

**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 at the Thorncombe Village Hall on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr's R Arnold (Chairman), J Higgs, S Dunford, S Welford, R Peacock, D Marsh , C Sowerbutts, N Higgins and M Stead.

**In Attendance:-**The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Cllr D Turner (Dorset County Council) and four members of the public.

Draft until Approved

<b>332</b>	<b>Apologies</b> An apology was noted from Cllr Sewell (WDDC).
<b>333</b>	<b>Declarations of Interests</b> There were no Declaration of Interest made at this stage of the meeting
<b>334</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2017 were adopted as a true record; and were signed by the chairman.
<b>335</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> Cllr Welford informed the meeting that a Merchant Navy flag was available and that she was awaiting confirmation from the PCC regarding permission to fly it at the Church.
<b>336</b>	<b>Democratic Period</b> A member of the public had complained that one of the play equipment items in the playfield was dangerous. It was agreed that this would immediately be put out of use until rectified.  It was noted that the Damas Lawns footbridge had now had fencing placed on the entrance to prevent users walking across it. It was felt that some of the verge trimming had been done to a very poor standard compared to that undertaken across the border in Devon. Our County Councillor will investigate this. The water leak at Holditch has now been acknowledged as being the responsibility of the Water Board.

	It was apparently damaged by BT. There was a question regarding the locations of fire hydrants.
<b>337</b>	<b>County, District, Police &amp; Neighbourhood Reports</b> The County Councillor stated that there was little to report. They were still awaiting a response from the Secretary of State regarding the Unitary options for Dorset. Cllr M Stead, in giving the Neighbourhood report, stated that a suspicious white van had been seen in the area on a number of occasions.
<b>338</b>	<b>Highways, Lengthsman and Rights of Way</b> Cllr Higgins informed the meeting that 20 problems had been reported to Rights of Way. There was a problem with crops on a path near the sports club. Gullies and drains are now shown on the Dorset Explorer site. Lengthsman would deal with the weed problem in Fore Street.
<b>339</b>	<b>Accounts for Payment</b> The following accounts were agreed for payment: Thorncombe Village Hall £43.00 (1311), Dial a Grass Cut £160.00 (1312), HMRC £382.40 (1313) , N Higgins £5.20 (1314).
<b>340</b>	<b>Accounts update</b> Income/Expenditure against budget figures were agreed
<b>341</b>	<b>Internal Auditors Report</b> The accounts had been examined by the Internal Auditor, who had found them to be satisfactory, and they had now been forwarded to the External Auditor.
<b>342</b>	<b>Broadband</b> It was understood that the Sports club had been informed that the Super Broadband had reached its full capacity for Thorncombe. Our County Councillor would look into this. The problems in Fore Street had now been resolved.
<b>343</b>	<b>Councillors' Reports</b> <b>Bus:</b> There would be a meeting tomorrow to discuss possible further bus cuts. It was hoped that our bus would be one of the token charities at the Chard Tesco. <b>Community Cars:</b> Very active and busy <b>Community Shop:</b> Monthly figures are being produced and the new till system is now up and running. The AGM would be on the 27 <sup>th</sup> July. Because the Bridport Post Office lady had retired Crewkerne Post Office would shortly take over the running of the post office. <b>Playfield:</b> The ROSPA inspection had taken place. A picnic table had been installed. There was now a committee of six people to run the playfield. <b>Village Hall:</b> Revenue has been reduced following the closure of the Jumping Beans club. The AGM will be on the 17 <sup>th</sup> July. <b>School:</b> The village fete was scheduled to take place on the Saturday after this meeting. The clerk was requested to contact the school for a regular school update report.
<b>344</b>	<b>Planning</b> a) WD/D/17/001300 Granary, Easthay Lane, Thorncombe: Septic Tank (retrospective). Agreed to support this application.

	<p>b) Gas Turbine in Hawkchurch Parish: The clerk informed the meeting that this application has been withdrawn.</p> <p>c) The following determinations had been approved by the Planning Authority:-  WD/D/17/000633 Holditch Court Farm for the erection of an agricultural building.  WD/D/17/000788 Lower Hewood Farm for alterations. The application for a concrete farm track at Beerhall Farm had been withdrawn</p>
<b>345</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>The clerk read out a response to his letter to Mr Cunningham. Mr Cunningham had sent in a copy of a letter from Dorset County Rights of Way in which they had outlined the position regarding the proposed diversion of the rights of way on Mr Cunningham's land and were asking the Council if it wished to withdraw their objection.</p> <p>Mr Cunningham addressed the meeting and suggested a site meeting of all the objectors to the proposed footpath diversion. He hoped, he stated, that the objectors would then withdraw their objections, which would speed up the process and save the expense of an inquiry.</p> <p>After some debate on the matter, and with the feelings of a number of councillors being that the Council should not depart from the earlier decision objecting to the diversion, it was decided that it might be helpful if interested parties took the opportunity to meet Mr Cunningham on site to look at his proposals. The suggested date and time being Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am; subject to Mr Cunningham notifying all individual objectors to this proposed footpath diversion of the time and place of the meeting.</p>
<b>346</b>	<p><b>Items of Urgency</b></p> <p>No items</p>
<b>347</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm</p>

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----