

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 9th May 2018 At Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Ennals (Chair)

Cllr A Carstairs (Vice Chair)

Cllr J Miller

Cllr J Stavenhagen

Cllr C Baker

Cllr J Knowles

Cllr N Farmer

In attendance:

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

Speakers: Ms E Venton from Dorset Care Record, Mike Haines from Dorset Waste Partnership and PCSO Sarah Pilcher.

Welcome and Introduction.

Cllr David Ennals, Chairman of Toller Porcorum Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the speakers for the evening. It was noted that Ms Tara Hansford from Dorset County Council Rights of Way team was unable to attend at short notice, but that she had contacted the Clerk to say that the Parish Council's application for funding for improvements to the gates on a village footpath had been successful. Cllr Jill Haynes of West Dorset District Council had sent her apologies. Cllr Ennals stated that Cllr Debbie Billen had recently stood down from the Council and extended thanks for her many years of service and support to the community. A new Councillor, Neil Farmer, had been co-opted to the Parish Council the previous evening.

Ellie Venton, Dorset Care Record

Ms Venton gave a presentation focusing on the roll out of the Dorset Care Record. She noted that:

- Health and Social Care records would be amalgamated and available to NHS and Council staff where appropriate
- The advantages of the system included avoiding the need to carry paperwork, and improving data available to out of hours services which would help to improve care and treatment
- Staff cannot see records without patient's consent
- Consent has various levels ranging from universal consent to complete removal of record
- Discharge letters/appointment detail etc all in one place and eventually the patient will also have access via a Citizen's portal
- DCR is designed to improve the efficiency of multi-agency working

Ms Venton answered questions from the floor relating to improving accessibility to GPs, the differences between the DCR and the Summary Care Record (national database) as well as cyber-security concerns.

Cllr Ennals thanked Ms Venton for her informative presentation.

Mike Haines – Operations Manager, Dorset Waste Partnership

Mr Haines outlined his background and current role in the Waste Partnership, highlighting the cost savings of diverting waste from landfill. He noted that:

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

- There is no expectation that LGR will change DWP as it is already a county-wide partnership
- An assisted collection service is available for those unable to pull out their wheel bins out to the kerbside
- Litter picking equipment is available for loan free of charge to parishes for village clean ups
- Waste Education officers are available for talks to schools and community groups

Mr Haines answered questions from the floor relating to current charging levels for HWRC disposal (not run by DWP) and the impact of these on fly tipping, as there was a correlation between charges being applied and the amount of fly tipping occurring. He agreed to follow up the issue on charging, endeavouring to find out who set the charges, and whether they are legal. Mr Haines emphasised the importance of washing materials put out for kerbside recycling.

Cllr Ennals thanked Mr Haines for his time.

PCSO Sarah Pilcher

PCSO Pilcher was welcomed to the meeting. She reported that the numbers of PCSOs were now further reduced but were continuing to offer appointments, visits and advice. Recently reported incidents in the area included criminal damage to vehicles, arson, theft, vehicle break ins. Some discussion took place about recent types of scam telephone calls reported and she urged everyone to report all incidents to the police to enable them to build awareness. Increased numbers of reports help to target police funds and resources to specific areas of policing. She also gave information regarding the Dorset Police 'Report it online' website function and the 'Ask NED' Non-Emergency Directory for issues such as fly-tipping, parking and noise nuisance.

PCSO Pilcher answered questions relating to online crime reporting, poaching and speeding through the village. She agreed to ask the Police Speed Team for their advice and would contact the parish clerk with their response.

Cllr Ennals thanked PCSO Pilcher for her time and efforts on behalf of the parish.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 9th May 2017

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

None.

Chairman's Report

Our year as a Parish Council began yesterday with our AGM. At this meeting, for want of further applicants, I was elected Chairman and Cllr Alex Carstairs was elected Vice Chairman; other elections included: Cllr Colin as our representative on the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils, Cllr Judy as our Village Hall Committee representative, Mr Chris Wardle as our Rights of Way Officer, supported by Mr Mick Rawlings. Cllr Jeremy Stavenhagen agreed to continue the responsibility for overseeing our roads, reporting faults and liaising with our Community Highways Officer, Blair Turner; and Cllr Alex Carstairs agreed to continue overseeing planning applications. Mr James Billen is

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

not able to continue as our Flood Warden, at our AGM last night we felt that our Community Emergency Plan would suffice, but if anyone does want to come forward as the village's Flood Warden, please let us know.

