

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30pm in the Thorncombe Village Hall

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

In Attendance:-The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Cllr S Christopher and five members' of the public.

Draft until Approved

830	Apologies No apologies for absence
831	Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct No declarations were made at this stage of the meeting.
832	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 th September 2023, having been previously distributed; were agreed as a true record; and were then signed by the chairman.
833	Matters Arising Cllr M Stead asked about the Chard Parkway item that he had been informed was being stated on Facebook that we had supported. He was referred to the item in the minutes which stated that this council had approved a feasibility study to reopen this station. The clerk stated that the Southwestern Railway Development Manager had informed him that they preferred to see an improved bus service for Chard, and wanted an additional passing loop installed near to Cranbrook so that Great Western could also operate services on this line.
834	Monthly Surgery Concerns had been raised in relation to a hedge in the High Street that required attention. There was a suggestion that the person be asked to cut it back or the council would arrange for the work to be done; and pass the bill on. The clerk pointed out that whilst a friendly letter of request could be sent requesting the

	<p>works to be done, in the hope that that was successful, only the highway authority had the power to undertake the works, and recharge.</p> <p>Concerns expressed regarding a development that has commenced work without planning permission. The clerk informed members that unless the property was listed or in a conservation order it was not an offence to commence works, however, if at a later stage planning permission was thought, the planning authority had the power to make the owner restore the building to the original structure, or to demolish works. This was backed up by Cllr Hiscock.</p> <p>More fly tipping at Headstock Cross. This has been reported.</p>
835	<p>Democratic Period</p> <p>The owner of Magdalen Farm stated that he had been requested to attend the meeting to discuss his planning application (P/Ful/2023/02425), however, having discussed the application with the planning authority he had decided to withdraw the application. A member of the public interrupted the speaker, and was asked to await her turn to speak. The owner stated that he would probably submit another application in the future. He was thanked for attending. A parishioner then addressed the meeting and complained that she had not been informed that the application had been withdrawn; therefore she had wasted her time attending. She was informed that the council had not received an official notification of the withdrawal prior to the agenda having been posted. She then continued to inform the meeting of the problems she had encountered over this application. The chairman then told her that as the application had been withdrawn there was little point in discussing the matter further. The lady retorted by stating that as this was the democratic period she felt she could continue. The chairman reinforced the point that this would be pointless and asked if there were any other matters she wished to discuss. She responded by stating that this was, in her view undemocratic, however she did not make any further points for the meeting,</p>
836	<p>Planning</p> <p>As the planning application for Magdalen Farm had been withdrawn by the applicant, and there were no other planning applications to be dealt with, the meeting moved to next business.</p>
837	<p>Accounts for Payment</p> <p>Resolved to ratify the following payments: Dial Grass Cut £1260.00 and J Vanderwolfe (Expenses) £83.00. It was clarified that there would be a credit note issued for part of the Dial Grass Cut.</p>
838	<p>Financial Update</p> <p>The finance update was approved. A question was asked regarding playfield expenditure being higher than the budget. The clerk explained the reason for this.</p> <p>Financial Assets as of 28th September 2023 were £26,302.48.</p>
839	<p>Dorset Councillor's Report</p> <p>Cllr Christopher had circulated his report prior to the meeting which was duly noted.</p>
840	<p>Bus Services</p>

	Most bus loadings remain reasonable except for the Bridport service. Upper Marshwood Vale had agreed to contribute £500 for the weekly Axminster service.
841	Community Shop The summer trade had been good.
842	Rights of Way A gate in Blind Lane had been replaced, but sadly with a footpath rather than a bridleway gate. Concerns over the condition of the wall by the chapel. Agreed this was a property and not a ROW issue.
843	Police The police officer had not been seen in the village for some time. Reports of cold callers being aggressive when residents refuse to buy goods.
844	Playfield A young person in the village had volunteered to undertake the weekly health and safety checks. A checklist would be prepared.
845	Former Telephone Box An offer had been made to provide some shelving free of charge.
846	School A report had been circulated
847	Closing of Meeting The chairman declared the meeting closed at 8..36pm
848	Next Meeting Tuesday 7 th November 2023 at 7.30pm

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----