

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at the Thorncombe Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr's J Higgs (Chairman), A Hiscock, P Basham, and W Luty-Wells.

In Attendance:-The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Cllr S Christopher (Dorset Council) and three members of the public

Not in Attendance: Cllr's Fox and Stead.

Draft until Approved

055	Apologies for Absence No apologies received.
056	Declaration of Interest under the Code of Conduct No declarations, under the Code of Conduct were made at this stage of the meeting.
057	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 th June 2024, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record and were signed by the chairman
058	Matters Arising from the Minutes The clerk stated that he had contacted our Dorset Councillor as requested regarding the flood report, but had not received a response to date.
059	Council Surgery Cllr W Luty-Wells informed the meeting that a parishioner had complained about the state of the hedges in the road near to the Goat Farm. Chairman informed him that hedges were the responsibility of the land owner, but apart for visibility splays, would not be cut back until after the nesting season. The police officer was in attendance and had reported that there had been no significant issues of crime or disturbances recently.

	Next surgery would be on the 30 th August and would be hosted by Cllr J Higgs.
060	<p>Democratic Period</p> <p>A parishioner complained about the poor condition of the field next to church which is owned by the parish council. He felt that the hedges needed urgent attention and that the field looked very neglected. It was noted that the Thorncombe Environmental Group had agreed to manage this land on our behalf.</p> <p>Agreed that a site meeting would take place in the very near future</p>
061	<p>Accounts for Payment</p> <p>The following accounts were ratified: JRB Enterprises £43.38, Dorset Association of Local Councils £293.72, Hugo Fox £23.99, Thorncombe Parochial Church Council £200.00 and Fly Software £7.19</p>
062	<p>Financial Update</p> <p>The financial assets of the council as of the 26th June 2024 was £20,490.21</p>
	<p>Internal Auditor's Report and Submission to External Auditors</p> <p>The report from our internal auditor, Mr D Knowles, had been circulated and was endorsed. The clerk informed the meeting that all documents had been forwarded to our external auditors, BDO International Limited prior to the deadline of the 30th June. They had acknowledged receipt.</p>
063	<p>Dorset Councillor Report</p> <p>Cllr S Christopher informed the meeting that no formal report had been forwarded to members due to the impending General Elections.</p> <p>The clerk asked if any response had been made in relation to his request for a report from the officer who had visited the parish looking at flooding issues. Cllr Christopher stated he would chase this matter up.</p>
064	<p>Footpath Issues.</p> <p>Footpath 93 Vembury Farm. Members happy with planned diversion.</p> <p>New House Farm: Happy with planned diversion</p> <p>Footpath 47 Spearhay Lane: Ongoing problem due to flooding. Very expensive to put right. Flood Officer aware of this, who suggests contact with landowner. Clerk would write to owner, but we need to investigate who this is.</p>
065	<p>Bus Services</p> <p>No report</p>
066	<p>Community Shop</p> <p>The AGM will be held on the 17th July. Several committee members, including the chairman will be standing down. An International Cream Tea Day had been</p>

	very popular, and would be repeated later In the year. New kitchen units are being fitted to improve the facilities of the shop.
067	Allotments Allotment rent invoices had been sent out to all tenants.
068	Playfield Chairman had visited the playfield and removed some rubbish. On the day of his visit children were very much enjoying the facilities on offer in the park.
069	Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Clerk is exploring the use of Gov.Uk specific email addresses with the Central Digital and Data Office. Some funding available during this financial year for parishes using this facility. Members discussed the advantages of having specific email addresses rather than using their own email address, and generally felt this was a good idea. Clerk would attend another briefing later this month and report back
070	Police and Neighbourhood Watch Clerk informed members that we are now signed up to Dorset Alert. The system sends him messages about a number of police issues in the Dorset and Devon and Cornwall police areas. Recently this has included missing young people and a report on operation Scorpion, which was a cash, drugs and weapons operation led by Devon and Cornwall Police. He forwards information to members.
071	Highways .No items
072	Planning P/LBC/2024/02648 Dovecote, Chard Street, Thorncombe: Replacement of front door with wooden flood door. Members agreed to support this application P/FUL/2024 Beerhall Farm, Hawkchurch. Cover to slurry store. Members agreed to support this application.
073	Correspondence Letter from Rural Services Network inviting the council to join the Rural Village Services Group, which is a newly formed group with the aim of working more closely with the Rural All Party Parliamentary Group. The subscription would be £50 plus Vat. Members agreed to join this group on a one year trial basis.

074	Closing of Meeting The chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm
075	Next Meeting Tuesday 3 rd September 2024 at 7.30pm

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----