

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 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

449	Election of Chairman for Ensuing year Cllr J Higgs was elected as Chairman. He signed the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Proper Officer.
450	Election of Vice Chairman Cllr M Stead was elected as Vice Chairman.
451	Appointment to Outside Bodies Blackdown Trust: Cllr J Higgs DAPTC: Cllr A Hiscock Community Shop: Cllr A Hiscock Village Hall: Cllr M Stead Allotments: Cllr P Basham Rights of Way: Mr N Berry Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr M Stead Webmaster: Cllr A Hiscock
452	Annual Governance Statement Members agreed the Annual Governance Statement
453	Annual Accounting Statement Members agreed the Annual Accounting Statement
454	Certificate of Exemption Members agreed that the council qualified for the Certificate of Exemption because

	both income and expenditure were below the ceiling limit.
455	<p>Accounts for Payment The following accounts were verified for payment: Hugo Fox £44.98, HMRC PAYE £291.92, Bus Grant £1,000, Dial a Grass Cut £190.00, Thorncombe Sports Club £100.00 and Thorncombe Village Hall £70.00. A total of £1,696.90.</p> <p>The bank reconciliation as of the 5th of May 2026 showed financial assets of £27,042.92</p>
456	<p>Declaration of Interest under the Code of Conduct There were no Declarations made under the Code of Conduct at this stage of the meeting.</p>
457	<p>Apologies No Apologies; as all members present.</p>
458	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th April 2026, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record and were signed by the chairman</p>
459	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes A letter had been received informing the council of an intention to plant trees. This was noted.</p> <p>Cllr M Stead was reminded of an outstanding item regarding speaking to a farmer regarding re-instatement of a bridleway. He promised to attend to this before the June meeting.</p> <p>All agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting had gone well; and that it had been well attended.</p>
460	<p>Council Surgery No points were raised at this meeting. Cllr Basham would host the next surgery on the 29th of May.</p>
461	<p>Democratic Period No items raised.</p>
462	<p>Dorset Council</p> <p>Concerns had been expressed regarding the poor reliability of the Exeter to Waterloo train service. Cllr Fox stated that she was now using GWR services from Castle Cary.</p> <p>Mr Brittan, a senior officer from Dorset Council would be attending a meeting with members and officers at the Thorncombe Community Shop on the 27th of May at 9.30am</p>
463	<p>Playfield</p> <p>Cllr Fox stated that there had been no high risks declared on last year's ROSPA report, and we would await their next report, as they were due to inspect during June.</p>

	The spring clean even had been well attended, and it was suggested that another event could be held in the autumn
464	Highways and Rights of Way Whilst the slow sign on Horseshoe Lane had been laid, others had been placed upside down, and would need replacing. Members were meeting with highways on the 19 th of May. It was felt that a public meeting could take place in the autumn to discuss the possible implementation of a speed limit in the village
465	Wessex Internet The clerk had met with the representative regarding another parish, and the point had been made that if residents wished to be considered they needed to contact the company. That would not commit them to having it, but would register their interest.
466	Planning No planning applications to deal with at this meeting.
467	Council Reports No updates
468	Closing of Meeting The chairman declared the meeting closed at 8pm
469	Next Meetings Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 7pm

Signed Chairman

Date