

**Clerk to the Council:**

Mr J.F. Vanderwolfe FILCM, Chartered MCIPD  
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**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm in the Thorncombe Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr's D Marsh (Chairman), 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>606</b>	<b>Apologies</b> An apology had been received from Cllr J Higgs, which was accepted.
<b>607</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> No Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct were made at this stage of the meeting
<b>608</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2022, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record.
<b>609</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> Cllr D Marsh reported that the cemetery grass had been cut, and that this would now be undertaken four times a year. Cllr M Stead would arrange for the hedges to be cut  The plan of the area to be registered in respect of the playfield with Land Registry was circulated, and agreed. The solicitor had stated that this might take up to a year to be registered as there is a big backlog of applications to be dealt with by Land Registry.
<b>610</b>	<b>Monthly Surgery</b> It had been reported that the hedge beside Knapp Cottages was very untidy. Cllr M Stead would speak with a former resident about ownership of the property.

	There was a query as to why the public inquiry in relation to Chard Junction Quarry had been held in Chard. The clerk stated that this might have been down to the availability of equipment to hold the meeting as a highbred meeting.
<b>611</b>	<b>Democratic Period</b> First Responders will no longer get financial assistance for petrol from SW Ambulance. Suggestions of a possible log bank facility and community food facility.
<b>612</b>	<b>Accounts for Payment</b> Resolved to ratify the following payments: Thorncombe Shop £1,000, Village Hall £20.00, Dial Grass Cut £340.00, ROSPA £252.00, The Sign Shed £11.00 and CPRE £36.00. Agreed that a memorial book would be purchased under the London Bridge contingency plans.
<b>613</b>	<b>Financial Update</b> The finance update was approved. Total financial assets as of 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 were £17,223.05
<b>614</b>	<b>Opt Out of Appointed Auditors Scheme 2023/27</b> The clerk explained the options available to the council but strongly recommended remaining within the national scheme. Resolved that the council remains in the national scheme.
<b>615</b>	<b>Dorset Councillor's Report</b> Cllr S Christopher stated that it would be interesting to learn what new schemes the newly elected Prime Minister would implement. It was unlikely that the Dorset Plan would be in place until 2026. It was understood that the transport costs for people with special educational needs would be in the region of £12.3 million.  Concerns were expressed that the Exeter to Waterloo service was becoming very unreliable and had been reduced to an emergency two hourly service this week. Suggested that our MP be contacted on this matter.
<b>616</b>	<b>Playfield</b> There had been a number of serious issues flagged up by the recent ROSPA inspection. Cllr Marsh was concerned that the playfield committee had last met three months ago.
<b>617</b>	<b>Bus Services</b> The weekly bus to Axminster was running at 100% capacity. The Chard bus service was operating at about 66% capacity, but the Bridport serve was only achieving about 33% capacity
<b>618</b>	<b>Community Shop</b> It was hoped that the shop would produce a small profit for the year, however this would be reduced from previous years due to increased electricity costs.
<b>619</b>	<b>Former Telephone Box</b> We are awaiting the return of the door to complete the renovation.

<b>620</b>	<b>School</b> There were 34 students enrolled at the start of the autumn term. Mrs Evans has taken up her position as senior teacher. The Little Acorns nursery provision now operated for five days a week.
<b>621</b>	<b>Axminster Bank Hub</b> Axminster is to be one of the first towns to have a bank hub when the Lloyds bank closes towards the end of the year. This will be located in the Post Office in West Street.
<b>622</b>	<b>Planning Applications and Appeals</b> <b>P/FUL/2022/04949:</b> Tuckmill Farm, Beerhall Farm Lane, Hawkchurch: Replacement Dwelling : <b>Support</b>  PILBC/2022/04981 Wheatsheaf Cottage, Holditch: Internal and external alterations to incorporate integral garage with main dwelling: <b>Support</b>  Appeal : Chard Junction Quarry: <b>Noted</b>
<b>623</b>	<b>Closure of Meeting</b>  The meeting was closed at 8.50pm
<b>624</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>  The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30pm

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----