

**Clerk to the Council:**

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**Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at the Thorncombe Village Hall, commencing at 7pm**

**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) and one member of the public.

Draft until Approved

<b>379</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllr S Christopher (Dorset Council)
<b>380</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest under the Code of Conduct</b> There were no Declarations made under the Code of Conduct at this stage of the meeting.
<b>381</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 <sup>th</sup> of November 2025, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record and were signed by the chairman
<b>382</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) War Memorial: The company had been informed that the council had accepted the quotation.</li> <li>b) Finger Posts: a full inventory of finger posts in the parish is being undertaken, which will lead to a priority list. CCPR will provide £200 per finger post that is being refurbished.</li> <li>c) Speed Restrictions: It is hoped that a site meeting will be arranged in the new year.</li> </ul>
<b>383</b>	<b>Council Surgery</b> No items had been raised. Cllr W Luty-Wells will host this on the 30 <sup>th</sup> of January 2026.

<b>384</b>	<p><b>Democratic Period</b> A tree had come down near to the area known as the Dungeon. The landowner had been informed, and he had dealt with it the same day.</p>												
<b>385</b>	<p><b>Accounts for Payment</b> The following accounts were ratified:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="300 488 820 864"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="300 488 691 528">Accounts for Ratification</th> <th data-bbox="691 488 820 528"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 528 691 568">Mr Hawker</td> <td data-bbox="691 528 820 568">160.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 568 691 609">Hugo Fox</td> <td data-bbox="691 568 820 609">44.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 609 691 649">Vat File</td> <td data-bbox="691 609 820 649">7.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 649 691 712"></td> <td data-bbox="691 649 820 712"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 712 691 864">Total</td> <td data-bbox="691 712 820 864">212.17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Accounts for Ratification		Mr Hawker	160.00	Hugo Fox	44.98	Vat File	7.19			Total	212.17
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<b>386</b>	<p><b>Financial Update</b> The Financial Update was agreed. Financial Assets as of the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 stood at £25,023.11</p>												
<b>387</b>	<p><b>Budget and Precept</b> Resolved that the budget for 2026/27 be set at £15,189 and that the Precept demand be £12,420. This is an increase of 1,01%. The D rate for the parish council will be £37.02, an annual increase of 95p.</p>												
<b>388</b>	<p><b>Grants</b> There had been eight applications for funding. The budget allocation is £1,300. Two applications were rejected. The St Marys School, as this was for school assets, which is not permitted under present local government rules. An application from Holditch Hall was rejected as it was deemed to be retrospective. The gardening club were awarded £50, Village Shop £200. The two spinning groups were awarded £150 each. The Keep Fit group were awarded £150. More information is required from the Community Swimming Pool, who will be invited to attend a meeting, and make a business case for funding.</p>												
<b>389</b>	<p><b>Dorset Councillor Report</b> A report had been circulated.</p>												
<b>390</b>	<p><b>Community Shop</b> Report circulated.</p>												

<b>391</b>	<b>Playfield</b>  It was agreed that a small sub committee would meet in January, and report back to the February meeting.
<b>392</b>	<b>Allotments</b>  Hedge has been trimmed.
<b>393</b>	<b>CPRE</b>  Cllr Fox had attended the CPRE (Dorset) at Cerne Abbas. CPRE are willing to fund finger posts There had been a presentation on hedges at this meeting.
<b>394</b>	<b>Police and Neighbourhood Watch</b>  No issues.
<b>395</b>	<b>Other Reports</b>  Nil
<b>395</b>	<b>Planning</b>  Since the posting of the agenda an application had been received for a lawful development certificate in respect of Herridge Farm. The clerk explained that this is not a planning application, but calls for any evidence against the period of time listed in the application. Members noted the correspondence
<b>396</b>	<b>Highways</b>  It was noted that the road to Birdsmoor Gate had been resurfaced.
<b>397</b>	<b>Correspondence/Urgent Items</b>  Nil
<b>398</b>	<b>Closing of Meeting</b>  The chairman declared the meeting closed at 8pm
<b>399</b>	<b>Next Meetings</b>  <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm</b>

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----