raised.</p>

	<p><i>Playing Field:</i> Difficulties being experienced in getting everyone to agree for a date for the AGM</p> <p>Community Shop: An EGM will take place on the 2nd November. Management to consist of eight shareholders.</p>
229	<p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) WD/D/16/001778 Magdalen Farm, Maudlin Lane, Winsham: Installation of play equipment: Support b) WD/D/16/002266 & 002267 Glebe House: Re-roof garage and convert redundant barn for ancillary use: Support c) Determination: WD/D/16/002032 Thorncombe Farm: Carry out repair and refurbishment, including utility/WC. Replace windows and doors: Granted d) Trees: The clerk informed the meeting that the only trees that have any protection are either those with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or those in a Conservation Area. In the case of the latter there is a duty to apply for permission, but the only way that the tree can be saved is to have a TPO placed on it. A TPO will only be issued if the tree has significant value or is of historical interest. The parish council cannot get involved with domestic tree problems with landowners unless the tree is a danger to the highway, public right of way or it would have an effect on land owned by the council.
230	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Letter from Mr Turner thanking the Council for their assistance in backing his planning application b) Dorset Review –CPRE Autumn publication c) Clerks & Councils Direct –November issue d)
231	<p>Unitary Options Consultation</p> <p>The sub-group provided the Council with a detailed report of their responses to the Unitary Options questionnaire. They did not feel that in general terms any of the proposals would be viable. Great concerns were expressed at the possibility of bringing all council tax rates up to an equal basis, as this would mean that remote country areas with little or no amenities paying on the same basis as urban areas who enjoy the full range of facilities.</p>
232	<p>Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 7.30pm</p>

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----