

**Clerk to the Council:**

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**Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Thorncombe Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr's J Higgs (Chairman), M Stead (Vice-Chairman) 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

*Prior to the commencement of the meeting all members signed their Acceptance of Office of Councillor; witnessed by the Proper Officer, Mr J F Vanderwolfe*

<b>001</b>	<b>Election of Chairman</b> Councillor J Higgs was proposed by Cllr M Stead, and seconded by Cllr A Hiscock. There were no other nominations. Cllr Higgs was therefore duly elected, and signed the Declaration of Office of Chairman.	
<b>002</b>	<b>Election of Vice-Chairman</b> Cllr M Stead was elected as Vice-Chairman	
<b>003</b>	<b>Appointment to Outside Bodies and Other Amenities</b>	
	Blackdown Hill's trust	Cllr J Higgs
	Dorset Association of Parish/Town Councils	Cllr A Hiscock
	Community Shop	Cllr A Hiscock
	Village Hall	Cllr M Stead
	Allotments	Cllr P Basham
	Bus Services	Mr D Marsh
	Rights of Way	Mr N Berry
	Neighbourhood Watch	Cllr M Stead
	Webmaster	Cllr A Hiscock
	Flood Warden	Cllr M Stead
	Snow Warden	Cllr M Stead

004	<p><b>Power of Competence</b></p> <p>.The Clerk explained that as the recent elections had resulted in six member being elected onto this council, the council now met the two-thirds elected criteria and the clerk held the CILCA certificate. Proposed by Cllr M Stead, seconded by Cllr A Hiscock that this council therefore adopted the power for the period of this council’s term. All in favour.</p>
005	<p><b>Co-option of Vacant Positions on Council</b></p> <p>The Clerk informed members that we could fill vacant places without the need of involving the Election services of Dorset Council, providing this was done as soon as possible. This would also be mentioned at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting</p>
006	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>An apology was noted from our Dorset Councillor, Cllr S Christopher., As their new council had not yet met since the election there was not a report</p>
007	<p><b>Declaration of Interest under the Code of Conduct</b></p> <p>No declarations, under the Code of Conduct were made at this stage of the meeting. The clerk informed the meeting that all members had been sent the link to either register or amend their Register of Interest. When amending please either put the date as 7<sup>th</sup> May or the date of this meeting when you signed your declaration of acceptance of office.</p>
008	<p><b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record and were signed by the chairman</p>
009	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p>No items under this heading</p>
010	<p><b>Council Surgery</b></p> <p>A parishioner had suggested a one way traffic system for some of the more rural parts of the parish where there are alternative routes, which would reduce sharp bends. This would be mentioned at the parish meeting.</p>
011	<p><b>Democratic Period</b></p> <p>A parishioner voiced his concerns about an application for a conversion at Goggans Farm. This application had been put forward a few years ago, but had been rejected. He felt it would have a negative impact on the village. He had circulated a report; which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p>
012	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>P/FUL/2024/01670 and P/LUL/01671 Goggans Farm, Lower Holditch Partial demolition, conversion and extension of existing agricultural building to provide accommodation and facilities for holiday let, including 12 car park spaces</b></p> <p>The application, if passed, would, in the opinion of the parish council, have a negative impact on the village scene and would be harmful to the environment. The council maintains that this is over development. Concerns raised as to how the proposed restriction on use of the conference facilities to residents would be operated. Concerns in relation to increase in traffic levels on a narrow road,</p>

	<p>including additional waste management vehicles. The council is not against the use of redundant buildings, but feel that this proposal is not suitable for this location. The north side of the roof is at present a galvanized structure which depicts the economic position of farmers of that time, we therefore feel that it should remain as such and not be replaced by tiles. Concerns also under Listed Building for the proposed linking of the barn to the house, which would result, in the opinion of the council, to a significant alteration to this listed property. Council therefore unable to support this application</p> <p>P/HOU/Poppes Lawn, Holditch Replace fenestration and roof over living area of annex. Members supported this application</p>
<b>013</b>	<p><b>Accounts for Payment</b> The following accounts were ratified: Moneysoft Payroll £36.00, Hugo Fox £23.99 and HMRC PAYE £251.60.</p>
<b>014</b>	<p><b>Financial Update</b> The financial update was noted. Financial assets stood at £22,669.77.</p>
<b>015</b>	<p><b>Annual Governance Statement 2023/24</b> Resolved to accept the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</p>
<b>016</b>	<p><b>Accounting Statement 2023/24</b> Resolved to adopt the Accounting Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</p>
<b>017</b>	<p><b>Conflict of Interest with BDO LLP (External Auditors)</b> Members agreed that there was no conflict of interest with having BDO LLP as our external auditors</p>
<b>018</b>	<p><b>Appointment of Internal Auditor</b> Members agreed to appoint Mr Dennis Knowles as our internal auditor. Members also agreed that there is no conflict of interest in having this position.</p>
<b>019</b>	<p><b>Dorset Councillor Report</b> No report as Dorset Council has not yet had its first meeting</p>
<b>020</b>	<p><b>Footpath Issues.</b> Agreed to deal with the two applications at the next meeting</p>
<b>021</b>	<p><b>Bus Services</b> No report</p>

<b>022</b>	<b>Community Shop</b> Still awaiting final figures for the end of year. Shop experiencing more difficulties recruiting volunteers and committee members.
<b>023</b>	<b>Allotments</b> No issues reported
<b>024</b>	<b>Playfield</b> See-saw now in place, and being enjoyed by children. Regular inspections taking place. ROSPA inspection will take place in June
<b>025</b>	<b>Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils</b> No updates
<b>026</b>	<b>School</b> A report is published in village magazine so agreed that this will no longer be a regular agenda item
<b>027</b>	<b>Police and Neighbourhood Watch</b> It is understood that the persistent dog mess offender has been visited and offered advice.
<b>028</b>	<b>Highways</b> It is hoped that the Highway Officer will attend the Annual Parish Meeting. Some roads scheduled for re-surfing
<b>029</b>	<b>Training</b> The clerk would offer training to the new councillors. DAPTC were running some planning courses on line; details of which had been circulated.
<b>030</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> Relevant correspondence circulated via email to members
<b>031</b>	<b>Closing of Meeting</b> The meeting was closed at 9.20pm
<b>032</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b> Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm

Signed ----- Chairman

Date -----