

**Clerk to the Council:**

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**Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at the Thorncombe Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm**

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

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

Draft until Approved

<b>140</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> An apology was received from Cllr J Fox, which was accepted.
<b>141</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest under the Code of Conduct</b> No declarations, under the Code of Conduct were made at this stage of the meeting.
<b>142</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record and were signed by the chairman
<b>143</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> There were no matters arising from the minutes.
<b>144</b>	<b>Council Surgery</b> No items
<b>145</b>	<b>Democratic Period</b> No items
<b>146</b>	<b>Accounts for Payment</b> The following accounts were ratified: Hugo Fox £23.99, On Line Playground £24.00. JRB Enterprises £43.38 , HMRC PAYE £166.41 and Thorncombe Village Hall £60.00.

<b>147</b>	<b>Financial Update</b>  <p>The financial sheet showing budget against income and expenditure was agreed. Agreed that one outstanding debt should now be escalated to the claims court.</p> <p>Financial Assets as 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were £22,734.53</p>
<b>148</b>	<b>Grant Allocations</b>  <p>Community Shop £110.00</p> <p>Keep Fit Group £100 *</p> <p>Thorncombe Spinners £150*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payments made to village hall for heat/light</li> </ul> <p>An application for funding by Holditch Hall was not successful.</p>
<b>149</b>	<b>Report on Gov Email Addresses</b>
<b>150</b>	<b>Budget 2025/26</b>  <p>The Clerk, as the RFO, had prepared a draft budget which was examined by the members. The draft budget was adopted. The budget for 2025/26 would be £14,871 with a precept demand of £12,296. The tax base figure for 2024/25, obtained from Dorset Council was £340.90; and increase of £23.90 from the previous year (7.54%). The parish D rate for 2025/26 would be £36.07, compared to £36.88; therefore, a reduction of 81p (2.21%).</p>
<b>151</b>	<b>Dorset Councillor Report</b>  <p>Cllr Christopher informed the meeting that there was a call for landowners to come forward with available land sites. The closing date for this would be the 20<sup>th</sup> December. He was hopeful that the road safety officer would visit the parish in the new year. Concerns that a number of drains need attention</p>
<b>152</b>	<b>Finger Posts</b>  <p>We are awaiting the result of the survey that is being undertaken regarding the number of posts requiring attention</p>
<b>153</b>	<b>Community Shop</b>  <p>A report had been circulated</p>

<b>154</b>	<b>Allotments</b>  Hedge still needs trimming.
<b>155</b>	<b>Playfield</b>  The replacement basketball net had been received.
<b>156</b>	<b>Rights of Way</b>  Cllr M Stead would provide email addresses to the clerk. Agreed that the letter to landowners would be circulated after Christmas. The path near Brook Cottage on footpath 44/28 seems to take the wrong route. This will be investigated. The path by Whitty Lane has collapsed.
<b>157</b>	<b>Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils</b>  No report
<b>158</b>	<b>Police and Neighbourhood Watch</b>  No issues
<b>159</b>	<b>Highways</b>  A number of grit bins need refilling.
<b>160</b>	<b>Planning</b>  A recent application in respect of Chard Quarry, to extend the time to undertake the required works was noted, but it was agreed not to comment.
<b>161</b>	<b>Closing of Meeting</b>  The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm
<b>162</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b> Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.30pm

Signed ..... Chairman

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