

**TVT Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 2000 at**  
**The New House, Fore Street, Thorncombe (Kate Cahn's house)**

Present: John Higgs (chair), Sally Welford (Vice-Chair), Mary Marsh (treasurer), Richard Holt (Secretary), Janet Walker, Kate Cahn, John Whitbread, Mark Agnew.

**1 Apologies:** None

**2 Minutes of last meeting.** The minutes of the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were read and approved, and were signed by the Chairman.

**3 Applications for Grants.** There were three items for consideration.

- a) On behalf of St. Mary's Church, Heather Roughton has applied for £120.00 towards work on trees in the churchyard. Since the church is a significant village amenity and contributes very largely to the character and environment of the parish, its continued well-being is a matter that comes within the aims of the Trust. All trustees agreed to awarding the sum requested for the provision and planting of new trees. It is understood that local residents have offered to provide some new trees in addition.
- b) A video camera was purchased some time back using funds from the village concert for the use of anybody wishing to record village life and events. The village school children have been involved in making some of these recordings, and there is a clear educational aspect to its use. The number of recordings has grown and Mark Shelley, who looks after the camera had asked for an external disk drive on which to store and preserve the large video files. A new 2TB HDD would cost in the region of £90.00. All trustees approved such a purchase.
- c) An application for funds to replace a field gate on a footpath at the end of Saddle Street was submitted by Nigel Higgins, the Parish Council's Rights of Way Liaison Officer. The County Council have moved the footpath recently and access to a field is now via a metal gate in poor repair. The footpath is part of the designated Monarch's Way, and it is hoped to improve access for persons of Restricted Mobility. There was discussion about the application and it appears that the Council's position is that it is for the landowner to provide gates or other closures on rights of way. In view of this the Trustees agreed to defer the decision on this grant pending further information about responsibility.

**4 Maintenance of Woods.** Mr. Johnson has been contacted and is happy for the Trust to carry out the proposed maintenance and the addition of access through the fence into "Johnson's Wood", with the proviso that any gates should prevent the passage of livestock. Mr. Eyre has indicated that he does not agree with the replacement of stiles with gates higher up the path in the Dungeon wood. Nigel Higgins, the Parish Council's Rights of Way Liaison Officer has been in touch with

the County and AONB contact and is awaiting details of any funding or support available there.

The planned clearance of brush and brambles will be started with a work party on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December, at 1030.

**5 Treasurer's Report.** The balance in the current account is £7528.61 plus £55.77 in petty cash. Investigation into a possible second deduction for Dorset Wildlife Trust revealed that this had not actually taken place.

**6 Any Other Business.** The trustees discussed the filling of dips in the field above Johnson's Wood. This is being undertaken to level out the surface to allow the use of agricultural equipment. Once the filling is complete the topsoil will be restored.

John Whitbread indicated there were still a good stock of the village walks booklet available. It was suggested that these walks could be revisited and the information updated if necessary. The Secretary undertook to see if volunteers could take on this task.

**7 Date of Next Meeting:** The next Trustee's Meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 1930 at the School House.

The meeting closed at 2100.