

Clerk to the Council:

J.F. Vanderwolfe FILCM Chartered MCIPD

Mr

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Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held at the Thorncombe Village Hall on Friday 5th June 2015 commencing at 6pm.

Present: Cllr's S Welford (Chairman), R Arnold, D Marsh and R Peacock.

In Attendance: The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Mr C Goodall, Mr M Carr and Mr P Roberts

F001	Apologies An apology had been received from Cllr J Higgs (away). Resolved to accept this apology.
F002	Accounts for Payment Resolved to pay account to Thorncombe Village Hall £44.00
F003	Resolution to move to Part 2

	<p>Proposed by Cllr R Arnold that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public, including the press, be excluded, because of the confidential and sensitive nature of the business to be discussed, to which it would not be in the general interest to discuss in an open forum.</p>
F004	<p>Thorncombe Community Shop</p> <p>Mr Goodall addressed the meeting and provided each of the assembled with a detailed synopsis of the present financial situation of the shop, a budget for the present financial year, a list of perceived community benefits brought by the shop and future costs incurred for the next few years. Additional costs would be incurred by auto-enrolment, additional payroll costs and book keeping. The biggest outlay was the shop rent to the council, which the sum was being repaid by the Council to WDDC for the loan of £127,000. The loan is due to mature in 2029. Up until April 2014 the repayments were on interest, however from April 2015 both capital and interest were due. This was proving difficult for the shop to repay. Mr Goodall felt that the Council should approach WDDC to see if the terms of the loan could be renegotiated, with possibly an extension until 2044. It was pointed out to Mr Goodall by Councillor Arnold that the loan had already been the subject of renegotiation, however it was agreed that the clerk would sound out WDDC on this point. Various thoughts were expressed regarding why the shop was not producing the revenue that was hoped were expressed. Mr Goodall, Mr Carr and Mr Roberts thanked the council for listening to them, and left the meeting.</p> <p>Resolved that the clerk would contact Mrs Strange and WDDC to see if any extension of the shop loan would be possible.</p> <p>Councillor Welford would look into having the premises valued so that the council was aware of the perceived value of the property should no negotiation of the loan be available, and the situation of the shop's profit and loss worsened.</p>
F005	<p>Playing Field</p> <p>The clerk had received some documentation from the chairman of the playing field committee. Because of the long wait for this information the growing season was now well underway and it would be difficult to issue a tender and then deal with new contracts during that period. It was therefore agreed to keep with the same contractor for this season, however, it was felt that there had been far too many cuts in the past and that in future the chairman of this committee would contact the clerk when she felt cuts were required, and he would make the necessary arrangements</p>

	<p>Concerns were expressed regarding how the playing field was being run. Councillor Peacock stated that some of the existing committee members would probably not continue. The lease agreement between the committee and the parish council had expired and the Council would need to consider whether it wished to renew a lease or take the playing field back, and operate it as a committee of the parish council. The clerk pointed out that there was already an allotment and cemeteries committee, which could, if required, take on the playing field as well. There was nothing to stop the council having a committee which had some non-councillors on it.</p>
F006	<p>Boundary Commission This item had been referred to this committee by full council. It was agreed that as there would seem to be no alterations to the present Marshwood Vale Ward of the County Council no comments were required</p>
F007	<p>Future Meetings All agreed that this meeting had been useful and that more frequent meetings should be held; possibly on a quarterly basis. There would however be a need to have another meeting fairly shortly to discuss items under minute F004 and F005. Agreed that a meeting could be held either before or after the main council meeting in July.</p>