

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 7.30pm in the Thorncombe Village Hall

Present: Cllr's J Higgs (Chairman), D Marsh, M Stead, A Hiscock and P Basham

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

Draft until Approved

644	Apologies No apologies received
645	Declarations of Interest No Declarations were made
646	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 th October 2022, having been previously distributed; were agreed as a true record; and were then signed by the chairman.
647	Matters Arising Cllr Marsh reported that the drainage problems near to the Goat Farm seemed to have been resolved.
648	Monthly Surgery Due to the council meeting being on the 1 st November this surgery had been assumed to have been scheduled for Wednesday 2 nd November; therefore, there was no report
649	Democratic Period No items were raised under this heading.
650	Accounts for Payment Resolved to ratify the following payments: Amazan £28.98, Dial a Grass Cut £410.00 and Thorncombe Village Hall £44.00.

651	<p>Financial Update</p> <p>The finance update was approved. Total financial assets as £21,345.52 as of the 27th October 2022.</p>
652	<p>Hardship Arrangements</p> <p>The chairman informed the meeting that the working group had met and discussed the issues. It was felt that in the main people would help one another during difficult times. Cards and posters were being produce urging people to look out for their neighbours if possible. There would also be a mail drop and details would be included on Facebook. It was suggested that whilst people might be willing to assist other people by providing meals, however it is possible that that act of kindness could cause them to be financially out of pocket. It was therefore suggested that a sum of money be deposited in the community shop for use in cases of need. It was agreed that the sum of £100 be taken from the CIL earmarked funds for this purpose. It was also noted that the committee of the Thorncombe Sports Club had agreed that the club could be used as a warm spaces venue in the event of a prolonged power cut.</p>
653	<p>Dorset Councillor’s Report</p> <p>The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was duly noted. Cllr Christopher stated that Cllr Gary Suttle had made the point in a cabinet meeting regarding the importance of community organisations. He therefore felt that this would be the ideal time for both the chairman of the council and the chairman of the shop to contact him asking if there was any assistance that could be provided during these challenging times. A question was asked as to why no response had been received following the clerk’s letter complaining about the lack of communication from the Rights of Way section in Dorset Council. Cllr Christopher suggested that the clerk forwarded a complaint to him regarding this. He concluded by stating that the financial situation would have a severe effect on the funds of Dorset Council, and that some difficult decisions may need to be made.</p>
654	<p>Grant Distribution</p> <p>Members examined the applications for grants and made the following awards:</p> <p>Thorncombe Keep Fit £200 Bridport & District Citizens Advice £100 Christmas Lantern Project £180 St Mary’s Thorncombe Churchyard £500</p>
655	<p>Working Together Document</p> <p>The clerk had circulated a document to members that had been circulated to clerks at a recent meeting. Whilst he had not attended that meeting, he had attended a zoom meeting with DAPTC last week in which the idea had been discussed. He had discussed the idea of the parish council being more involved with footpath, and felt that this could be a vehicle for moving that forward. The danger was that if both sides were not careful it could just become a paper exercise or talking shop. Members agreed that it was worth moving the idea forward. Cllr Hiscock stated that he would report back on the discussions on this subject at the DAPTC AGM.</p>
656	Playfield

	<p>Cllr Marsh informed the meeting that the Playfield Committee wished to handover the responsibility of the playfield to the Parish Council. Because of the constitution there was a need to call a special winding up meeting, which required 21 days' notice. The meeting had been arranged for the 22nd November at the Thorncombe Sport's Club. It was requested that the clerk attends this meeting, to which he agreed. Providing the vote at this meeting was in favour the handover date would be the 1st April 2023, in line with the commencement of the new financial year. Members were pleased to learn that there was a possible volunteer who would assist with tasks at the playfield.</p>
657	<p>Bus Services The Thursday bus service to Axminster continues to be 100% full, the Chard bus runs at about 70% capacity; however, the Plus bus to Bridport only runs at about 25% capacity.</p>
658	<p>Community Shop Shop continues to operate to a small profit.</p>
659	<p>Former Telephone Box Cllr Hiscock reported that we were still awaiting the door of the phone box to complete the project.</p>
660	<p>DAPTC Cllr A Hiscock agreed to represent this council at the DAPTC AGM which is scheduled for Saturday 19th November.</p>
661	<p>Allotments Cllr Stead would arrange for the hedge to be cut.</p>
662	<p>Rights of Way Cllr Christopher stated that there could be some assistance with footpath work and inspections from the Thorncombe Environment Trust. The clerk was complimented on the letter he had sent, however, as stated earlier, there was disappointment that once again no response had been received. Because of the lack of communication and action by Dorset Council the council had lost a very good footpath volunteer,</p>
663	<p>Police and Neighbourhood Watch There had been some thefts from vehicles in the village. There had been some disturbing instances of car windows being damaged, allegedly by a pellet gun. Alex Bishop, the police officer will be at the community shop on the 25th November.</p>
664	<p>Letter from the Dorset Lord Lieutenant The clerk had received a letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset thanking officers of parish and town councils in Dorset for the support provided over the last two years</p>

665	<p>Dorset CPRE Annual General Meeting</p> <p>The Dorset CPRE will have their annual meeting at Cerne Abbas Village Hall on Saturday 19th November commencing at 11am. This is their 85th anniversary meeting. The meeting will conclude with a talk by Dr George McGavin, one of the UK's foremost entomologists and a leading authority on the natural world.</p>
666	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 7.30pm</p>

Signed Chairman

Date