

**Clerk to the Council:**

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**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 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 three members' of the public.

Draft until Approved

<b>849</b>	<b>Apologies</b> No apologies for absence
<b>850</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct</b> No declarations were made at this stage of the meeting.
<b>851</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023, having been previously distributed; were agreed as a true record; and were then signed by the chairman.
<b>852</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> There were no matters arising raised
<b>853</b>	<b>Monthly Surgery</b> The PCSO had attended and apologised for being unable to attend the last few surgeries due to illness. No concerns were raised. Cllr Marsh would facilitate the next surgery.
<b>854</b>	<b>Democratic Period</b> A large tree in the cemetery is causing problems. It has grown far too large. It was confirmed that there was no a TPO on it, and it is not in a Conservation Area. Agreed that arrangements would be made to fell it.

855	<p><b>Planning</b>  <b>P/FUL/2023/04669 Yew Tree Farm, Saddle Street, Thorncombe: Change of use of barn to dwelling and land to residential curtilage (Retrospective).</b></p> <p>It was noted that the property had been the subject of planning enforcement.  . Some works had already taken place. No bat survey was evidence or a sustainability and ecology statement. It was felt that the prepared plans were very basic. Members felt that the application did not seem to comply with the present West Dorset Local Plan (2015) and felt it might not fit in with the area. For these reasons it was decided not to support the application.</p> <p>.</p>
856	<p><b>Accounts for Payment</b>  Resolved to ratify the following payments: Thorncombe Village Hall £20.00, HMRC PAYE £243.80, Fly Software £5.00</p>
857	<p><b>Financial Update</b>  The finance update was approved. There were a number of questions asked regarding expenditure, which were answered by the clerk.</p> <p>Financial Assets as of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 were £25,366.85</p> <p>The clerk would prepare a draft budget for 2024/25 ready for the December meeting.</p>
858	<p><b>Grants</b>  The following grants were agreed:  Citizens Advice £200  Community Shop for a community warm space £300  Hire of hall for lantern workshop for children £20</p>
860	<p><b>Dorset Councillor's Report</b>  Cllr Christopher had circulated his report prior to the meeting which was duly noted.</p>
861	<p><b>Bus Services</b>  Axminster bus had been cancelled last Thursday due to storms. Generally numbers were keeping up. Clerk had requested some funding from Tatworth and Forton Parish Council.</p>
862	<p><b>Community Shop</b></p> <p>It was hoped that the financial year (31/01/24) would show at least a balance of funds; and possibly a small surplus. Electricity charges are high and credit card charges have also increased. It was hoped that Christmas would see an improvement in trade.</p>
853	<p><b>Rights of Way</b></p> <p>Some repairs had been undertaken and other issues reported.</p>

<b>854</b>	<b>Playfield</b>  Cllr Marsh had prepared a checklist for the volunteer to use when undertaking the fortnightly inspections. Councillors would, on a rota basis, undertake a more in depth monthly inspection. This system to be piloted for six months.  Some quotations had been received to replace the see-saw. It was agreed that the replacement would be steel rather than wood. CIL funds to be used to assist with the financing of this project.
<b>855</b>	<b>Former Telephone Box</b>  As the box was now up and running it was agreed to take this item off further agendas.
<b>856</b>	<b>School</b>  No report
<b>857</b>	<b>Allotments</b>  The hedge needs trimming
<b>858</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>  Relevant correspondence is emailed out as required.
<b>859</b>	<b>Closing of Meeting</b>  The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9pm
<b>860</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>  Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30pm

Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....