

Clerk to the Council:

Mr J.F. Vanderwolfe FILCM, Chartered MCIPD
Newenham
5 Halletts Way
Axminster
EX13 5NB
☐ 01297 34444
johnvw@tiscali.co.uk

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the 6th October 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) and Cllr S Christopher (Dorset Council).

Draft until Approved

205	Apologies No apologies had been received.
206	Declarations of Interest No Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct were made at this stage of the meeting.
207	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 1 st September 2020 were accepted as a true record, and were signed by the chairman.
208	Matters Arising No matters arising
209	Democratic Period. Concerns expressed by a parishioners regarding the large amount of rubbish being left by car users at Headstock Cross. It was suggested that a sign asking people to take their litter home could be placed there. The clerk asked whether Dorset Council would permit additional bins in the parish if the parish council paid for them. Cllr Christopher would look into that matter and liaise with the clerk. A parishioner was willing to paint the former telephone box, which was now owned by the council. The chairman would speak with the Village Hall committee regarding moving the box to their land. A parishioner was to be asked if he would project manage the move.

210	<p>Dorset Councillors Report (Written Report Received)</p> <p>Since we last met we have seen an influx of visitors, though this has made the roads, etc very busy , it has boosted the economy and given time for holidays for NHS key workers and others to enjoy relaxation in our wonderful county.</p> <p>We have seen enforcement issues raised in the Ward from Chideock residents up to Littlewindsor and from Holditch across to Stoke Abbott. I spoke as Ward Member in favour of the Drimpton Affordable Housing Scheme at the recent planning meeting.</p> <p>It is my understanding that the current arrangement for low numbers of council staff to work in offices will continue until March 2021.</p> <p>Most pressingly, we see the challenges this Autumn of schools reopening, pressures on our retail and leisure businesses. I fear that as the days shorten we will not see any improvement in the attitude of some drivers and I will continue to work with the council’s highway safety officers. I will continue to assist with the dialogue between the Thorncombe Shop and the Finance Portfolio Holder.</p> <p>We will have a greater focus on the budget for 2021/22 and how the commitments of Dorset Council will be paid for and how much the Government will support the Council.</p> <p>Finally, with respect to development, there will be continuing debate on where substantial housing developments should be built primarily adjacent to our large towns and you should expect more media coverage around this issue as the summer disappears into the memory.</p>
211	<p>Account for Payment: The following accounts were agreed for payment: J Vanderwolfe £55.60, Dial a Grass Cut £560.00 & HMRC £213.20. Noted that a refund had been received from Darren Strawbridge.</p>
212	<p>Financial Update The finance update was approved with the financial assets as of the 26th September being at £14,713.80</p>
213	<p>War Memorial A letter had been circulated from a gentleman who thought that a name had been left off the War Memorial. The Church confirmed that the name was on the war memorial and on a Roll of Honour in the church. It had been reported that the war memorial needs some attention, and to that end quotations will be obtained to undertake the work.</p>
214	<p>Remembrance Day 2020 The chairman will lay the wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Day, which this year falls on the 8th November. The clerk informed the meeting that a wreath had been ordered on behalf of the council. At this time it was unclear as to whether there would be a church service or not.</p>
215	<p>Councillors’ Reports Bus Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passenger numbers on the Fortnightly Wednesday Bridport A PlusBus have decreased September with only 1 passenger each trip. Bridport B, however has maintained numbers of 4-5 passengers each trip.

- The No 14, (Thorncombe to Chard) continues to be very well used, in fact is over capacity. This service is averaging 17 passenger journeys each week, (over the September period). This is necessitating double running from Tatworth to Chard on a regular basis.
- The No. 688; (Thorncombe to Axminster) is around the same, averaging 10.5 passenger journeys each week, (over the September period).
- Regarding our application to Tatworth and Forton Parish Council, (T&F PC), for another £400 grant towards the annual costs of running Service No. 14 (Thorncombe to Chard). F
- Following the Chairman of their Finance Committee's phone call last month prior to a Finance Committee meeting (and a subsequent phone conversation with the Clerk), it has now been decided that our grant application will not be "rejected" but "put on hold".
- This due to ongoing discussions by T&F PC, regarding the start of an "alternative bus service" serving the village.
- Needless to say, this came as a big blow to our efforts over the past 4-5 years and the fact that this bus service has been so valued by the villagers and all concerned since the start of this process.

● **Tree trimming for the double deck school buses on the A02 route:**

- Good news; the first Double Deck school bus ran on Wednesday September 16/20 thereby enabling correct social distancing on this bus. Unfortunately, it almost ran our esteemed Chairman of Thorncombe PC down on the way through Thorncombe!

Playground

- The planned TPFA Committee Meeting, (7 members), for September 21/20, was cancelled, due to the new "Rule of Six" government law covering all gatherings either indoors or out.
- In the meantime the Playground remains closed.
- Appreciation was verbally expressed in recent phone conversations with committee members, for the support given by Thorncombe Parish Council, during these very difficult times.
- Dial-A-Grass cut (Mark Atyeo), have indicated that the grass cutting in the Playground done on 29/9/20 is probably the final one of this year.

Mark did agree that they will do another cut of the strip of land between the Old Vicarage and the Graveyard, within the next few weeks

Beaminster & Villages Local Area Partnership (BAVLAP)

Covid 19 Reponse:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All participants agreed that the Pandemic had brought out the best in all the communities represented and had shown that there could again be a co-ordinated response, should there be a second wave of Covid 19. ● Other initiatives mentioned were Community Fridges to help food supplies ● Beaminster shop is now operating Click and Collect system. ● Under-5 children could have been left out during lock down etc., since many of the groups for parents with children in this age group have not been able to meet. Similarly with older shielding adults, for lunch clubs etc. ● Unfortunately Broadwindsor Community Responders have had to disband, with the equipment available to be loaned out for teaching purposes. <p><u>BAVLAP funding and responsibilities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Alternative funding streams will have to be identified, as Dorset Council has not, as yet, confirmed further funding for Local Area Partnerships.</u> ● <u>Beaminster Food Bank will now have their own Bank Account, so will no longer need the help of BAVLAP to administer their funds.</u> <p><u>Changes to healthcare provision in Beaminster and Bridport:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practice mergers and sharing of resources are under discussion involving GP practices in Beaminster and Bridport. (Similar to mergers already completed in Lyme Regis). ● There is concern about provision of transport between the two towns, as collaboration and integration of services develop within the Jurassic Coast Primary Care Network. ● It was pointed out that “GP Practices are businesses and do not come under the responsibility of Dorset Council”. <p>School: A full report is being sent to the magazine by the school</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr M Stead reminded everyone to be vigilant. A white van has been seen in the area, and it is understood that a number of dogs have been stolen in the area. Concerns about the lack of rural policing resources in the area. Cllr Christopher to speak with the Police and Crime Commissioner on this issue.</p>
216	<p>Planning Applications WD/D/20/001972 Valley View, School House, Thorncombe. Remove roof structure and replace with increased ridge height. Extend to the side and convert existing outbuildings into ancillary accommodation. Members felt that the proposed alterations would improve the property, and therefore supported it.</p>
217	<p>Determinations and Withdrawals None received.</p>

218	<p>Correspondence The Inspector had now concluded her report regarding the diversion of footpaths 37 and 103, and had upheld the proposed diversion proposal.</p>
219	<p>The meeting was closed at 8pm</p> <p>Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd November (virtual) at 7pm</p>

Signed Chairman

Date