

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 10 September 2025 7pm at Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Neil Farmer (NF)

Councillor Peter Crabbe (PC)

Councillor Debbie Billen (DB)

Councillor Steve Hodson (SH)

Councillor Helen Jones (HJ)

In attendance:

Clare Smith (Clerk)

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

Public Democratic Forum

One member of the public was in attendance and raised 3 issues.

Water treatment plant – since the upgrade Wessex Water have done a good job of reinstalling the hedge but as the plant is now larger and taller it has altered the view of the village. They wondered if something could be planted, further back from the road to better screen the plant.

NF will write to Wessex Water and ask.

Trees on Trailway – from village to Powerstock there are lots of saplings planted and a sign stating any trees provided will be planted. They ask that those involved take into consideration the benefit of a view and not aim to enclose all the Trailway with trees and to check that trees planted are native species and native to the area.

NF to speak to landowner.

Smart meter installation – unable to install because of low signal strength and not strong enough to send the required meter reading every 30 minutes as required by energy company. Other options are available: using an external ariel, household WiFi and reporting manually, all of which have been rejected by energy company. Rural communities are being denied the ability to be greener by this attitude. They have written to their MP.

NE informed the meeting that this is a big problem across the ward area. Dorset Council is using sensors on bin lorries to map coverage so it can pressure providers for better coverage.

Clerk will use Facebook to ask if other residents have same issue and which company they use. This information may be used to apply pressure to energy companies.

25/09-1. Welcome by Chairman – meeting opened 7:16pm

i. Receive report on surgery held by Edward Morello MP

NF noted that the surgery held by the MP was greatly appreciated particularly as an MP has not held a surgery in the village before.

ii. Receive report on press interest in Evri deliveries

Dorset Echo article on the matter has been published. Issues with deliveries continue.

25/09-2. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors Jane Curry and Chris Wardle.

25/09-3. To receive declarations of interest or any grants of dispensation

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

25/09-4. To accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 9 July 2025

Proposed: PC

Seconded: SH

Accepted

25/09-5. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

Adoption of telephone box – update provided under 25/09-11, update from clerk.

25/09-6. Dorset Council report

NE provided a verbal report.

Blocked gully at Church Mead – will follow up when person responsible returns to the office.

Signed by Chair: Date:

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Poor End – is following up with Enforcement as concerned the planning application is not being enforced and the land that has been disturbed must be returned to how it was. Enforcement, after a visit to the site, told NF and the clerk that the case will remain open for 6 months to ensure the land is returned to its original state.

Local Plan and consultation – Dorset Council has to work to new targets set by government and ensure there is more than a 5-year supply of land available for houses and other development. The consultation is about having options on sites.

There are no sites within the parish, the nearest is between Chilfrome and Maiden Newton for 46 houses which has raised concerns about increased flood risk.

NE is holding a ward specific consultation drop in, 25 September, 6:30 – 8:30pm at Maiden Newton Village Hall – all are welcome to attend.

NE encouraged everyone to respond to the consultation which closes 13 October 2025.

Local Transport Plan consultation – the plan includes the Trailway and NE encourages people to respond positively on the Trailway to show it is important. This consultation also closes 13 October 2025.

Design codes - NE to sit on Executive Advisory Panel on design codes which define how houses, schools and other developments should look.

Senior Leadership Team work group – investigating audit issues at Dorset Council and NE is on the cross-party group providing oversight.

NF noted he has attended Dorset Council webinars on various strategies, but they seem unrelated to one another and should surely come together for an overall plan.

25/09-7. Finance

i. To approve the accounts for July and August 2025

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

Bank on 1 September 2025: £15,144.68.

Proposed: PC

Seconded: HJ

Approved

ii. To approve the payments due for September and October 2025

Payee	Detail	Amount	VAT
Footprints Ltd	Toller Times printing	£32.00	£6.40
TP Village Hall	Room hire for meetings	£36.00	
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting September	£9.99	£2.00
Lloyds	Service charge September	£4.25	
Clare Smith	Salary July and August	£523.74	
	Clerk's mileage	£21.33	
	Clerk's home allowance	£52.00	
Dorset LGPS	Pension	£131.05	
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting October	£9.99	£2.00
Lloyds	Service charge October	£4.25	
	Total	£824.60	£10.40

Proposed: HJ

Seconded: SH

Approved

iii. Accept Local Government pay rates for 2025/26 and agree to update and backdate clerk's pay accordingly

Proposed: HJ

Seconded: PC

Approved

iv. Consider grant application and agree grant amount

Grant agreed to Toller Porcorum Village Association, for Post Office insurance, for £180. Grant awarded under Local Government Act 1972, section 137.

