

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Michele Harding

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 3rd May 2023 at Toller Porcorum village hall

Present:

Cllr N Farmer (NF)
Cllr P Crabbe (PC)
Cllr H Jones (HJ)

Cllr J Miller (JM)
Cllr Stavenhagen (JS)
Cllr C Wardle (CW)

In attendance:

Mrs M Harding (Clerk) Cllr A Alford (Dorset Council) No members of public

23/05-1. Election of a Chairman for 2023-24

Cllr Neil Farmer was nominated for the position of Chair- NF accepted and signed the acceptance of office. Proposed JM Seconded HJ

23/05-2. Election of a Vice Chairman for 2023-24

Cllr Peter Crabbe was nominated for the position of Vice Chair- PC accepted the position and signed acceptance of office. Proposed JM Seconded CW

23/05-3. Apologies for absence-Cllr D Ennals

23/05-4. Declarations of interests and grants of dispensations- JM on item 13 (v).

23/05-5. Chairman's announcements and annual report- The Chair provided the report given at the Annual Parish Assembly:

The PC has given Community Support to, County Cars scheme, play area, Church grounds, Post Office, Queen's Platinum jubilee, Defibrillator and party to celebrate the Kings coronation.

Meetings have been held with the Ammonite Health Care, Beavers and the Kingcombe Centre

There is now a New Website www.tollerporcorumparish.org and we continue to support the Village community website.

Policies – we reviewed and or adopted 22 policies and procedures. Introducing a new grant giving policy and environmental and sustainability policy.

Planning – continue to comment on planning applications about 6 in the last year. Of most interest was an application for a new solar park off the A356 southwest of Wraxall Woods, Wraxall Road near the junction of Higher Kingcombe Road. If the application is successful, we are pushing for a share of a community fund, which might be available.

We have increased the quantity of sandbags.

We have considered the following highways matters:

Flooding on Toller Lane, Powerstock Bridge flooding and potential removal, Smelly drains in Church Mead, Reprofiling of High Street, Fixing of potholes, Reporting of fly tipping. Gritting of school routes through parish. 20mph speed limit, managing of grit bins, Repairing of fingerpost signs.

We have considered the following Countryside and Rights of Way issues:

Gates Project 4 gates to replace stiles, Poor condition of Toller Stream and River Hooke, Reporting of blocked ROW, upgrading of permissive routes, Upgrading of the Countryside Noticeboard.

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23/05-6. Dorset Council Ward member report

The “Charging Ahead” programme will concentrate on getting electric vehicle charge points into Dorset’s more rural areas and supporting those households that aren’t able to charge vehicles at home.

The plans will see as many as 200 electric vehicle charge points installed in communities across the Dorset Council area over the next three years.

Suggestions of possible locations can be reported by submitting an online form on the council’s website.

Low-income households in the Dorset Council area will be able to apply for the next round of the Household Support Fund (HSF) to help with rising costs.

Dorset Council has been awarded further funding from the Government’s Household Support Fund to support households in the most need with their energy, food, and water bills. The support will be in the form of supermarket vouchers. Citizens Advice will be allocating this fund on behalf of Dorset Council and vouchers will be issued to residents who meet the eligibility criteria within 6 – 8 weeks.

Unlike round 3, which saw two application windows, round 4 will be split into 6 different windows, spread over 6 months, allowing more residents to have a chance to apply.

AA also reported on the new cabinet for Dorset Council, information is on the PC website.

AA commented on the drain issue by the village hall and will follow this up again.

23/05-7. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th March 23

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 CW Seconded HJ

23/05-8. Matters arising from the minutes- none as covered under agenda items.

23/05-9. General Power of Competence – to confirm that TPPC continues to meet the criteria for the GPPC and to resolve to continue to exercise the GPC.

By virtue of employing a qualified Clerk and the requisite proportion of Councillors having stood for election, the Parish Council remained eligible to hold and exercise the GPC. Proposed PC Seconded JM

23/05-10. To reaffirm the Standing Orders, Financial regulations and Code of Conduct.

The policies have been updated in the year; the above policies were reaffirmed. Proposed JS Seconded CW

23/05-11. To confirm the Councillor Roles and Responsibilities for the coming year.

NF- Chair, Bank signatory, TPPA rep, Planning rep.

PC- Vice Chair, website and IT, Bank signatory, Emergency Plan

JM- PCC rep

CW- Footpaths and RoW

DE- VH rep and Bank signatory

JS- Highways

HJ- DAPTC rep

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23/05-12. To receive reports from outside bodies and village reps

HJ reported that she is attending a finance for Cllrs course with DAPTC.
 PC commented on the mobile phone alert which will be added to the Emergency Plan,
 Cllrs commented on its use in other countries warning of hurricanes and of child abduction in Canada and America and these have been very successful.

