

**Clerk to the Council:**

Mr J.F. Vanderwolfe FILCM, Chartered MCIPD  
 Newenham  
 5 Halletts Way  
 Axminster  
 EX13 5NB  
 01297 34444  
[johnvw@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:johnvw@tiscali.co.uk)

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at the Thorncombe Community Centre, commencing at 7.30pm**

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

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

It was noted that the meeting was being recorded

Draft until Approved

371	<p><b>Apologies</b>          An apology was received and accepted from Cllr D Marsh</p>
372	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b>          Cllr J Higgs informed the meeting that he had until recently been a member of the Thorncombe Trust. The Thorncombe trust had made written comments to Dorset Council in respect of planning application P/FU1 /2021/01114 at a meeting he had attendee, however he had abstained; and had now resigned from that association.</p>
373	<p><b>Minutes</b>          The minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record.</p>
374	<p><b>Matters Arising</b>          There were no matters arising.</p>
375	<p><b>Democratic Period</b>          The chairman had been asked to question if any 5G mobile masts were planned for the Thorncombe area. It was understood that there nearest one was at Winterbourne Stapleton. Cllr Christopher agreed to check if planning permission is required for these masts</p>

	<p>A resident asked for details regarding item nine on the agenda and stated that she had submitted a number of questions appertaining to the community shop lease and loan to the May meeting. The chairman responded by stating that her questions had indeed been noted and that at present legal guidance was being taken on the matter. The resident asked if her points were agreed by the council, to which the chairman responded by reiterating his earlier remarks that legal guidance was being taken on the matter, and that no further comments would be made at this stage.</p>
<b>376</b>	<p><b>Dorset Council Report</b>  Councillor Simon Christopher had submitted an interim report to members prior to the meeting, within that report, which was noted by members, Cllr Christopher mentioned that Dorset Council continued to be under pressure trying to deal with the increased number of planning applications and land charge searches. He also made mention of the Bus Back Better report published by HM Government in March. He informed us that Cllr Ray Bryan, the portfolio holder for highways, travel and the environment has been working on the Dorset Council bus service improvement plan. Cllr Bryan has been quoted at having said “in response to the Government new National Bus Strategy which aims to make bus services more attractive, cheaper, easier to use, faster more reliable and greener. The plan will be a collaboration with local bus operators, community groups and passengers themselves. The Council has reviewed the operations that Dorset has through the National Bus Strategy and the preferred approach is to develop an enhanced partnership for the council area, which will be an agreement between the council and local bus operators to work together to improve local bus services. The plan will be published in the autumn</p>
<b>377</b>	<p><b>Accounts for Payment</b>  Resolved to ratify the following payments: Dorset Council £45.00, Playsafety Limited £246.60 and DAPTC £259.14</p>
<b>378</b>	<p><b>Financial Update</b>  The finance update was approved. Total financial assets as at the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 were £18,019.86</p>
<b>379</b>	<p><b>Community Shop Loan/Rent</b>  <b>It was resolved that this item be deferred until a future meeting whilst legal guidance was obtained</b></p>
<b>380</b>	<p><b>Registration of Path/Land at Playfield with Land Registry</b>  <b>It was resolved to instruct the clerk to pursue this matter with a firm of solicitors.</b> It was felt that there could be a conflict of interest with Beviss Beckingsale, therefore it was agreed that the clerk would use another company of solicitors on this occasion.</p>
<b>381</b>	<p><b>Recording of Meetings</b>  The chairman informed the meeting that he had received a request to hear a recording of the meeting by a member of the public who had a particular interest in a item being discussed this evening. The clerk stated that his recorder was primarily to aid him with writing of the minutes because he had found it very useful having the proceedings recorded whist we had conducted the meetings virtually. He made</p>