Proposed: SH

Seconded: PC

Agreed

Consider quotes for grass cutting services and award contract subject to conditions

Contract awarded to Quote A: Countrywide Grounds Maintenance.

Proposed: SH

Seconded: DH

Resolved

Signed by Chair: Date:

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25/09-8. Policies

i. Adopt Digital Communications and Social Media Policy to replace current Social Media Policy

Proposed: PC Seconded: HJ **Adopted**

ii. Approve updates to Press and Media Policy

Reference to officers to be removed

Proposed: PC Seconded: HJ **Approved subject to edits**

iii. Approve updates to Recreation Ground Policy and booking form

Insert event organiser to complete risk assessment and UK GDPR Regulations to booking form.

Proposed: PC Seconded: HJ **Approved subject to edits**

iv. Approve Safeguarding Policy

Proposed: PC Seconded: HJ **Approved**

25/09-9. Review Action List 2024-25

Reviewed.

25/09-10. Planning: receive update on works at Poor End

Update received as part of 25/09-6, Dorset Council report.

25/09-11. Receive an update from the clerk and decide any actions

Telephone box – in August BT confirmed they have received the adoption contract and are arranging for the telephony system to be removed. Once removed and registered on their system a completion (of adoption) notice will be issued.

ACTION: clerk to request telephone box is painted by BT before adoption.

Recreation Ground – registered on the Nature Recovery Dorset Network as large area is to be left wild March - July. Online map not yet updated.

Grit bins – emailed Dorset Council in August to add missing TPPC owned bins to their system, asked for reference numbers of 3 bins to be updated to aid refill requests and to ensure TPPC is included in information emails going forward. Dorset Council system not yet updated.

ACTION: clerk to follow up.

CPR & Defibrillator training attendees – to be asked for permission to use their contact details in Community Emergency Response Plan and on a laminated card inside the defibrillator box.

25/09-12. Recreation Ground Working Group

i. Approve purchase and installation of updated No Dogs signs

Proposed: HJ Seconded: SH **Approved**

ii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

Nothing further to report.

25/09-13. Highways

i. Receive update on Barrowland Lane

Highways have confirmed that works scheduled for late October will include a sealing layer. Hopefully work to expose drainage assets and clear out grips will be included.

ii. Receive update on Powerstock Bridge

Progress is slow. A water main cannot be located and introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) could cause delays due to the length of an access ramp to the Trailway. National Highways are in discussions with Dorset Council to mitigate BNG and TPPC has offered the Recreation Ground as a site and recommended speaking to the landowner for further sites.

Signed by Chair: Date:

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NE to investigate BNG with Planning office.

ii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

HJ is concerned that officially diverted traffic from A35 closures is diverted through Maiden Newton which is wholly unsuited to such volume of traffic.

NE informed the meeting that this had been raised by Maiden Newton Parish Council too and he is going to ask Highways if another more suitable route can be found.

25/09-14. DAPTC

i. Agree council response to DAPTC Parish Council survey

Proposed: SH Secoded: HJ **Agreed**

ACTION: clerk to submit response on behalf of council.

ii. Approve nomination of NF to board of directors of DAPTC

Proposed: HJ Secoded: PC **Approved**

iii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

NF informed councillors of event, Devolving Dorset, 30 October and to inform clerk if they wish to attend.

25/09-15. Community including Church and Village Hall

i. Receive report on standing water in Village Hall car park and decide any actions

Report received as part of 25/09-6, Dorset Council report. Clerk reported blocked gully at Church Mead to Dorset Council system.

ii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

DB informed meeting of £400 for the Church raised by cream teas event.

The Chair proposed a motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes at 9pm. Motion was carried.

25/09-16. To receive brief verbal reports from councillors representing the areas below and decide any actions:

i. Environment including Rights of Way

NF is waiting for an update from Dorset Council on Trailway progress. There is frustration at the apparent lack of progress made.

NE involved with whole Trailway route and is pushing for more action.

ii. Ammonite Patient Participation Group

CW informed council by email that next meeting is on 23 September which CW will attend.

25/09-17. To receive any correspondence received for noting

Email from resident identifying current No Dogs signage at Recreation Ground as not fit for purpose.

25/09-18. To confirm arrangements for Parish Council meeting in November 2025

Next meeting scheduled for 12 November 2025 but may be rearranged to 19 November to ensure more councillors present to discuss budget.

Meeting closed: 9:10pm

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

Signed by Chair: Date: