

**Clerk to the Council:**

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**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 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 (Dorset Council) and one member of the public

Draft until Approved

<b>561</b>	<b>Apologies</b> There were no apologies received
<b>562</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> No Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct were received at this stage of the meeting
<b>563</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2022, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record.
<b>564</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> It was felt that the Annual Parish Meeting had been very successful, and had received very positive feedback. The chairman asked that thanks be given to the club committee for letting use their venue, and he hoped we could do that again next year.
<b>565</b>	<b>Monthly Surgery</b> The attendance for this month had been somewhat sparse, however, the two principle topics discussed were potholes and dog bins. It was felt that the council should look into the possibility of a dog mess dispenser. It was also suggested that dog mess should be double bagged.
<b>566</b>	<b>Democratic Period</b> The chairman of the Community Shop informed the meeting that the committee were looking at replacing the cooler and freezers at an estimated cost of £6,500 inclusive of Vat and wondered if the parish council would consider providing a grant towards

	the cost. The chairman asked her to write formally requesting this and asked the clerk to place it as an agenda item for the July meeting.
<b>567</b>	<b>Internal Auditors Report</b> The Internal Auditor, Mr D Knowles had submitted his report, which had been circulated prior the meeting, and endorsed by the members of the council.
<b>568</b>	<b>Accounts for Payment</b> Resolved to ratify the following payments: Thorncombe Sports Club £50.00, Thorncombe Village Hall £40.00, Gallagher Insurance £1217.53 and Wikes £78.50
<b>569</b>	<b>Financial Update</b> The finance update was approved. Financial assets as 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2022 stood at £21,921.56.
<b>570</b>	<b>Dorset Councillor's Report</b> Cllr Christopher spoke about the possibility of re-opening Chard Junction Train Station which had closed in 1966. With the recent reopening of the Exeter to Oakhampton line and the planned reopening of Cullompton and Wellington on the Penzance to Paddington line he felt that this could be a possibility. He mentioned that certain grants which had been arranged by the former West Dorset District Council, which had little chance of being repaid might be written off. He asked to be informed of any incidents of alleged poor workmanship on highway matters so that he could deal with them.
<b>571</b>	<b>Closed Churchyard</b> The clerk informed the meeting that members should be prepared for a cost of about £2,500 to £3,000 per year if they took on this asset. He then stated that because of the present reserves there should be little need to increase the precept to accommodate this item for a couple of years. The clerk was asked to contact Dorset Council requesting them to make an annual contribution towards running the churchyard. <b>Resolved that the Council take on the responsibility of the Churchyard but that the entrance gate and path to the church door remain the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council.</b>
<b>572</b>	<b>Grants Arrangements.</b> Agreed that the dates on the form would be updated, placed on the website with a closing date for all applications being the 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2022 for the 2023/24 financial year.
<b>573</b>	<b>Playfield</b> It was agreed that the six commemorative mugs that were left over following the presentation to school children would be sold off, and the profit put towards the Playfield. Cllr Marsh informed the meeting that the committee had plans to replace the swings and zip wire. A number of fundraising events were being planned.
<b>574</b>	<b>Bus Services</b> Cllr Marsh informed the meeting that Tesco had informed him that the bus service no longer qualified for the blue token award scheme. The council had already budgeted to subsidise the bus service in this financial year.

<b>575</b>	<b>Community Shop</b> It was reported that trade in the shop was reasonable at the present time. The shop supervisor had informed the committee of her intention to retire next year.
<b>576</b>	<b>Former Telephone Box</b> Members were pleased to note that the exterior of the former phone box had been painted and that the floor would be concreted shortly.
<b>577</b>	<b>Rights of Way</b> The Rights of Way Warden was still awaiting a response on a number of issues from Dorset Council
<b>578</b>	<b>School</b> A school teacher is involving the school in a project to discover the history of the village including the shop and the church.
<b>579</b>	<b>Police and Neighbourhood Watch</b>  The PCSO will normally be in attendance at the Community Shop on the last Friday in the month from 10.30 until 11.30am
<b>580</b>	No reports were given at this meeting for allotments, DAPTC or the Community Car Service
<b>581</b>	<b>Planning Applications</b> P/Ful/2022/03177 Manor Farm, Holditch: Ground Mounted Solar Array. The meeting noted this application.  P/LBC/2022/03339 Goughs Barton: Porch: Support  An application regarding a slurry pit at Westford Farm was discovered to only be for information, and was awaiting for a decision as to whether a planning application was required or could be dealt with under Permitted Rights.
<b>582</b>	<b>Closure of Meeting</b>  The meeting was closed at 9.10pm
<b>583</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>  The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.30pm

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----