	<p>the point that there was not a problem under GDPR with the recording of meetings open to the public providing everyone at the meeting was made aware of that being done; in fact a member of the public could record the meeting if they wished. It was understood that some of the town councils, including Lyme Regis, recorded their meetings. Cllr Hiscock was also recording the meeting using his phone. It was noted that there would be a cost to the council if it wished to video the meeting.</p> <p><b>Resolved not to take any further action on this item at present.</b></p>
382	<p><b>Code of Conduct</b></p> <p>Both Cllr Basham and the clerk had attended a briefing organised by DPTC in respect of the new Code of Conduct that had been adopted by Dorset Council. The Dorset council hoped that all parish and town councils would adopt this code as it would make it easier to deal with any issues in the future. Cllr Basham and the clerk reported that they had found the briefing useful and felt that the idea of uniformity was a good one. There would shortly be a requirement for all members to fill out a new digital Register of Interest form. The form can then be updated by a member at any time if their details changed. <b>Resolved that members would study the new code and make a decision at the September meeting.</b></p>
383	<p><b>Playfield Report</b></p> <p>A generous donation of £2k had been received from Thorncombe Village Hall. A committee meeting had been held on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, with a further meeting planned for the 24<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the recent ROSPA report and any works that will be required as a result of their recommendations. There has sadly been some instances of vandalism in the park in recent times.</p>
384	<p><b>Bus Services</b></p> <p>Passenger numbers had increased in May and June. An application for funding has been made to the Dorset Council's Community Covid-19 restart programme for £2k, however, sadly the application made to Chard Town Council for funding has been declined.</p>
385	<p><b>Former Telephone Box</b></p> <p>Cllr Hiscock informed the meeting that a number of suggestions had been obtained regarding the future positioning of the former telephone box, with some people indicating that they would like to see it back in its original position. The meeting agreed that this was not an option, and that the location was private land. Most people favoured locating it at the front of the village hall. Cllr Hiscock stated that he felt that the location of the box would really be determined by its future agreed use. He also felt that it was important that any future use did not conflict with the operation of the community shop. There would be a requirement to spend some money on the refurbishment in the future. The clerk informed the meeting that we had already agreed that there would be some expenditure involved when it had been agreed to proceed with the project. <b>Resolved that Power to act be given to the clerk to pay for expenditure, providing it was agreed with the chairman and Cllr Hiscock.</b></p>
386	<p><b>BAVLAP and DAPTC</b></p> <p>It would sadly seem that BAVLAP has become lapsed, and it might be useful to attend BLAP (or Lyme Forward) meetings in the future.</p>

	<p>Cllr Hiscock informed the meeting that he had been unable to attend the recent meeting of DAPTC, however he understood that most of that meeting had been taken up discussing the actions of the previous meeting, although many of the planned actions had not taken place due to Covid-19</p>
<b>387</b>	<p><b>School</b> The chairman informed the meeting that Catherine Davis had agreed to provide the meeting with an end of term report for the next meeting.</p>
<b>388</b>	<p><b>Village Hall</b> The first post- Covid-19 committee meeting is scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> July</p>
<b>389</b>	<p><b>Police and Neighbourhood Watch</b> There had been a number of thefts in the area including one in which motor bikes had been stolen by gaining access via the roof.</p>
<b>390</b>	<p><b>Other Reports</b> No reports received regarding Rights of Way, Community Shop, Allotments or the Community Car Service</p>
<b>391</b>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b> P/Ful/2021/01114 Park View, Thorncombe: Erect dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling and ancillary building. Members felt that the proposal was over development. The point was made that Thorncombe is not a sustainable community and that it would appear that the proposed development is not in line with the WDDC Development Plan, which at present, until it is replaced by the Dorset Development Plan, is the framework used for accessing planning applications. There are also access problems relating to the site. Thorncombe Parish Council is therefore unable to support this application.</p> <p>P/Hou/2021/00806 Coggans Farm, Lower Holditch: Wood fired hot tub in garden. Members noted this application but decided not to comment.</p>
<b>392</b>	<p><b>Determinations</b> .No notice of planning applications being determined had been received</p>
<b>393</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b>  Nil</p>
<b>394</b>	<p><b>Items of Urgency</b>  Nil</p>
<b>395</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b>  Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm</p>

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----