

Clerk to the Council:

J.F. Vanderwolfe FILCM, Chartered MCIPD

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Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held at the Thorncombe Village Hall on Thursday 14th May 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr's R Arnold (Chairman), S Dunford, S Welford, J Higgs, R Peacock, M Stead , D Marsh and C Sowerbutts and nine members of the public.

In Attendance:-The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Cllr D Turner (Dorset County Council)

001	Election of Chairman Councillor R Arnold was proposed by Cllr J Higgs, seconded by Cllr M Stead. Cllr S Welford proposed Cllr J Higgs, however he declined the nomination, therefore, there being no other nominations, Councillor R Arnold was elected for the ensuing year.
002	Declaration of Office Councillor R Arnold took the Declaration of Office; witnessed by the Proper Officer, Mr J Vanderwolfe.
003	Vice Chairman Councillor J Higgs was proposed by Cllr R Arnold, seconded by Cllr M Stead. There were no other nominations; therefore Cllr J Higgs was elected as Vice-chairman for the ensuing year.
004	Committees and Outside Bodies A) Finance & General Purposes: Cllr's S Welford (Chair), R Arnold, J Higgs and D Marsh. B) Planning: Cllr's N Higgins (Chair), R Peacock, M Stead and C Sowerbutts.

	<p>C) Cemeteries & Allotments: Cllr's J Higgs, S Dunford, R Peacock and S Welford.</p> <p>D) Amenities: Cllr's M Stead, R Arnold, N Higgins and J Higgs.</p> <p>E) Village Hall: Cllr M Stead</p> <p>F) Blackdown Trust: Cllr J Higgs</p> <p>G) Playing Field: Cllr's R Peacock and D Marsh</p> <p>H) Public Transport: Cllr D Marsh</p> <p>I) Website: Cllr C Sowerbutts</p> <p>J) Emergency: Cllr's M Stead, R Peacock & J Higgs</p> <p>K) DAPTC: Cllr S Welford</p> <p>L) Car Service: Cllr J Higgs</p> <p>M) Rights of Way: Cllr N Higgins</p> <p>N) CAB: Cllr R Arnold</p> <p>O) Community Shop: Cllr R Peacock & Cllr M Stead</p> <p>P) Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr M Stead</p> <p>Q) SOLCC: Mr J Vanderwolfe</p>
005	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct. The clerk informed the meeting that all councillors had made their declaration of acceptance of office and had been provided with new Register of Interest Forms, which would need to be returned to him as soon as possible.</p>
006	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th April 2015 were adopted subject to the following alterations: Minute 1178 Gateway: Cllr Welford reported that Cllr D Turner had offered the use of the Lyme Regis Speed Indicator System to Thorncombe. Minute 1178 Rights of Way: Last sentence was incomplete and should read 'he was preparing a chronological list of the events relating to the long term closure of footpath 60 at Westwood Mills and the proposed diversion. There were great concerns regarding the inability of Dorset County Council to deal with this problem in a satisfactory manner.</p>
007	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Cllr D Turner stated that there had been no agreement from Lyme Regis Town Council regarding the use of their Speed Indicator Device (SID). It was suggested that the clerk writes to the town clerk at Lyme Regis making a request for Thorncombe to loan the SID equipment</p> <p>Some works had taken place at Goughs Barton.</p> <p>Cllr D Marsh queried the agreement that Cllr Higgins could be reimbursed for the cost of paint for signposts. It was explained that he would still need to make an expenses claim to the Council for such expenses.</p>
008	<p>Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch</p> <p>Cllr N Higgins reported that there had been a theft from his home. Cllr D Marsh was concerned about a car that had been parked by the church for some considerable time. He would update the council at the next meeting.</p>
009	<p>Power Of Competence</p> <p>Resolved, that as this Council has complied with the requirements of the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, the Power of Competence be re-instated until May 2019.</p>

