

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the 3rd November 2020, commencing at 7pm

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 (Dorset Council).and one member of the public.

Draft until Approved

220	Apologies No apologies had been received.
221	Declarations of Interest No Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct were made at this stage of the meeting.
222	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 th October 2020 were accepted as a true record, and were signed by the chairman.
223	Matters Arising No matters arising
224	Democratic Period. A member of the public spoke about his application which was on the agenda to be dealt with this evening. He explained that the building replaced another building and felt that it would not be visible by neighbours. He stated that the accommodation would rarely be let out, as it is used mainly by friends, and that there would be very little increase in traffic. He also made the point that whilst there is a septic tank it only normally needs emptying every two years
225	Planning It was agreed that this item on the agenda would be brought forward so that the member of the public could then leave the meeting if he so wished.

	<p>WD/D/20/002055 Coggans Farm, Lower Holditch Lane, Lower Holditch: Erect Annexe.</p> <p>The meeting noted that letters had been received from residents who were concerned about the proposed development. The chairman apologised for the breach in protocol regarding a site visit recently. There were concerns that this application went against the West Dorset Local Plan, and that, if approved, it could set a precedent to other applications in the area in the future. There were also concerns that this structure could become a dwelling rather than an annex. On the vote, two members were in favour of not supporting, whilst two members were in favour; therefore, the chairman had to give a casting vote, which he did against supporting the application</p>
225	<p>Dorset Councillors Report</p> <p>Cllr Christopher informed the meeting that he had stressed to Cllr Flower, the leader of Dorset Council, the importance of keeping services available to local resident, including the transport network. He was also concerned that leisure centres should be reopened as soon as possible because many people have suffered from so many restrictions since March 2020. These facilities contribute so much to physical and mental wellbeing. He had also spoken with Russell Goff of Dorset Council regarding the importance of keeping footpaths open and not blocked in any way. He also stated that he had visited our community shop and found everyone cheerful. He understood that lockdown will bring new challenges to both the shop and the social club, and hopefully those restrictions will not continue beyond the 2nd December. Car parks in Dorset will remain open during lockdown. He made reference to local press coverage of the fact that car parking charges are due to increase. The schools are to remain open during lockdown and the buses to serve them. He would also be interested to learn more about how local bus services could be improved. He had received increased correspondence from those with assured shorthold tenancy agreements, and those in social housing questioning whether he could assist in their wish to move from villages in West Dorset into local towns. Another area that he was looking at was broadband coverage, which is so important in a rural area.</p>
226	<p>Account for Payment: There were no accounts for payment.</p>
227	<p>Financial Update</p> <p>The finance update was approved.</p>
228	<p>Former Telephone Box</p> <p>It was agreed that Mr Mark Agnew would be approached to see if he would project manage. The chairman stated that Mark was concerned that people needed to be consulted as to the future use of this box. Cllr Hiscock stated that people had been asked in the past for their views, however only one person had responded. There was therefore a question as to whether people wanted this facility at all. An article would be placed in the magazine and on Facebook.</p>
229	<p>Provision of Signs and Litter Bins</p> <p>Cllr Basham had purchased the notice that would be placed at Headstock Cross. It was agreed that due to the high cost the council would not provide additional bins.</p>

230	<p>Councillors' Reports Bus Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Passenger numbers on the Fortnightly Wednesday Bridport A and B PlusBus's have remained the same as last month. ● The No 14 (Thorncombe to Chard) is averaging 16 passenger journeys each week, (i.e. 100% over the October period). No double running from Tatworth to Chard was needed, as several more mobile regulars are choosing to use the No 30, (Buses of Somerset), to help prevent this happening. ● The No. 688; (Thorncombe to Axminster) is now up to 15 passenger journeys each week, (i.e. 94% over the October period). ● Our application to Tatworth and Forton Parish Council, for another £400 grant towards the annual costs of running the No 14. DM participated in T&F PC Finance Committee Zoom Meeting on 22/10/20. ● It was again stated that the grant application was on hold, due to three reasons; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The Covid-19 Pandemic 2 It should be for the benefit of both Tatworth and Forton*, 3 "Other considerations" stated as "Competition", pending the start of an "alternative bus service" serving the two villages*. (However no plans to serve Thorncombe, Forde Abbey Cottages and Chard Junction). <p>*N.B. No14 cannot officially run over the route of South West Coaches No 96, which runs through Forton 6 days a week. This has been stated to T&F PC, both last year and this year</p> <p>Playfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There has been interest from a parishioner to form a Parent Group, in order to comply with all stated guidelines, thus allowing the playground to re-open. <p>In the meantime the Playground remains closed</p>
231	<p>Determinations and Withdrawals None received.</p>
232	<p>Correspondence Nil</p>
233	<p>Items of Urgency Nil</p>
234	<p>The meeting was closed at 8.35pm</p> <p>Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st December 2020 (virtual) at 7pm</p>

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Signed Chairman

Date