

**Clerk to the Council:**

Mr J.F. Vanderwolfe FILCM, Chartered MCIPD  
Newenham  
5 Halletts Way  
Axminster  
EX13 5NB  
☐ 01297 34444  
[johnvw@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:johnvw@tiscali.co.uk)

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 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 and two members' of the public.

Draft until Approved

<b>861</b>	<b>Apologies</b> No apologies for absence received.
<b>862</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct</b> Cllr A Hiscock declared a pecuniary interest in the planning application for Forde Abbey as he is employed there. He would leave the meeting during discussions on this application.
<b>863</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2023, having been previously distributed; were agreed as a true record; and were then signed by the chairman.
<b>864</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> A quotation had been received for the cutting down of the tree in the cemetery. The cost would be £495 plus Vat. <b>Agreed to accept this quotation but not to remove the stump.</b>
<b>865</b>	<b>Monthly Surgery</b> The PCSO would be at the community shop on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> December. A parishioner had complained that people had to stand out in the cold when the mobile post office visited the village. It was also felt that once a week was not enough. Noted, but Government policy. A parishioner had complained about the state of the path in the churchyard. Chairman and Cllr Basham would investigate this.

	<p>A comment had been made regarding maize in a field and whether this had contributed to the flooding earlier in the week. General feeling was that this had not contributed to the problem.</p>
<b>866</b>	<p><b>Democratic Period</b></p> <p>No questions or points were raised</p>
<b>867</b>	<p><b>Planning</b>  <b>P./PABA/2023/06759 Westford Park Farm, Chard Junction: Agricultural Slurry Store with PVC cover Members agreed to support this application.</b></p> <p><b>P./FUL/2023/06495 &amp; P/LBC/2023/06499 Forde Abbey: Alterations and extension to ticket office and gift shop. Convert building into new kitchen and create new drainage route. Remove commercial kitchen from Grade 1 Listed building. Members agreed to support this application. Noted that the bus service information within the application was incorrect.</b></p> <p>.Note Cllr Hiscock not present for this application having declared an interest.</p>
<b>868</b>	<p><b>Accounts for Payment</b>  Resolved to ratify the following payments: Thorncombe Community Shop £300, Easyspace £71.86. Bridport CA £200.00, Christmas Lanterns £20.00 and Hugo Fox £23.99</p>
<b>869</b>	<p><b>Financial Update</b></p> <p>Financial Assets as of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 were £25,072.90.</p> <p>Noted that there had been a pay award for all staff backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.</p>
<b>870</b>	<p><b>Budget and Precept</b>  The Responsible Financial Officer had sent out the draft budget to all members prior to the meeting. He explained his figures and members asked a number of questions regarding the precept. <b>Resolved that the budget for 2024/25 be set at £14,613 and that the precept demand would be £11,692.</b> The RFO was thanked for his work on the preparation of the budget. The D rate parish payment will be £36.88 per year; which is an increase of £2.82.</p>
<b>871</b>	<p><b>Dorset Councillor's Report</b>  Cllr Christopher had circulated his report prior to the meeting which was duly noted.</p>
<b>872</b>	<p><b>Bus Services</b>  The bus service to Bridport will continue. This is mainly because it is likely that the Axe Valley Ring and Ride will be discontinued.</p>
<b>873</b>	<p><b>Community Shop</b></p>

	No update as Cllr Hiscock had been unable to attend the last shop committee meeting.
<b>874</b>	<b>Rights of Way</b>  No update
<b>875</b>	<b>Playfield</b>  Members agreed to go through the action points of the ROSPA report in the new year. A number of quotations had been received for the see-saw. It was felt that these needed studying in more detail, and that a decision would be made at the February meeting.
<b>876</b>	<b>Police and Neighbourhood Watch</b>  A quad bike had been stolen in the area.
<b>877</b>	<b>School</b>  No report
<b>878</b>	<b>Allotments</b>  The hedge had been trimmed.
<b>879</b>	<b>Website</b>  Cllr Hiscock reported that he was having problems with Hugo Fox in relation to the linking of planning applications from Dorset Council onto our website. He did not feel that they were dealing with the problem effectively
<b>879</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>  Relevant correspondence is emailed out as required.
<b>880</b>	<b>Closing of Meeting</b>  The chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm
<b>881</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>  Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----