

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 10 July 2024 6:30pm at Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Neil Farmer (NF)

Councillor Peter Crabbe (PC)

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)

In advance of the commencement of this meeting photos will be taken of the Parish Council.

24/07-1. Public Democratic Forum

No members of the public were present.

24/07-2. To receive apologies for absence

All Councillors present.

24/07-3. To receive declarations of interest or any grants of dispensations

None declared.

24/07-4. Welcome by Chairman

NF welcomed everyone. NF, other members of the Council and many residents of the Parish had attended the funeral of Colin Baker, Wednesday 3 July 2024. Colin had served Toller Porcorum as a Parish Councillor and Parish Clerk and the service and attendance was a fitting tribute to someone who did so much for the village.

24/07-5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 May 2024

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: PC

Seconded: HJ

Approved

24/07-6. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

None arising.

24/07-7. Dorset Council report

NF welcomed Dorset Councillor Neil Eysenck (NE), Eggardon Ward, and thanked him for taking time to meet Parish Council. Councillors and the Clerk introduced themselves.

NE gave the Council his background: he has lived in Dorset 20 years, currently in Litton Cheney. He has bachelor's degrees in Commerce and Russian and a master's degree in International Relations. NE went on to study finance and became an accountant working mainly in audits. A health scare 8 years ago led to a career change to property refurbishment with ecological solutions and a desire to make a difference. NE decided to stand for Dorset Council and was elected in May 2024. He brings knowledge of finance, commerce and planning to his new role as a Dorset Councillor.

At Dorset Council NE is on the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Audit and Governance Committee and the Western and Southern Area Planning Committee which includes Toller Porcorum.

The aim of Dorset Council is to be collaborative and work with all parties and independents.

There will be a review of car parking charges and a declaration of a nature emergency is expected at the next meeting. NE is disappointed there has been no consultation on the nature emergency but is assured the declaration will be broad with detail to come and is keen to see

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Date:

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how it may affect Eggardon Ward and achieve balance between farming and the natural environment.

NE opened the floor to questions:

NF: curious how declaring a nature emergency would work alongside the consideration of Dorset being awarded National Park status.

NE: such decisions would be decided by a full council vote.

NF: curious as to what is designated as a grey field site for housing consideration.

NE: Dorset Council waiting for clarification.

24/07-8. Finance

i. To approve the accounts for May and June 2024 (Appendices B, C and D)

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

Bank on 30 June 2024: £16,582.76

Proposed: CW Seconded: SH Approved

ii. To consider payments due for July and August 2024

Payee	Detail	Amount
Michele Harding	RFO support June	£40.00
Sign Services-South	Recreation Ground signs	£38.40
Debbie Billen	Toller Times printing	£98.40
DAPTC	Annual subscription	£151.65
Clare Smith	Clerk's pay May and June	£315.85
HMRC	PAYE	£60.62
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting July	£11.99
Michele Harding	RFO support July	£40.00
SLCC	Clerk training	£144.00
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting August	£11.99

Payments considered and approved.

Proposed: HJ Seconded: JC Approved

iii. To review and confirm updated Grant Awarding Policy and Grant Aid Application Form

Policy was reviewed and changes confirmed.

Proposed: PC Seconded: CW Confirmed

ACTION: Clerk to upload updated policy to the Parish Council website.

ACTION: Clerk to advertise the policy on the home and news pages of the Parish Council website and Facebook.

ACTION: All Councillors to make residents aware that grants can be applied for.

iv. To review the Asset Register

Asset Register reviewed and noted as up to date.

v. To confirm there are no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP

Councillors confirmed that, to the best of their knowledge, there are no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP.

Statement signed by NF and the Clerk as required.

ACTION: Clerk to send signed statement to BDO LLP.

24/07-9. Review Action List 2024-25

Grass height at Toller Lane turning on to A356 as raised in last meeting (ref: 24/05-16.iv) has been acted upon. Hedges were not trimmed at the same time and another report had to be made about limited visibility. Dorset Council acted quickly and were thanked for their prompt action by NF.

i. Consider plan to review and update all policies and procedures (13 x governance policies, 11 x staffing and councillor policies and 2 x Parish policies).

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ACTION: Clerk to review all policies and procedures and update (if required). Policies and procedures will be brought to Parish Council for approval in batches throughout the Council year.

24/07-10. Highways

i. Powerstock Bridge update

NF is invited to a National Highways meeting where the future of the bridge will be decided and NF is awaiting further details before deciding to attend or not. Council was advised that progress will be slow and if National Highways' recommendation is agreed it could be another 18 months before work is undertaken. The parish can expect another winter of flooding and vehicle stranding.

ii. Grit bin request from Powerstock Parish Council update

Council agreed that Powerstock and North Poorton Parish Council can install a grit bin on Common Road, within Toller Porcorum parish, and take responsibility for its management.

