

# TOLLER PORCORM PARISH COUNCIL

Full Parish Council Meeting | Wednesday 13 November 2024

## Appendix L – Future of Powerstock Bridge

Minute reference: 24/11-10 ii

Prepared by chair Neil Farmer

At the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 10th January 2024 the future of the Old Powerstock Railway Bridge was debated. The minutes of the meeting detailed below determine the position of the Council at the time.

### 24/01-1. Presentation from Highways England on future of the old Powerstock Railway Bridge.

Following a site meeting earlier that day attended by NF, JS and officers from Highways England set out the structural issues with the railway bridge and possible long-term solutions. These options were based around the heritage value of the bridge, current structural condition of the bridge, repair options, landowner consents/refusals, impact on current flooding/drainage issues and improvement options and capital v revenue costs. After a question-and-answer session and debate it was resolved that:

- i That the preferred option of the Council is for the bridge to be demolished and that Highways England work with Dorset Council to raise the road level to reduce the impact of long-term flooding.
- ii If Highways England determine that the bridge should remain then the eastern side abutments be repaired by anchoring and in conjunction with Dorset Council an appropriate drainage improvement scheme be undertaken conterminously with bridge improvement works.
- iii The condition of the west side abutments be kept under review unless the landowner agrees to anchoring works being undertaken on their land:

Proposed: HJ    Seconded: JM. Five (5) For, One (1) against, One (1) abstention.

### 22 October 2024

Cllr Mrs. Jones, Cllr Eysenck, our Clerk and myself held an online meeting with engineers from the Highways Agency and Dorset Council to see what actions were necessary to advance the project. Both engineers agreed that the most appropriate direction of travel for the project is to demolish the bridge using the abutment materials to raise the level of the road to reduce significantly the depth and frequency of flooding.

It was agreed that:

- (i) Both engineers would put together a joint project plan recommending to both their organisations the works necessary to demolish the bridge and raise the road level;
- (ii) Both engineers will liaise with senior decision makers in their organisations to gain traction for the project and secure necessary permissions and finance;
- (iii) Dorset Council in conjunction with the Highways agency will prepare a joint communication plan for the project.

It is hoped that Councillors will receive a copy of the agreed briefing paper prior to this meeting.

**It is recommended that the Council pass the following as a new resolution:**

Toller Porcorum Parish Council supports the demolition of Powerstock Bridge by Highways England and raising of the road level of Barrowlands Lane by Dorset Council to reduce the impact of long-term flooding through a joint project plan.