

**Clerk to the Council:**

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**Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 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

<b>319</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b> All members present</p>
<b>320</b>	<p><b>Democratic Period</b></p> <p>The chairman stated that he had met a parishioner recently who was concerned about access being denied to what he thought was a public right of way. After discussion it was discovered that this is not a public right of way and that the landowner had every right to either refuse or to warn a walker that the path was not dedicated to the public. The clerk stated that to establish a right of way one would have to prove that persons had been permitted to use it, without being warned that they had no right to do so, for at least 20 years. Cllr M Stead pointed out that there was a right of way near to this field, so he felt that was the route people should use. It was therefore agreed that as the landowner had acted within his rights the matter would be noted; with no action to be taken.</p> <p>The had been a request for the pump to be turned back on by the bus shelter. Cllr Stead stated that there may be a problem there and he would contact the water board to discuss the matter.</p> <p>There had been a question regarding a possible reduction on the interest rates for the loan which had been taken out for the purchase of the community shop. At present no decision had been made to alter the present loan agreement between Dorset Council and Thorncombe Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr D Marsh reported that there had been a recent remark on Facebook about a problem with a bridge on a right of way in the parish suggesting that Dorset Council should rectify the matter. Cllr Christopher informed the meeting there were</p>

	at present over 40 such issues with bridges in the county on the list for action. He asked that details, including, if possible, pictures, be sent to him.
<b>321</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were no Declarations of Interest under the Thorncombe Parish Council Code of Conduct made at this stage of the meeting
<b>322</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> of March 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record.
<b>323</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> There were no matters arising.
<b>324</b>	<b>Dorset Council Report</b> A comprehensive report had been circulated to members from Cllr Christopher, which was noted. The chairman informed Cllr Christopher that the MP had recently contacted the council seeking our views on a suggestion for a National Park, however no details have been received about this; making it hard to respond to. Cllr Christopher stated that there was a National Park Group looking at this and he agreed to forward some details to us on the matter.
<b>325</b>	<b>Accounts for Payment</b> Resolved to ratify the following payments: HMRC PAYE £207.40 and Fern Garden Tree Service £348.00 and Dorset Council £10,498.67.
<b>326</b>	<b>Financial Update</b> The finance update was approved. The financial assets as of the 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021 were £14,640.09.
<b>327</b>	<b>Covid-19 Zoom Meetings</b> The clerk explained to the meeting that when the Government had permitted on-line meetings this was for a twelve-month period until 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2021. At present the Government were not prepared to extend that period; even though many restrictions remain in place until at least June 2021. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had suggested that councils hold their annual council meetings prior to the 7 <sup>th</sup> May so that they can take place online. He suggested that we hold our meeting on the 4 <sup>th</sup> May at 7.15pm, and that the next meeting takes place on the 6 <sup>th</sup> July in the Village Hall. Members felt that this sounded a particularly good plan, and approved his recommendations. The clerk informed the meeting that there was at present a legal challenge on the discontinuation of virtual meeting. The meeting at the Village hall would commence at 7.30pm in the larger room. There was a question on who is required to undertake the risk assessment to which the clerk replied that both the hall management committee and the council would need to undertake it. Cllr Stead offered the facilities of the Sports Club if the hall was not available.
<b>328</b>	<b>Former Telephone Box Project Update</b> Arrangements are in hand to move the former phone box shell to the village hall once it has been taken off its base.

329	<p><b>Playfield Report</b></p> <p>Cllr D Marsh was thanked for his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The chairman asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded in the minutes for all that David had done for the village in respect of the playfield. Cllr Marsh asked that thanks be also recorded for all the other people who had in any way assisted with the project. It was pleasing to see that the park was now open and was being well used by the young people. Cllr Marsh was concerned that when the grass was last cut there had been a great deal of grass left behind. He had asked the contractor if that grass could in future be removed from the site. The contractor had stated there would be an additional charge for disposal of the grass each time it was cut. The clerk queried whether there would be so much grass left behind each time it was cut, especially in the peak of the summer. Agreed that the meeting give the clerk and Cllr Marsh power to act on this matter. The chairman stated that someone had suggested that there was a possible site for an allotment in part of the field, however after discussion it was felt that that would not be practicable.</p>
330	<p><b>Bus Services</b></p> <p>The meeting noted a comprehensive report that had been circulated by Cllr Marsh prior to the meeting and were pleased to note that loadings had improved as lockdown restrictions were being somewhat eased. Cllr Marsh however reported that the grant application for funding from Chard Town Council did not look so promising as it was felt that it did not really benefit the parish of Chard. Finally, Cllr Marsh made comment on the recent announcement that the Government wanted to see major improvements in the frequency of rural buses.</p>
331	<p><b>Community Shop</b></p> <p>The application for the awning for the shop was in the process of being dealt with but required the correct grid reference as the community shop was not coming up on the address system for online planning applications. This would be provided to the clerk so that the application could be completed</p>
332	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <p>No items</p>
333	<p><b>BAVLAP and DAPTC</b></p> <p>DAPC had requested feedback on the Broadband project. Cllr A Hiscock stated that whilst he suspected that they were seeking positive feedback on that project he sadly had to report on his experiences, which were negative. Cllr Hiscock had discussed the problems with the project manager who would feedback his comments to BT Openreach.</p>
334	<p><b>School</b></p> <p>The meeting was pleased that the school is now at last open again</p>
335	<p><b>Community Car Service</b></p> <p>Running OK.</p>
336	<p><b>Rights of Way</b></p> <p>This item had been dealt with under item 320</p>
337	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) P/FUL/2021/00155 Coggans Farm, Lower Holditch: Erection of an agricultural machinery store: <b>Support</b></li> <li>b) P/HOU/2021/00131 Goughs Barton, Stonelake: Demolition of front &amp; rear porches; replacement porch to front elevation and</li> </ul>

	<p>French doors to rear. Installation of replacement windows and additional window to front porch: <b>Support</b></p> <p>c) P/LBC/2021/00164 Gouchs Barton, Stonelake Internal and external alterations to facilitate demolition of existing front and rear porches; Replacement porch to front elevation and french doors to rear. Installation of replacement windows, reopening of internal door opening between annexe and kitchen, partial blocking up of kitchen door to front porch and insertion of window into this opening: <b>Support</b></p>
<b>338</b>	<p><b>Determinations</b></p> <p>Chapel Thatch, Holditch: dismantle tree: <b>Consented</b></p> <p>Manor Farm, Holditch: reduce branches of tree: <b>Refused</b></p>
<b>339</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Nil</p>
<b>340</b>	<p><b>Items of Urgency</b></p> <p>Nil</p>
<b>341</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7.15pm Annual Council Meeting. Virtual Meeting</b></p>

Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....