

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

DRAFT Minutes of the full Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 7pm at Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Neil Farmer (NF)

Councillor Debbie Billen (DB)

Councillor Jane Curry (JC)

Councillor Steve Hodson (SH)

Councillor Helen Jones (HJ)

Councillor Chris Wardle (CW)

In attendance:

Clare Smith (Clerk)

Dorset Councillor Neil Eysenck (NE) Members of the public: 1

Public Democratic Forum

A member of the public raised difficulty of reading agenda and minutes on noticeboard and asked if the text size could be bigger. Council agreed to make noticeboard documents easier to read. They also asked if there was any update on the blocked gully at Church Mead.

The same member of the public reported the financial positions of the Village Hall and St Andrew's and St Peter's Church in support of grant applications to be considered later in the meeting.

25/11-1. Welcome by Chairman - meeting opened at 7:20pm

25/11-2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Peter Crabbe.

25/11-3. To receive declarations of interest or any grants of dispensation

DB and JC declared their roles on the Village Hall management committee and excluded themselves from voting on a grant application from the Village Hall. DB and JC were each granted a dispensation to take part in the discussion on the basis their knowledge was valuable to council. The dispensations were granted for this meeting only.

NF is the DAPTC representative under the dispensation granted 14.05.25, ref: 25/05-5.

25/11-4. To accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10 September 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council were proposed and duly accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: SH

Seconded: HJ

Accepted

25/11-5. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

Adoption of telephone box complete. A notice will be placed in the box stating this.

Grit bin situation is not resolved. The clerk is chasing Dorset Council on the matter.

Water treatment plant will be planting trees/shrubs to screen the plant from view. To date, no planting has taken place.

No update received from Dorset Council regarding blocked gully at Church Mead.

New No Dogs signs have been installed at the Recreation Ground.

25/11-6. Dorset Council report

Blocked gully at Church Mead - NE and NF received email stating person responsible would be in touch after a meeting in early October but a response has not been received. NE is going to escalate.

Highways – NE has spoken to head of Highways about poor communications, particularly in relation to Barrowland Lane. 2 new community Highways officers have been recruited and this should start to ease the burden on the officer covering Toller Porcorum. A new Highways system is being implemented and is due to launch next year.

Barrowland Lane – work is scheduled to start later in the week. NE and the council await to see what works are completed.

Signed by Chair: Date:

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Trailway to Maiden Newton – officer waiting for land agent and serving of legal notices in Toller Fratrum. Challenges remain in Loders area. NE is coordinating record of action from all departments at Dorset Council and will provide updates to affected local councils.

Devolution – double devolution, the transfer of assets from Dorset Council, is looming.

NE has concerns that Dorset Council will seek to offload assets without quite understanding what they are and their importance to communities.

NE noted NF's article on devolution and stated that grouped parish councils does create challenges in representation for smaller councils within the group.

Dorset Council budget simulator – all encouraged to try on the council's website.

Poor End – works are ongoing with no change to landscaping at this time. NE will continue to monitor.

25/11-7. Finance

i. To approve the accounts for September and October 2025

HJ carried out the checking of invoices, bank statements and bank reconciliations.

Bank on 31 October 2025: £19,059.29

Proposed: CW

Seconded: JC

Approved

ii. To approve the payments for November and December 2025

Additional payments of £150 to DAPTC for 2 conference places and of £400 to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd for reset grass cutting were submitted by the clerk at the meeting.

Total to be approved: £1620.61

Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
Clare Smith	Signs at Recreation Ground	£9.97	£1.99
Ken Hussey	Recreation Ground inspection	£27.50	
SC Marsh Ltd	Hedge cutting	£110.00	£22.00
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting November	£9.99	£2.00
Clare Smith	Salary and allowances Oct and Nov	£515.00	
Dorset LGPS	Pension	£122.32	
Lloyds	Service charge	£4.25	
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting	£116.67	£23.33
TP Village Hall	Room hire	£24.00	
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting December	£9.99	£2.00
DAPTC	2 x conference places	£150.00	
Lloyds	Service charge	£4.25	
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting	£116.67	£23.33
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Reset grass cutting	£400.00	£66.67
	Total	1620.61	£141.32

Proposed: HJ

Seconded: SH

Approved

iii. Consider and agree 2026/27 budget as recommended by Finance Working Group

Budget of £11,116.43 agreed.

Proposed: JC

Seconded: DB

Agreed

NF proposed a motion that the draft budget be circulated for public comment

Proposed: NF

Seconded: JC

Motion carried

iv. Consider and agree 2026/27 precept as recommended by Finance Working Group, subject to Band D rate being acceptable

Precept not agreed.

