

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Tuesday 4th October 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) and four members of the public

Draft until Approved

625	Apologies An apology had been received from Cllr S Christopher.
626	Declarations of Interest Cllr J Higgs declared a personal interest in a payment being made in his name under minute 631.
627	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 th September 2022, having been previously distributed; were agreed as a true record; and were then signed by the chairman.
628	Matters Arising No matters arising
629	Monthly Surgery There had been a question relating to an empty private property in the village. The landlord would be contacted.
630	Democratic Period A parishioner stated that there was the remains of a broken windscreen in the hedge near to Birdsmoor Gate. A parishioner asked if funding might be available for grass cutting in the churchyard prior to the council taking his on. She was advised to write to the clerk requesting this. The Gardening Club had kindly offered to place hanging baskets by the Water Trough if the council would pay for the brackets. This was agreed.

	<p>Drains on the highway near to the Goat Farm need attention. Council to contact Dorset Council on this matter.</p> <p>There was a question regarding the reduction in train services. The clerk stated that it was hoped to restore the hourly service as soon as possible, possibly in November.</p> <p>There was a question regarding the provision of Wi-Fi in the village hall. It was understood that the committee were looking into this.</p> <p>A question about the provision of food and fuel services during difficult financial times was raised. The chairman stated that this was an agenda item to be dealt with later in the meeting.</p>
631	<p>Accounts for Payment Resolved to ratify the following payments: J Higgs (former telephone box expenses) £56.00, PAYE £215.40 and J Vanderwolfe (expenses) £80.49.</p>
632	<p>Financial Update The finance update was approved. Total financial assets as of 2nd October 2022 stood at £22,467.69.</p>
633	<p>Hardship Arrangements There was a debate as to whether such provision was for financial hardship or for an emergency situation such as a power cut. It was then agreed that a small working party made up of Cllr's J Higgs and A Hiscock, together with Sarah Allan and Anne Johnson Rooke would investigate this and report back to the November council meeting.</p>
634	<p>Dorset Councillor's Report The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was duly noted</p>
635	<p>Community Tree Project Details of this scheme had been circulated to members. Cllr M Stead informed the meeting that 500 trees had been planted on land owned by the Sports club during the pandemic. Agreed the information would be passed on to Thorncombe Environmental Group.</p>
636	<p>Playfield A special meeting would be held of this committee shortly with the idea of handing the responsibility of the management of the playfield back to the parish council. The clerk would attend this meeting.</p>
637	<p>Bus Services £152 had been raised towards bus funds at a recent quiz night. Usage numbers remain the same as the previous month.</p>
638	<p>Community Shop Whilst prices have had to be increased the shop was reducing margins to help customers in these difficult times.</p>

639	Former Telephone Box A great deal of work has been undertaken. The door still needs to be fixed back on and shelving erected.
640	Allotments Hedges need attention
641	Rights of Way Nigel Higgins had provided a report in which he stated he was dismayed at the lack of communication and lack of improvements to the network within the parish. He stated that he was resigning with immediate effect. Agreed that the clerk would contact Dorset Council complaining about the lack of communication and perceived action by the rights of way team.
642	Neighbourhood Watch It was reported that someone had stolen the neighbourhood watch sign
643	Next Meeting The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1 st November 2022 at 7.30pm

Signed Chairman

Date