

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2025 at the Thorncombe Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm

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 five members of the public

Draft until Approved

163	Apologies for Absence No apologies received
164	Declaration of Interest under the Code of Conduct No declarations, under the Code of Conduct were made at this stage of the meeting.
165	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on the 3 rd of December 2024, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record and were signed by the chairman
166	Matters Arising from the Minutes The letter appertaining to rights of way had not yet been dealt with. Cllr Stead would forward email details to the clerk so that e can action this.
167	Council Surgery No actions to report. Cllr W Luty-Wells will host the next meeting, scheduled for the 28 th of February.
168	Democratic Period A parishioner had sent an email complaining about the runoff of water from fields. It is difficult to find a cost-effective solution to the problem. It was pointed out that this is down to the landowner not the highway authority. It is understood that maize

	<p>will not be planted this season; so hopefully this will result in some improvement of the situation.</p> <p>The owner of Magdalen Farm explained to members the purpose of both of his planning applications and informed the meeting that there would be a third application. There was a need for further accommodation for users visiting the farm. He also explained the problems with the barn, and his aim to provide a home for the many species of bats.</p> <p>There is a problem at the Thorncombe Sports Club caused by dog walkers allowing their dogs to mess on the grass, and some owners not picking it up. This is causing a major problem, especially on match days. It was suggested that a large notice be placed on the gate.</p>
169	<p>Accounts for Payment</p> <p>The following accounts were ratified: Thorncombe Community Shop £110.00 , Thorncombe Village Hall £60.00, Keep Fit Group £100.00, Thorncombe Spinners £150.00, Hugo Fox (2 months) £47.98, Dorset Council £50.00, HMRC PAYE £285.60, Fly Software £7.19, Water2Business £36.64 and SLCC £100.00</p>
170	<p>Financial Update</p> <p>Members examined the income and expenditure against budget and agreed it.</p> <p>Financial Assets as 29/01/25 was £21626.23</p>
171	<p>Report on Gov Email Address</p> <p>Cllr A Hiscock was awaiting further details form Hugo Fox. He had been informed that there was six weeks waiting list.</p>
172	<p>Dorset Councillor Report</p> <p>Cllr Christopher spoke about drainage and reminded the meeting that as far a planning is concerned drainage is a reserved matter. There would be a question asked of the Crime Commissioner this week relating to the amount of money spent on drainage and security.</p>
173	<p>Finger Posts</p> <p>A gentleman, willing to repair the fingerposts explained that the post at Forde Grainge would be difficult to repair and could cost up to £1,200. A post at Sadborow might cost £800, and the one at Hewood £700. At present this is coloured red, but is not part of the Dorset Red post signs, therefore it is suggested that it be returned to its original colouring. A post at Batemans would probably cost around £500. CPRE might well provide a grant, and Dorset Council should be approached for a contribution. The item would be further discussed nest month.</p>
174	<p>War Memorial</p>

	<p>The clerk reported that the PCC had contacted him and informed him that the War Memorial needed attention. He informed the meeting that you had to be very careful with memorials. The memorial is a Listed item; therefore, any works would need Listed Building Consent. He suggested that we should have a structural survey carried out by a qualified company. Hawkchurch were having some works done and he could find out who they were using. All agreed that this was a good idea and asked the clerk to action it.</p>
175	<p>Community Shop</p> <p>The new chairman of the Community Shop committee, Richard Fletcher introduced himself to the council and thanked the council for all their support towards the shop.</p>
176	<p>Allotments</p> <p>The hedge had been cut. The cost would be £20.</p>
177	<p>Playfield</p> <p>The basketball net had been broken again. There was a need to undertake some works on the trees. A Mr Parker would be asked to deal with this. The spring clean up would take place once the weather had improved</p>
178	<p>Rights of Way</p> <p>Our Honorary Rights of Way Officer reported that a path through an area known locally as the Dungeon was in a poor state of repair. This had been reported to Dorset Council. There were also problems in Spearhay Lane.</p>
179	<p>Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils</p> <p>No update</p>
180	<p>Police and Neighbourhood Watch</p> <p>No update.</p>
181	<p>Other Reports</p> <p>The clerk reported that he had attended, online, the AGM of the Western Area Transport Action Group (WATAG) last week. They had managed to fill all their officer posts and also have some committee members. An update was provided by First Buses, and someone provided information in relation to possible plans by GWR and Southwestern Railway. It was noted that SWR would be one of the first to be nationalised in May</p>
182	<p>Highways</p>

	The chairman reported that together with several councillors he had met with two highway officers. They had agreed to a SLOW sign at the Toll House end of the High Street, in Back Lane, near to the Holditch Hall and on a bad bend on Horseshoe Road. A very bad pothole in that area had also been recorded for action.
183	Planning P/FUL/2024/07580 Holditch Court. Retain revised access and barn extension Support P/FUL/2024/06118 Magdalen Farm Support Proposed extension and associated works to provide additional accommodation P/FUL/2024/07020 Magdalen Farm Support Bespoke bat habitat including hibernaculum within a derelict barn and removal of derelict structure P/VOC/2025/00355 Bramble Cottage, Lower Holditch Support Develop land by erection of a dwelling for horticultural worker (without compliance with condition 2 of 1/W/98/000069 (removing agricultural restriction))
184	Closing of Meeting The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm
185	Next Meeting Tuesday 4 th March 2025 at 7.30pm

Signed Chairman

Date