010	<p>Democratic Period</p> <p>A parishioner congratulated the new councillors on being elected and went on to thank everyone for speaking up so that they could be heard. There was a question regarding the proposed diversion of Yawlings, however sadly no update had been provided.</p> <p>Concerns expressed about the article in Beneath the Vale which had criticised both the parish council and the Thorncombe Trust. There were also concerns expressed regarding the state of the playing field.</p>
011	<p>Post Office Changes to operating hours</p> <p>Mr Goodall attended the meeting and explained that following a tremendous drop in turnover of post office takings which resulted in the fee payable to Post Office Ltd not being sufficient to cover staffing costs. It was hoped that an Outreach service, similar to that provided to Broadwindsor would commence on the 27th May. The present service will cease on the 15th May. The person providing the outreach service would not be able to provide this service to Thorncombe on a Friday because they are committed to providing the service elsewhere. The outreach service would provide a bigger range of service than that at present on offer.</p>
012	<p>County and District Councillor's Reports</p> <p>The district councillor had provided an apology because she had booked another meeting prior to being elected to her new position. Cllr Turner spoke about the major savings that would be made now that West Dorset/ Weymouth & Portland and North Dorset were working together. There were now 30 Conservative and 12 Liberal Democrats on the district council, making a total of 42; which is 6 less than last year under the new arrangements.</p>
013	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Payments: Resolved to pay the following accounts: Holditch Hall £200 91218), CAB £100.00 (1219), Thorncombe PCC £100.00 (1220), Thorncombe Swimming Pool £100.00 (1221), Came & Company £617.88 (1222), NALC £17.00 (1223). b) Financial Regulations: Resolved to adopt the new regulations subject to a number of small alterations. Cllr R Arnold would list these to the clerk for amendment. c) Annual Accounts: The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015 were adopted d) Annual Governance Statement: The Annual Governance Statement was adopted e) Internal Auditor's Report: The report from Mr D Knowles, the Internal Auditor, was adopted. There were no comments to be taken into consideration.
014	<p>Standing Orders</p> <p>Resolved to keep the present Standing Orders.</p>
015	<p>Beneath the Vale Magazine Article</p> <p>There were serious concerns in relation to an article published in Beneath the Vale, a newsletter run by a committee in association with Upper Marshwood Vale Parish (UMVPC) Council. The clerk, who is also the clerk to UMVPC, felt that a retraction would be forthcoming at the forthcoming UMVPC meeting, scheduled for the 21st</p>

	<p>May at Bettiscombe. Cllr M Stead asked if this situation put the clerk in an awkward position, to which the clerk replied that as he had had no part in the writing of the article and could not be held responsible for the actions of elected members, he could not see how he could be in an awkward position. He did however feel that possibly it would be a good idea if our chairman wrote to the UMPVPC chairman, otherwise he would land up writing a letter to himself! This was agreed.</p>
016	<p>Highways Report It was understood, with regret, that Mr Frampton would no longer be able to continue as our Honorary Highway's Officer. All agreed that he had done a tremendous job, and it was resolved that the clerk would write a letter of appreciation on behalf of the Council. There was some muck on the road in the Holditch area which was felt to be a traffic hazard. Lengthsman to be asked to deal with this.</p>
017	<p>Councillors' Reports Rights of Way: Scalpings to be provided and hopefully some funding from AONB towards signage Transport: DBS checks being made on new volunteers for the car service. Gateway: Cllr Welford had met with representatives and it was understood that the costs for this project could be between £1,500 and £2,256. She would look at funding from AONB and other sources. Playing Field: Concerns about the lack of movement to put the equipment right and re-open the playing field. The specification for the grass cutting had not been provided. Cllr Peacock stated that he had obtained some prices, however it was stated that this was not in line with the tendering process. Agreed that the matter would be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, with power to act. In the meantime the clerk was authorised to ask the present contractor to undertake one cut.</p>
018	<p>Planning WD/D/15/000540/Full Westford Cottage, Westford Park Road, Chard Junction. Demolish ground floor lean-to bathroom and replace with ground floor extension. Support.</p>
019	<p>Correspondence Boundary Commission: Review of County Council wards for Dorset. It would seem that there were no changes proposed for the Marshwood ward. Noted</p>
020	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th July at 7.30pm</p>

