Thorncombe Parish Council

Clerk to the Council:
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Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 7pm

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

In Attendance: -The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Cllr S Christopher (Dorset Council) and 18 members of the public.

Draft until Approved

512	**Apologies** No apologies; as all members in attendance
513	**Minutes of the Previous Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th September 2026, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record and were signed by the chairman.
514	**Matters Arising from the Minutes** Cllr M Stead informed the meeting that the hedge in the allotment would shortly be cut.
515	**Council Surgery** The police officer had stated that the person causing a great deal of noise with his vehicle during a recent meeting had been spoken with.
516	**Democratic Period** A parishioner read out an extract from a government policy document that stated that 30mph speed limits were the norm in built up areas such as a village. A member asked why Thorncombe did not have such a speed limit. The chairman informed her that at present the village had the national speed limit of 60mph. Some parishioners felt that the slow road signs on the road did have some effect on slowing vehicles down. The vehicle parking also provided a need to drive at a slower speed. Cllr S Christopher, our Dorset Councillor felt that Dorset council would pay the cost of implementing a 30mph speed limit. Other ideas put forward

	included Gateways at the ends of the village, virtual pavements, the school talking to parents about the need to drive with more care and additional slow signs. The chairman asked if a number of members would form a small working party, which would report back to a meeting of the council. It was suggested that the February 2027 meeting would give them enough time to investigate fully. It was understood that a traffic survey would need to be undertaken to explore the volume of traffic and general speed of vehicles. Cllr Fox stated that she would be willing to co-ordinate ideas. Chairman thanked everyone for their ideas, and for attending.
517	**Finance** The following accounts were ratified for payment: Hugo Fox £89.96, Robin Parker £2450.00. Total £2539.96. Some concerns were raised that any additional works to the playfield should be open to other companies to provide estimates for work, rather than award all the work to one contractor. The clerk stated that the normal procedure under the Finance Regulations was to seek estimates from other companies. **Resolved that estimates for work would be forwarded to the clerk in time for the November council meeting,** Bank Reconciliation 5/10/26 £25,333.11.
518	**Dorset Council** Cllr S Christopher informed the meeting that the proposed changes to planning will result in officers dealing with far more planning applications without any input from elected members. The vagrancy Act of 1824 as been repealed under the Police, Crime, sentencing and Court Act, 2022. This changes the law of trespass; and follows a steep increase in rural crimes
519	**Playfield** Members were happy with the works undertaken by the contractor employed for stage one works.
520	**Highways and Rights of Way** Our Honorary Rights of Way Officer informed the meeting that a temporary diversion has been agreed with the landowner whilst the bridge, near to an area commonly known as the dungeon, is out of use so that the path can once again be used. He also informed the meeting that the long-awaited diversion near to New House at Yawlings is now in place

521	**Council Reports** Cllr Hiscock will attend a DAPTC session on changes to planning rules.
522	**Planning** There were no planning applications to be dealt with at this meeting.
523	**Correspondence** Clerk had received an email from a parishioner asking if council wanted to set up a group to raise funds for new equipment for the playfield. The lady had stated that they did not wish to become involved in maintenance of the park. Clerk had replied, thanking her for her email and inviting her to a future meeting to discuss the park if she wished. He explained that at present the council manages the park as the landowner, and that maintenance and inspection is on-going.
524	**Closing of Meeting** The chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm Next Meeting Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7pm

Signed ---------- Chairman

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