

Chair: Neil Farmer

**Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on
10th January 2024 at the Toller Porcorum village hall**

Present:

Cllr N Farmer (NF)

Cllr P Crabbe (PC)

Cllr D Ennals (DE)

Cllr H Jones (HJ)

Cllr J Miller (JM)

Cllr J Stavenhagen (JS)

Cllr C Wardle (CW)

In attendance:

3 members of the Public and 2 Officers from Highways England.

Public Democratic Forum – Up to 15-minute session to give residents the opportunity to indicate interest in the agenda items/put questions to Council that may be answered at a later date/become a future agenda item.

There were no questions or expressions of interest from those present.

24/01-1. Chairman’s announcements and housekeeping – The Chairman welcomed Cllrs, representatives from Highways England and members of the public to the meeting.

24/01-2. Apologies of absence - Cllr A Anthony Alford (AA) Dorset Council

24/01-3. Declarations of interest or any grants of dispensations – None.

24/01-4. Presentation from Highways England on future of the old Powerstock Railway Bridge.

Following a site meeting earlier that day attended by NF and JS 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.

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24/01-5. Dorset Council Report -Cllr Tony Alford

In the absence of AA Cllrs noted the works undertaken by Dorset Councils Highway teams during the recent inclement weather. That Dorset Council proposes to increase council tax next year by just under 3 per cent and to levy the adult social care precept of 2 per cent. The increase would be equivalent to £1.82 extra per week for a Band D property. The Dorset Council budget amounts to £376 million.

24/01-6. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th November 2023

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 HJ Seconded CW All agreed.

24/01-7. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting – none.

24/01-8. Finance and Procedures

i. To review financial reports.

Cllrs noted several financial reports and the Councils Asset Register and considered the receipts and payments due:

Payee	Detail	Amount
Pengillys	Solicitors' fees	1,800.00
Hugo Fox	Website	11.99
Toller Times	Toller Times	220.50
Toller Porcorum Village Hall	Hall Hire	42.00
Receipts		
Lloyds	Interest	15.54
Lloyds	Interest	14.09
HMRC Vat reclaim – 30-11-23.	Vat reclaim	382.94

HJ carried out the checking of invoices and bank reconciliation.

Bank as of 12th December 2023 £12,801.70

Proposed: PC Seconded CW All agreed.

ii. Review of May 2024 local election procedures

Cllrs considered a report of the May 2024 election process noting that nomination forms will be available online from mid-February 2024, can be received from 12th March at the earliest and not later than 4pm on the 5th April. Nomination forms must be printed and signed and via appointment delivered by hand to a Dorset Council Office. The Chairman would have

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printed copies available on request. It was agreed that the election process would be advertised widely across the Parish.

iii. **Update on recruitment of new Clerk and rules of governance in the absence of a Clerk.**

Cllrs received a report outlining the current recruitment process and how they must act whilst they operated without a qualified Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. The report was noted.

iv. **Report on the future of the DAPTC**

The Council received a report outlining work by the Executive Committee of the DAPTC to investigate the legal and executive format of the DAPTC to become a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). All members will be able to vote on proposals at an EGM in late April. The report was noted.

v. **Report on Joint Council meeting with representative of the Ammonite Patient Group Practice.**

Cllr received a verbal report from Cllr Ennals who represented the Council at a meeting held on the 13th December 2023. The key points from the meeting where planned improvement to the inside and outside of the surgery including an exterior dispensary window, changes to the notice period for prescriptions, the appointment of two (2) new doctors from January subject to a statutory induction process. There are no plans to reopen on a Thursday. Cllrs were sad to hear that staff at the surgery were receiving undue high levels of abuse. The report was noted. Cllr Ennals requests that users of the surgery who wish to raise concerns or praise can email him via davidennalstollerpc@gmail.com.

24/01-9. Work Plan 2023-24

i. **Update on the freehold transfer of Toller Recreation Ground to the Parish Council.**

Cllrs were advised that the Recreation Ground Trustees had formally signed and returned the Deed of Surrender to Fields in Trust and that it was hoped to have the transfer completed by the end of January 2024.

Correspondence had been received from the Councillors solicitors asking the Council to confirm the following:

1. Not to use the land or permit the land to be used for any purpose other than as a public playing field, recreation ground, park, play space and open space.
2. Not to grant, allow, suffer or permit the land to be used for any purpose save that temporary events shall not require consent with the exception of events and festivals which require closure of more than 25% of the land for more than 21 consecutive days (including set-up and set down) per event;
3. Not to dispose of the land without the consent of Fields in Trust.

4. Not to erect, allow, permit or suffer any buildings, structures or alterations on the land, the use of which is outside the permitted uses

5. Not to grant, allow, suffer or permit the erection of any buildings, structures or alterations on the land that would result in the total structural and building footprint of such buildings or structures to exceed twenty per cent of the total square footage of the land.

6. To inform Fields in Trust without delay of any proposals, intentions or decisions to grant, allow, suffer or permit:

1.6.1 Disposals of the whole or part of the land.

1.6.2 The erection of any buildings, structures or alterations on the whole or part of the land.

1.6.3 The temporary closures or uses of the whole or part of the land.

7. To maintain the land and so far as is consistent with its duties as trustee of the land to have regard to any advice given from time to time by Fields in Trust on the management and running of the land.

8. To erect notices on the land in the form of signage provided by Fields in Trust relating to the background of Fields in Trust and its protection of the land, giving recognition of financial support where required.

In agreeing to the above terms Cllrs asked for clarification on item 8.

Proposed: PC. Seconded: DE All agreed.

ii. Update on the Emergency Plan.

The Emergency Plan is available via the Councils website along with advice on flooding. Further updates will take place as necessary. The verbal report was noted.

iii. To review the Action Plan

Cllrs noted the current outstanding items on the action list. A meeting with Highways Officers will take place later this month to review several outstanding works. The report was noted.

24/01-10. Planning-To consider any planning applications in circulation and any other planning matters.

- i. P/FUL/2023/0683 Proposal: Construct Construction of temporary new access. Location: Land off Toller Lane, Toller Porcorum.

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Cllrs reviewed the above application and raised no objections. Cllrs asked that a representative of Wessex Water attend their next meeting to discuss long term plans for potential improvements to the sewerage system.

Proposed CW Seconded JS All agreed.

- ii. P/FUL/2023/00953 Proposal: Installation of ground mounted Solar photovoltaic array and associated infrastructure. Location: Land southwest of Wraxall Woods of Wraxall Road. Previously considered at the 8th March 2023 meeting: *The hedge on the A356 is to be screened with mature hedging of at least 6ft high. The panels to be sited so as not to be a nuisance to traffic with glint and glare, this would be supported by the installation of a mature hedge as above. To ensure that those parishes affected by the application gain some community benefit from the application as per the public consultation events held.*

Cllrs reviewed the above application and raised no objections asking that their previous comments of this application from the 8th March 2023 be made known to Dorset Council Planning Officers.

Proposed JS Seconded HJ All agreed.

24/01-11. Highways

- i. **To consider any highway issues not forming part of the Council Action Plan - 24/01-9 iii refers.**

Cllrs were advised of a blocked drainage issues in Frogmore Lane and would add the item to the Action List.

24/01-12. Countryside Matters:

- i. **To receive a verbal update on any Rights of Way/Footpath matters.**

There were no new issues.

- ii. **To consider next phase of Gates Project.**

Cllrs agreed to ask Dorset Council to work with them to improve access to the public footpath network at the lower end of the High Street on its eastern side.

Proposed CW Seconded JS All agreed.

- iii. **Update on planned meeting with Environment Agency to discuss ground water and river flooding.**

Cllrs were advised that it was now hoped the CW and NF would meet with representative of the EA in February 2024.

24/01-13. To receive any correspondence received for noting and where necessary action.

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- i. To consider the request for School Bus Shelter at Higher Kingcombe.

Cllrs reviewed correspondence between the Chairman and a resident requesting the Parish Council provide a bus shelter. Cllr agreed this was not a statutory responsibility of the Council but asked that the Chairman write to Dorset Council highlighting the resident's request.

24/01-14. To confirm arrangements for the Parish Council meeting for 2024/2025.

It was agreed that the dates be set for the following meetings at this time:

Wednesday 10th January 2024

Wednesday 13th March 2024

Friday 19th April 2024 Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday 8th May 2024 (Election Year) AGM

Wednesday 10th July 2024

Wednesday 11th September 2024

Wednesday 13th November 2024

Wednesday 8th January 2025

Wednesday 12th March 2025

Friday 11th April 2025 Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday 14th May AGM

Meeting Closed at 8.50pm.