

**Clerk to the Council:**

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**Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at the Thorncombe Village Hall, commencing at 7pm**

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

**In Attendance:** -The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe) and one member of the public

Draft until Approved

<b>432</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllr's S Christopher
<b>433</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest under the Code of Conduct</b> There were no Declarations made under the Code of Conduct at this stage of the meeting.
<b>434</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 <sup>th</sup> of March 2026, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record and were signed by the chairman
<b>435</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> No items raised
<b>436</b>	<b>Council Surgery</b> No points were raised at this meeting. Cllr Basham would host the next surgery , scheduled for Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April.
<b>437</b>	<b>Democratic Period</b>  A parishioner spoke about his concerns that Spearhay Lane bridleway was not usable. The chairman explained that a site meeting had taken place with the landowner, members of the parish council, Dorset Council and our Footpath Officer. Dorset Council were unwilling to fund drainage works; and we await the outcome of another meeting with the landowner, to see if any progress can be made.

<b>438</b>	<p><b>Accounts for Payment</b></p> <p>The following accounts were ratified:</p> <p>Hugo Fox £44.98, Information Commissioner £47.00, HMRC PAYE £291.92 and Ealing Community Travel £1,000. 00. Members agreed to continue supporting the bus services and noted that Upper Marshwood Vale would also contribute.</p>
<b>439</b>	<p><b>Financial Update</b></p> <p>The Financial Update was agreed. Financial Assets as of the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 were £23,066.88.</p>
<b>440</b>	<p><b>Dorset Council</b></p> <p>No report as councillor was at the Charmouth Consultation meeting regarding fire services.</p>
<b>441</b>	<p><b>Playfield</b></p> <p>Two large holes have appeared in the field, which it is believed are the result of the removal of goal posts. The basketball net needs replacing, and the path needs some attention due to the growing amount of moss growing on them. The ROSPA annual inspection is due to take place in June.</p>
<b>442</b>	<p><b>Other Council Reports</b></p> <p>Concerns that both the chair and secretary of the shop positions are now vacant.</p>
<b>443</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>No planning applications to deal with at this meeting.</p>
<b>444</b>	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <p>Clerk to contact Cllr Christopher to ask when the slow signs on the road in Thorncombe and Holditch are being put in place</p>
<b>445</b>	<p><b>Annual Parish Meeting Agenda</b></p> <p>The following items to be placed on the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wessex Internet</li> <li>• Speed limit in the village consultation</li> <li>• Thorncombe Swimming Pool</li> <li>• River Axe Landscaping Recovery</li> </ul>
<b>446</b>	<p><b>Fire Service Consultation</b></p>

	Members noted that this consultation regarding the possible closure of some fire stations in Somerset and Dorset remains open until early May for anyone to make a comment.
<b>447</b>	<b>Closing of Meeting</b>  The chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm
<b>448</b>	<b>Next Meetings</b>  <b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm</b>  <i>Annual Parish Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Thorncombe Sports Club 7pm</i>

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----