Proposed: JC Seconded: HJ Agreed

ACTION: NF to confirm agreement in writing with Powerstock and North Poorton Parish Council.

iii. Report from Councillor Helen Jones

Grass height at Toller Lane/A356 junction acted on as noted above (ref: 24/07-9) but HJ frustrated at time taken. Action on hedges at same junction was much quicker.

A resident raised concerns about overhanging trees reducing visibility of the road on the north side of the railway bridge. HJ has contacted the responsible homeowner who is going to act. Barrowland Lane has been resurfaced. Weeds on the road and paths on the railway bridge, High Street, need addressing.

ACTION: HJ to request weedkilling treatment for road and paths on the railway bridge.

Residents have raised concerns about the milk lorry that travels through the village twice a day to JC. The lorry causes noise disruption, sometimes late at night, and causes houses to shake.

JC was asked to provide further details to NF outside of the meeting he will send an email to the farm and/or the transport company on behalf of Parish Council.

24/07-11. Environment including Rights of Way

i. Maiden Newton Trailway update

A walk and talk meeting took place 13 June 2024. All in attendance were very keen for this section of the Trailway to be completed. It was agreed that both Parish Councils write formally to Dorset Council asking them to consider purchasing the outstanding sections of Trailway using Section 16 powers under the 1965 Compulsory Purchase Act 1965.

ii. Consider resolution with Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch Parish Council

The wording below constitutes the formal resolution:

Toller Porcorum Parish Council supports the development of the old Toller Porcorum to Maiden Newton section of the old railway into a trailway for use by cyclists, walkers and horse riders east of Toller Porcorum to Maiden Newton. The Council asks Dorset Council to consider using all means at its disposal to secure the necessary land to advance this project including Section 16 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965.

Resolution considered and approved for sending.

Proposed: CW Seconded: HJ Approved

ACTION: NF to send resolution to responsible Dorset Councillor Jon Andrews

ACTION: NF to inform Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch Parish Council that resolution has been passed and action taken.

iii. Watery Lane Bridge and fallen tree update

The land agent has received an investigative report. Once the report is agreed by the client the land agent will share it with NF.

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Tree has been removed and broken fence replaced. A cattle barrier has also been installed across the stream.

iv. Report from Councillor Chris Wardle

CW had nothing further to report.

24/07-12. DAPTC update from Councillor Neil Farmer

NF and Neil Wedge, as Vice Chair and Chair of DAPTC respectively, met with Dorset Council Leader, Nick Ireland. An AGM is planned for autumn which will include financing next year's budget and consider changing from an association to a CIC (Community Interest Company). All Councillors should sign up for the DAPTC weekly newsletter.

NF encouraged all Councillors, particularly those in their first term, to go on training modules.

ACTION: Clerk to send link to DAPTC training courses

ACTION: All Councillors to inform Clerk of sessions they would like to attend

ACTION: Clerk to send link to sign up to newsletter.

24/07-13. Ammonite Patient Participation Group update from Councillor Chris Wardle

CW unable to make last meeting but provided a summary (Appendix J). A lot of work has been completed and much is in progress. Overall, the situation at Ammonite Health Partnership seems more positive.

24/07-14. To receive brief verbal reports from Councillors representing the areas below:

i. Finance Working Group

Nothing to report.

ii. Recreation Ground Working Group

SH has been able to contact Jess Carver about grass cutting and has asked mowing take place once a month during summer. Parts of the Recreation Ground will be left wild as requested by some residents. Will Ferris has been mowing the mini football pitch.

The annual inspection of the Recreation Ground and equipment has been carried out, SH was unable to attend, and Parish Council awaits the report.

iii. Community (including Church and Village Hall)

Village Hall Committee is still looking for a Treasurer.

iv. Planning

Nothing to report.

v. Emergency planning

PC has added the Clerk's contact details. PC and the Clerk will review the plan and report to Parish Council.

24/07-15. Create Staffing Committee for Clerk's probation review due after 30 July 2024

i. Review Staffing Committee Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference reviewed and found fit for purpose.

ii. Select 3 Councillors to Staffing Committee

Councillors NF, PC and JC selected.

24/07-16. Confirm how to action licensing applications from Dorset Council

Clerk should circulate licensing applications, upon receipt, to all Councillors. Councillors will act on applications that affect Toller Porcorum Parish and its residents.

Proposed: PC

Secoded: SH

Confirmed

24/07-17. To receive any correspondence received for noting

None received.

24/07-18. To confirm arrangements for Parish Council meeting in September

Meeting to be held Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7:53pm

Clerk to the Council: Clare Smith

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Signed by Chair:

Date: