

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 8th October 2021 At Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Cllr N Farmer (Chair)

Cllr C Wardle

Cllr P Crabbe

Cllr H Jones

Cllr J Miller

Cllr J Stavenhagen

Cllr D Ennals

In attendance:

Mrs K Sheehan (Clerk), 22 members of the public

Speakers: Chris Loder MP, Dorset Councillor Tony Alford, Tara Hansford (DC Rights of Way) and George Sartin.

Welcome and Introduction.

Cllr Neil Farmer, Chairman of Toller Porcorum Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the speakers for the evening.

Chris Loder MP

Chris gave an interesting recap of his first months as West Dorset's Member of Parliament, including information on:

- Covid 19 response (both in Parliament and locally);
- Proposals for the creation of a Dorset National Park;
- Improvements to the rural transport network;
- Pressures on Dorset Council precept from social care.

He also answered questions from members of the public on the subjects of energy pricing, national justice campaigns, and EV charging networks.

Cllr Farmer thanked Chris for his informative talk.

George Sartin, West Dorset Trailway report

George provided an update on the efforts to finalise the last stages of the Trailway project, noting that:

- Users had been very encouraging;
- He was grateful for the input and support of many parties, but particularly the Billen family in Toller Porcorum;
- There had been a number of issues with communication but was keen to see the project brought to a successful conclusion for many future generations to enjoy.

Tara Hansford, Rights of Way Officer, Dorset Council

Tara reported that:

- Funding had been obtained through CIL monies and DfT investment;
- She was pleased to see the progress being made although there was much to be done.

Tara answered questions from members of the public.

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Cllr Farmer thanked both George and Tara for their efforts on behalf of the parish.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 10th May 2019

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, noting that there had been no Parish Assembly in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Matters Arising

None.

Chairman's Report

Cllr Ennals gave a report summarising the events since the last Parish Assembly in 2019, until May 2021, when he stepped down as Chair of the Parish Council.

Cllr Farmer thanked Cllr Ennals for his many years of service as Chair of the Parish Council, estimating that he must have chaired in the region of 100 meetings through the terms of three Prime Ministers. Cllr Ennals was presented with a commemorative gift from his Parish Council colleagues.

Cllr Farmer outlined the events since he had taken over as Chair in May 2021. He noted that the Parish Council was working to a Forward Plan which included work on internet speeds, the Queen's Canopy for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022, an updated Emergency Plan, EV charging points, revival of the Toller Times, and ongoing support for the Trailway project.

Financial Report from the Clerk

A financial report from the Clerk had been previously circulated. No questions were asked.

Report of the Recreational Area Association

Cllr Farmer reported that:

- Funding had been gratefully received from various sources;
- It was hoped that a spinning dish could be installed in the near future thanks to a generous donation from residents;
- The Association was looking at installing a boules court.

Report of the Parochial Church Council

Cllr Miller reported that:

- Although the church had been closed for most of 2020, a well supported plant sale, harvest and Christmas lunch had been held;
- Sadly, church services have now been cut to alternative weeks due to the declining size of the congregation;
- The roof has had a temporary covering installed which should last approximately 8-10 years.
- The PCC was looking at possibly organising a parish meeting with the rector in 2022 to discuss the future.

Report of the Village Association

Cllr Farmer reported that:

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- The Village Association had continued to offer excellent support to the village but was seeking new members to ensure it could continue to operate in the future.

Democratic Forum

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Frequency of roadside hedge cutting – Cllr Stavenhagen clarified that seasonal restrictions would have an impact on this, adding that not all hedges are the responsibility of Highways.
- Whether the verging machine which used to be operated by Highways could be requested to work through the village.

Cllr Farmer thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.