It is our custom as a Parish Council to award small donations from our income, and we will be deciding upon donations for 2019-20 at our November budget meeting. Last November we awarded: our church £320 for churchyard maintenance, £800 to the Playing Fields Association to cover the cost of grass cutting and £165 to the Village Association towards the cost of the insurance for our Post Office.

In my report last year, I highlighted the demise of the Library Service bus. Cllr Colin worked with our Sub-postmistress, Evelyn, to set up a scheme whereby books could be ordered every week. One year on, this scheme continues – and I highlight this for the benefit of anyone who may have missed out knowing about it, including new residents – on Wednesdays Robin Masters takes in orders and collects books, delivering them back to the Post Office where they can be collected. Our gratitude expressed to Evelyn, Robin and Colin for this service to the community.

Planning: Cllr Alex has continued to work extremely effectively as our Planning Co-ordinator. Planning issues can be detailed, and sometimes controversial, so as a Parish Council we are grateful to Alex to lead us through the various applications. Planning documents are sent by email to the Clerk, who forwards them onto all councillors. Cllr Alex collates feedback. If there are contentious issues, he requests an extension to the deadline so that issues can be resolved at the next Parish Council meeting. Unusually, this year has been very quiet on the planning front! We have commented on only one application and had referred one planning matter on Stone's Common to the planning department, which is still under investigation. Should you wish to follow up detail of any applications these are easily accessed through the dorsetforyou.com website planning section where you do a localised search by entering your postcode. Alex would like me to reiterate that any member of the public can either write a letter or comment on line, both of which will appear on the website against any applications commented on.

Highways is always a regular agenda item! Cllr Jeremy has worked tirelessly to get the quality of our local roads improved. No doubt, if you drive a car, you have been skilfully avoiding the potholes on Barrowlands Road – a section of road that continually requires repair and following much nagging from Cllr Jeremy to Blair Turner (Head of Highways), you will have seen that once again it has been marked for repair. The patching of our roads, pot hole filling, verging and last year the top dressing of local roads are largely down to his persistent efforts.

A most prominent contribution to our village – indeed, even to Dorset – has been the work that Cllr Jeremy started to upgrade our way signs in the village. Over a year ago Cllr Jeremy was investigating how best to repair our rusting posts and finger boards. He has liaised with Dorset's AONB as well as the CLT to obtain funding. The AONB agreed part funding as long as the signpost at Barrowlands, now stated Eggardon! He has orchestrated sand blasting, priming and top coating the posts, and then a real fillip to the process occurred when he met Mr Nigel Phillips who resides in Church Mead. Nigel, agreed to take on the renovation of the finger post boards and painting of the finials. While the Parish Council/AONB/CLT has paid for the parts: wood, stainless steel brackets, paint and lettering, Nigel has been working at home to prepare the boards, and possibly you have seen him on the highway installing them, and occasionally, with his wife, Kate, holding the step ladder as was the case at Clift

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

Lane! If you meet Nigel, please make yourself known to him, and on behalf of us all a few words expressing admiration for his work would be warmly welcomed. Last night we resolved to press on with repairing and re-installing the post at Higher Kingcombe, as well as the corner fixed sign opposite The Old Swan.

One of the wettest Springs many of us can remember has highlighted the concern by residents of the flooding on Lower Road. The geography of the land being the main problem, of course. Basically the road level needs raising above the water table and the problem would be solved, but we all suspect that isn't going to happen! Mr Turner our local Highways Officer did agree to the jetting of gullies, and also in the High Street and Barrowlands Lane. As regards, Lower Road, this has made a difference – yes, there is a patch where standing water persists, but despite recent heavy rain the puddles on either side of the road rarely meet in the middle. Cllr Jeremy, and Nigel Phillips we thank you both for your persistent work.

Following years of work as our Rights Of Way Officer and having updated the lists of paths, the personnel who had adopted the paths and listing the landowners, Cllr Janet decided last November to step down, and I am delighted to say, that Mr Chris Wardle agreed to take on the role with support from Mr Michael Rawlings. Mr Wardle has been attending Parish Council meetings as a resident. At our March meeting Chris reported that he had discussed a number of issues with Tara Hansford at the County Council. With regards to the right of way determination at Frogmore Farm/Badger Lane, he reported it was expected to take between two and three years to investigate the background. The route alignment at Colesmore Farm was being clarified and once it was finalised, there would be liaison with the landowners to install gates and enable public access. Finally, with regards to Yates Farm at Toller Fratrum, work had been undertaken with Mr Yeates to enable a culvert to be installed in the new financial year. Chris thank you for your very enthusiastic start to your role, we as a community and Parish Council are most grateful.

By the start of Winter, vegetation on School Lane and the railway bridge was getting to the point of either impeding pedestrians or traffic and while I am used to working outside, I would like to highlight that at nearly 90 years of age Cllr Colin was more than keen and willing to help pair back the growth in these two areas alongside Alan Knowles. Colin is really an example to us all.

The Playing Fields Association is within a period of flux. Debbie Billen has resigned as Chairman. The PFA also has no Secretary or Treasurer. Last night we agreed to take on the responsibility of trying to get the PFA up and running again. We are going to write a piece for Team News and for Toller Facebook page. However, we do have some good news as 6 Parish Councillors have agreed to become trustees of the Playing Field.

The Playing Fields has an annual inspection governed by Fields in Trust, while the equipment remains safe, there are a few repairs still outstanding. The Parish Council looked into buying into the services of a lengthman scheme run by Bridport Town Council, but they were not willing for us to buy in a few hours work – they work on a much broader budget basis. If there is a resident who has handyman or woman credentials, funding is currently available for labour and materials. The Parish Council has examined the possibility of taking over the running of the PFA, but legal costs prohibited this from happening.

Earlier this year our Clerk, Katharine, was approached by a charity called the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust who wanted to erect a memorial plaque to commemorate the

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

nearby Toller Airfield at Grey's farm, which is a slight exaggeration as it was a really a place where we think a barrage balloon was installed. This matter is ongoing, but the Village Hall Committee has agreed to site the sign on or close to the Village Hall, a final decision to be made once we know the size and design of the plaque.

In 2015, two Parish Councillors were behind the initiative to start the Toller Times and this has now become a regular publication 10 times a year, the Parish Council initially funded the print run, but latterly the Kingcombe Centre now fund the printing, for which we are grateful. I just wanted to highlight this community resource as I do every year for our village website hosted by former Councillor Peter Davies. Again, our sincere thanks to Peter for this ongoing and most useful initiative. And you will be pleased to know that you can catch up on all the PC minutes (and even the Chairman's reports!). If any village group is holding a special event it is always worth contacting Peter who will willingly advertise it on the Noticeboard page, which may I add is currently advertising our famous plant sale for May 12th!

Before finishing, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors who make for lively but friendly debate at meetings. They give freely of their time for the good of our community and to our hard-working Clerk, Katharine Sheehan, who keeps scrupulous records and always seems to have any bite of required information to hand!

Thank you to everyone for coming tonight and should anyone have any concerns or issues through the forthcoming year please don't hesitate to approach one of us or attend one of our meetings which are, of course, open to members of the public and you can share your concerns or ideas during the public forum sections.

Financial Report from the Clerk

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

Report of the Recreation Field Committee – Cllr D Billen

Due to the current shortage of Committee members there was no annual report, but assurances were given that the insurance had been paid and grass cutting was in hand.

Report of the Parochial Church Council – Cllr J Miller

Cllr Miller reported that:

- Numbers in the congregation are slowly diminishing
- It is proving difficult to raise the money required to pay the diocesan share which is approximately £10,000 each year
- Support at PCC fundraising events is therefore invaluable but there are concerns that funds may only stretch to one further year, and unless the funding issue was resolved the risk of closing the church was a reality.

Report of the Village Association – Cllr C Baker

Cllr Baker reported that:

- The annual grant from the Parish Council had been used to help meet insurance costs

Report from West Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council

Apologies had been noted from all District and County Councillors.

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

Democratic Forum

A member of the public raised the condition of some of the village stiles. Rights of Way representative Chris Wardle asked him to forward details of which ones in particular he was concerned about in order for him to take this matter further.

Cllr Ennals thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.