Resolved

Signed by Chair: Date:

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NF proposed a motion the precept be agreed at January meeting of Parish Council after public comment and issue of tax base by Dorset Council to define Band D rate.

Proposed: NF

Seconded: JC

Motion carried

v. Consider and agree earmarked reserves as recommended in 2026/27 budget and by internal auditor

Earmarked reserves agreed. Clerk to create in this financial year.

Proposed: HJ

Seconded: JC

Agreed

vi. Resolve to instruct clerk to investigate higher interest savings account

Proposed: HJ

Seconded: JC

Resolved

vii. Consider grant applications and agree any grant amounts

Grant to Village Hall declined.

Resolved

NF proposed a motion that he and Cllr Crabbe meet with members of Village Hall management committee to discuss future financial planning

Proposed: CW

Seconded: HJ

Motion carried

Grant of £363.45 awarded to St Andrew's and St Peter's Church.

Proposed: JC

Seconded: HJ

Agreed

25/11-8. Review Action List 2025-26

Reviewed, no action required.

25/11-9. Confirm responses to planning applications

i. P/HOU/2025/05201

Location: The Red House, Kingcombe Road, Higher Kingcombe DT2 0EH

Proposal: construction of carport and attached store with turning area to replace existing garage and turning area.

Response: Support. Toller Porcorum Parish Council supports this application. The council is confident the proposed build will not affect the environment or create any highway issues.

Proposed: CW

Seconded: SH

Confirmed

ii. P/MPO/2025/06114

Location: Highfields, Kingcombe Road, Higher Kingcombe DT2 0EH

Proposal: Discharge requirements of planning obligation dated 03/07/1979 relating to planning permission 1/E/78/000679 to Erect agricultural workers bungalow with garage and septic tank concerning the occupation of the dwelling in conjunction with the use of the land and, the restriction of sale or disposal of the land or dwelling separately.

Response: Support. Toller Porcorum Parish Council supports this application. The council believes the obligation no longer serves any useful purpose, is of no value to the community and/or surrounding countryside and is neither fair or reasonable as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance adopted as part of the Dorset Council Local Plan of March 2015.

Proposed: CW

Seconded: SH

Confirmed

25/11-10. Recreation Ground Working Group

i. To receive an update on grass cutting progress

Reset cut happened yesterday (Tuesday 18 November). SH was onsite and is very pleased with cut despite difficulties caused by very wet ground. Contractor is very responsive, easily contactable and SH is confident of good relationship going forward.

ii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

All issues raised in last inspection report have been resolved.

Signed by Chair: Date:

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25/11-11. Highways

i. To receive an update on Barrowland Lane

Update in Dorset Council report: 2511-6.

ii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

JC raised pothole near Post Office and will report on Dorset Council website.

25/11-12. Environment and Rights of Way

i. To receive an update on Trailway to Maiden Newton

Update in Dorset Council report: 2511-6.

ii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

Nothing further to report.

25/11-13. DAPTC

i. To receive a report on Devolving Dorset event and decide any actions

NF and HJ attended. HJ found it very interesting and feels topic not very relevant for TPPC at the moment but could be in the future.

NF has concerns as highlighted in Appendix J. Council should think about the future and what residents will require.

NE provided an update on Wessex Mayoral Strategic Authority. Will be made up of Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset and BCP Council area. Slim chance of mayoral elections in 2026 but more likely in summer 2027. Dorset Council aims to keep most services.

ii. Consider and agree DAPTC membership fee for 2026/27

Membership fee of £204.05 approved and included in budget for 2026/27

Proposed: SH

Seconded: CW

Agreed

iii. Consider and agree who to vote for in NALC's Smaller Councils Committee election

Council selected 3 nominees, including NF. Clerk to submit votes.

Proposed: CW

Seconded: SH

Agreed

iv. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

Nothing further to report.

25/11-14. To receive brief verbal reports from councillors representing the areas below and decide any actions:

i. Community including Church and Village Hall

DB reported the recent ThaW event went well and Village Hall quiz night was popular.

ii. Ammonite Patient Participation Group

CW reported new flooring in waiting room and patient-use blood pressure machine, paid for by PPG, to be installed at Maiden Newton.

CW plans to attend the next meeting, 13 January 2026.

25/11-15. To receive any correspondence received for noting

Email from a resident about dogs on the Recreation Ground. Facebook post issued in response and to highlight new signs.

25/11-16. To confirm arrangements for Parish Council meeting in January 2026

Meeting to be held Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed: 21:09pm

Public Democratic Forum - no members of the public were present to comment at end of meeting.

Signed by Chair: Date:

Clerk to the Council: Clare Smith | Email: clerk@tollerporcormparish.org
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