

Clerk to the Council:

J.F. Vanderwolfe Chartered MCIPD

Mr

Newenham

Halletts Way

5

Axminster

EX13 5NB

01297 34444

☐ johnvw@tiscali.co.uk

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Thorncombe Village Hall on Tuesday 7th April 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr's R Arnold (Chairman), S Dunford, S Welford, J Higgs, R Peacock, M Stead and N Higgins

In Attendance:-The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Cllr M Robinson (West Dorset District Council) and four members of the public.

1168	<p>Apologies An apology was received from Cllr P Gordon after the meeting due to illness of his father. An apology had been received from Cllr D Turner (Dorset County Council).</p>
1169	<p>Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct Cllr R Peacock declared a pecuniary interest in planning application WD/D/15/000081 as it is his application. He announced that he would leave the room prior to any discussion on this application taking place.</p>
1170	<p>Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd March 2015 were adopted as a true record; and were signed by the chairman. It was noted that in minute 1158 Goss Barton in the final paragraph should read Goughs Barton. There was a comment made regarding a possible fact not included from the County Council report. The clerk requested that when detailed reports are being given by representatives that they follow it up with a written report as it is difficult to get all the information down</p>

	<p>on paper when people speak quickly. Cllr S Welford was concerned that if the minutes were corrected the copies on the noticeboards and websites would not be accurate. The clerk explained that all minutes are draft until approved. If there are significant changes then a revised copy could be issued; but he did not feel that this was required for minor points. It should also be noted that the next minutes contain any alterations under the minutes of the previous meeting item. It was noted that in minute 1163 the amount for cheque 1213 had not been shown. Confirmed that the amount was £8.00.</p>
1171	<p>Matters Arising A question was asked about the neighbourhood plan and the clerk replied that minute 1160 had recorded the fact that this event would take place on the 16th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The clerk was then asked if he had received any information from the chairman of the playing field committee; to which he replied that sadly no information had been received as promised at the February meeting. Cllr N Higgins informed the clerk that he had a copy of the agreement between the council and the playing field committee which he would email to him.</p>
1172	<p>Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch No report</p>
1173	<p>Democratic Period There was a question asked about how much work the parish lengthsman can undertake. A question regarding the budget and expenditure for the lengthsman scheme was asked and would be replied at the next meeting. The parishioner suggested that possibly he could be given a free range. The clerk pointed out that there could be health and safety and budget problems with that. It is also worth noting that many drains and culverts are the responsibility of landowners. Cllr J Higgs informed the meeting that whenever a request is received for work that can be undertaken by the lengthsman that is passed on to him. A parishioner asked why the old website had appeared again. Unfortunately that could not be answered. There was a question regarding the neighbourhood plan which was dealt with.</p>
1174	<p>County and District Reports County: Cllr D Turner had forwarded an email to the clerk stating that whilst some work had been undertaken at Goughs Barton there were not sufficient financial resources to undertake further work at present. Gullies had been unblocked, but seemed to block up very quickly again. Cllr S Dunford stated that he was not satisfied with this response, however Cllr N Higgins felt that the County had undertaken some work and it had to be understood that budgets were tight. District: Mr Evans, the head of planning was to retire in July. The controversial car park ticket machines located in many towns in West Dorset will remain, however some signage improvements will hopefully provide more assistance to users. There is a problem with the growing amount of litter being deposited at the side of roads. There have been health and safety problems connected with collection of litter, which is being looked into. There were complaints that litter bins in the village are not being emptied. This will be looked into. Cllr M Robinson was thanked by the chairman for his assistance over the last eight years and was presented with a gift from the council. Cllr Robinson thanked the council for the support he had received from the council over those years.</p>

1175	<p>Post Office</p> <p>Letter received from the Field Change Advisor informing the council that consultation was underway to seek to reduce the current opening hours to 10 to 12 on Monday and Wednesday. This was a reduction of one day (Friday) and a reduction from the present 09.30 to 12.50. Charles Goodall would be asked if he would kindly attend the next council meeting to discuss this issue. The clerk confirmed that the closing date for comments is the 21st May.</p>
1176	<p>Website</p> <p>The chairman reported that a meeting had taken place with Mr Eagle, Cllr P Gordon, the clerk and himself. Whilst Mr Eagle had provided a great deal of ideas regarding a community website the financial costs were outside of our budget for such a project. It was agreed that the Hugo Fox site be further investigated, or a similar site, with a budget of £200 earmarked.</p>
1177	<p>Highways</p> <p>Unfortunately Mr Frampton had been unable to attend the meeting due to his wife being ill. Cllr J Higgs stated that there had been no requests for the lengthsman's services.</p>
1178	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p>Village Hall: The Women's Institute were erecting a plaque and planting a magnolia tree to celebrate their centenary of being formed.</p> <p>Rights of Way: New finger post erected on footpath 40. Scalpings may be available for improving the surface to the footpath by the playing field. Donations can be provided to assist with materials for finger posts. Agreed that Cllr Higgins could be reimbursed cost of paint for painting signpost. He was preparing a list of</p> <p>Transport: A new pressure group had been formed. Car service working well with five new volunteers recruited.</p> <p>Playing Field: Still not open</p> <p>Gateway: A meeting had taken place on the 8th March with the traffic engineer and another meeting had been arranged with the AONB manager on the 21st April.</p> <p>Birdsmoor Gate: The request for a mirror is actually not in the Thorncombe parish. It is understood that County are not willing to erect mirrors on highways. There could be a problem with insurance if parish erected one. They would have to have permission to do so. Clerk would however ask Dawn Atkins for her response and would discuss the issue with Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council.</p>
1179	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Payments: The following accounts were agreed for payment: HMRC £192.60 (1214), First Responders (replacement cheque) £100.00 (1216), R Arnold £35.25 (1216), WDDC £10,498.67 (1217).</p> <p>b) Financial Update: A financial update was provided and the bank reconciliation agreed by the chairman. The accounts showed financial assets of £3,435.03 less the agreed payments; making a total of £3107.18.</p>
1180	<p>Planning</p> <p>The meeting dealt with six planning applications with comments contained on the appendix to the minutes</p>
1181	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Nil</p>

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Meetings

The next Council meeting will be the Annual Council Meeting on Thursday 14^h May at 7.30pm following the General Election. The Annual Parish Meeting (public) will be held on Friday 22nd May at 7.30pm

Councillors are reminded of the need to arrive in time to sign their Declaration of Acceptance of Office either before the actual meeting or by arrangement beforehand with the clerk.