23/05-13. Finance and Procedure.

i. To confirm the Annual Insurance renewal 2023-24

The Ins is in a LTA which ends in May 2024, the Ins premium for this coming year is £503.48. Proposed PC Seconded JM

ii. To consider the receipts and payments due

Payee	Detail	Amount
DAPTC	Annual Subs	£144.71
Dorset Council	Grit Bin	£578.40
Admin Costs		£417.10
D Wiltshire	Internal audit	£55.00
Gallagher	Annual Ins	£503.48
Jurassic Computers	Laptop service	£90.00
Receipts		
Lloyds Bank	Interest	£6.97
Dorset Council	1st Instalment of the precept	£3375

Bank as at 30th April 2023 £16,340.49

iii. To review the Parish Council bank mandates for DD or SO

The only payment by DD currently is to the ICO. Proposed HJ Seconded JS

iv. To review the Risk register and Asset Register

To be reviewed at budget time. Proposed CW Seconded JM

v. To note the conclusion of the internal audit and internal auditor's report

2022-23- completed and report received, the internal auditor noted the finding regarding the payments to the Parochial Church Council towards grass cutting in regards to Section 8 of the Local Government Act 1894-(i) to execute any works (including of maintenance or Improvement) incidental to or consequential on the exercise of any foregoing powers, or in relation to any parish properties, **not being property related to the affairs of the church or held for an ecclesiastical charity.** This element of section 8 of the Local Government Act 1894 has not been subsequently repealed by any later Local Government Acts.

The PC considered the grant given this information and agreed to approach the PCC and VH committee to discuss grass cutting costs and how to manage any future grants, so they are not paid directly to the Church but are still of community benefit. Proposed HJ Seconded CW

vi. To confirm the Certificate of Exemption for 2022-23

Proposed JM Seconded HJ

vii. To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

Proposed HJ Seconded PC

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- viii. **To approve the Accounting Statements 2022-23**
Proposed JS Seconded CW

23/05-14. Planning -To consider any other planning matters- none

23/05-15. Highways matters.

- i. **To receive an update on Highways issues-** JS commented to AA regarding the working process for reporting faults, the issue is reported online, the officers come out and mark around the issue, sometimes by the time they come to repair the issue there are further potholes but the team only repair what is on the list, AA commented that the works programmes for the day are pre-planned for the team working on the highway based on the reports and the area to be covered.
JS also commented on the “No Mow May” desire for Dorset Council and hopes this will not include the dangerous junctions that need to be maintained.
- ii. **Frogmore Lane and High Street update-** the works carried out were planned from 2018/19, there has been no response to the questions raised by the PC at this time. The area of Barrowlands and Cliff Lane have been closed off this week to carry out extensive gulley and drain clearing as well as using cameras.
- iii. **Toller Lane drainage-** The agent for the landowner had commented that permissions had been granted but work has not commenced. Following a conversation with the highways officer the works will take place later next week or early the following in May.
- iv. JS commented that the road names which are incorrect for the closure to carry out repairs on Lower Road as it should be High Street, the DC officer will be informed, also to note that the closure has now been moved to the 29th May to 2nd June during the half term holiday so it does not affect the school transport.

23/05-16. To receive an update of Rights of way/Footpath matters

- i. **Gates Project update-**There is a new officer who is gathering the permissions of landowners and considering a fourth gate this is ongoing. Permissions have been granted for Dorset Council to install a pedestrian gate off the old railway line on FP S45/9
- ii. **River Hooke and Toller Bridge update-**A response had been received from the land agent, the landowner is minded to follow current guidance that fallen (or partially fallen) trees and branches in rivers have a positive effect both on the ecology of the river and the ability to attenuate flows, to the benefit of settlements downriver. He is willing to alter this position if the “official” view is that a particular obstruction poses a specific risk to flooding in the local area and which is regarded as overriding the benefit derived from keeping it in place for the benefit of settlements downriver. An official request (with reasoning) from the Environment Agency would suffice. It was agreed to gather a response from the Flood Officer and arrange a site meeting to that effect to confirm the responsibility.

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NF commented that at the DAPTC event he spoke to Giles Nicholson regarding the adoption of permissive paths. Who explained that Countryside would be keen to take on new paths with landowners' permissions. CW to follow this up the landowner as no response to date.

- iii. **RoW Noticeboard**- nothing further on this.
JS commented on the Old Mills sign has been nailed back on.

23/05-17. Correspondence

To discuss EC Charging points- DE was unable to attend the meeting but wanted the PC to discuss the options of the potential for EV charging points in the village, the most suitable being the VH Car park, this would be for the VH committee to consider.

It was agreed to make a formal request to the VH committee to consider this for community benefit. JD also commented that another suitable location would be the phone box, this would be investigated.

NF reported that the Clerks appraisal will take place in June.

23/05-18. To confirm arrangements for the July PC meeting

This is to be held on 12th July items TBC.

Meeting closed at 8.14pm.