

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 11 September 2024 7pm at Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Neil Farmer (NF)

Councillor Peter Crabbe (PC)

Councillor Debbie Billen (DB)

Councillor Steve Hodson (SH)

Councillor Chris Wardle (CW)

In attendance:

Clare Smith (Clerk)

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

24/09-1. Public Democratic Forum

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council, now responsible for the Recreation Ground, had any further thoughts about installing a boules court. They felt a court would be well used as a group play regularly at an unsuitable venue and if a better venue was available the member of the public was sure more would play.

NF stated the Recreation Ground Association (now disbanded) had looked at a boules court but had decided the cost was prohibitive when so few residents wanted to play.

ACTION: the Clerk will use Facebook to gauge interest in boules.

The same member of the public asked if roads were expected to flood again this winter and if rivers would be dredged.

NF stated the Parish Council will request that Dorset Council ensure drains are kept clear but it was impossible to say if this will prevent flooding. Flooding on Toller Lane was to be discussed later in the meeting.

CW stated maintenance is the responsibility of riparian landowners but that Dorset Council had enforcement powers for the Toller Brook and the Environment Agency for the River Hooke.

24/09-2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted for councillors Jane Curry and Helen Jones.

24/09-3. To receive declarations of interest or any grants of dispensations

None declared.

24/09-4. Welcome by Chairman

NF welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24/09-5. To accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10 July 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: SH

Accepted

24/09-6. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

None arising.

24/09-7. Dorset Council report

NE has been confirmed as vice chair of the Western and Southern Area Planning Committee. As a member of the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee (PARSC) NE and others have asked for a review of planning enforcement and historic performance to shape a new enforcement plan to be proposed soon. PARSC is also looking at the car parking charges trial as there is a lack of clarity on decisions made for this process.

Nature Emergency plan has been approved and is to work alongside the Climate Emergency program. Dorset Council is preparing a response to government on stiff housing targets for Dorset and clarity on affordability. The new housing plan is to be in

Clerk to the Council: Clare Smith

Email: clerk@tollerporcorumparish.org

Website: www.tollerporcorumparish.org

Signed by Chair:

Date:

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place for 15 – 17 years. Changes are being made to planning legislation which is putting the Planning Department under increased pressure.

NE opened the floor to questions.

NF: Is there a £10 million shortfall for Dorset Council?

NE: There is but it was a known shortfall that is being mitigated.

NF: There are worries about what services may stop or be curtailed to help the budget.

NE: Hold me to account. It's my job to work for Eggardon Ward and see what changes can be made to ensure services are maintained but it is going to be hard money wise.

NF: If the council tax reduction for single occupancy is removed to bring in more money for Dorset Council that could put people into poverty. It's a real concern for rural parishes, particularly for those with a lack of transport.

NE: I will take this forward and ensure it is considered.

24/09-8. Staffing Committee

i. Accept the Staffing Committee's probationary appraisal report of the Clerk's performance and confirm appointment to role as permanent

Proposed: CW

Seconded: PC

Accepted and confirmed

ii. Approve Clerk's inclusion in Local Government Pension Scheme

Proposed: DB

Seconded: SH

Approved

24/09-9. Finance

i. To approve the accounts for July and August 2024

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

Bank on 31 August 2024: £15,646.48

Proposed: CW

Seconded: PC

Approved

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting September	£11.99
Clare Smith	Clerk's pay July and August	£315.85
HMRC	PAYE	£60.62
Ken Hussey	Play area inspection	£25.00
DAPTC	Councillor training x 2	£80.00
DAPTC	Clerks Conference	£58.00
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting October	£11.99
Jess Carver	Recreation Ground grass cutting	£280.00
ALCA	CiLCA support x 4	£300.00

Payments considered and approved.

Proposed: CW

Seconded: PC

Approved

24/09-10. Review Action List 2024-25

List reviewed.

24/09-11. Policy

i. Review new Safeguarding Policy that combines current Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and confirm the new policy as adopted

Policy reviewed and adopted in principle with changes to be made; remove DBS for volunteers, chair of Parish Council to be designated person, add LADO address and remove duplicate forms.

ACTION: Clerk to make changes to policy and update Parish Council website.

Proposed: CW

Seconded: SH

Approved

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24/09-12. Highways

i. Toller Lane flooding update

Report received from land agent. Wall on bridge recommended to be rebuilt, bank scouring after gabions has changed the flow of the river. Parish Council has asked for channels to be cut through the eastern hedge to encourage flow downstream onto the floodplain rather than Toller Lane and will ask Dorset Council Highways to clear the drains after seasonal hedge cutting.

ii. Powerstock Bridge update

Highways England has requested a meeting with Dorset Council, the Parish Council and concerned parties, to discuss the future of the bridge and flooding in the road. Meeting to be confirmed and NF and CW will attend.

iii. Accept written confirmation from Powerstock and North Poorton Parish Council regarding installation and management of grit bin on Common Road and agree the matter as resolved

Proposed: PC Secoded: CW Accepted and resolved

24/09-13. Environment including Rights of Way Recreation Ground Working Group

i. Trailway to Maiden Newton update

Progress is slow but is being made. Dorset Council Rights of Way has been given authority to talk to landowners. NE is supporting the project.

24/09-14. Recreation Ground Working Group

i. Consider raising of goal post netting to protect hedgehogs

Parish Council will monitor the situation and commits to keeping the goal area tidy and mown with netting properly attached.

24/09-15. Planning

i. To receive and consider planning and licensing applications

Application no: P/HOU/2024/04819
Location: Cuckoo Hill, School Lane, Toller Porcorum DT2 0DF
Proposal: Erect two storey side and single storey rear extensions
Decision: No objections

Proposed: PC Secoded: CW Approved

ACTION: Clerk to submit decision to planning portal

Application no: P/TRT/2024/05011
Location: Kingcombe Farm, Lower Kingcombe, Kingcombe Road, Toller Porcorum DT2 0EQ
Proposal: Trees: T1 Ash - Fell, T2 Hazel - Coppice, T3 Elm - Fell, T4 Beech - Fell, G5 Ash - Fell, G6 Ash x 3 – Fell

Decision: No objections

Proposed: SH Secoded: DB Approved

ACTION: Clerk to submit decision to planning portal

24/09-16. To receive brief verbal reports from councillors representing the areas below:

i. Finance Working Group

Budget meeting to take place 9 October 2024. This will be a closed meeting but councillors are encouraged to submit recommendations for areas of responsibility to the clerk before the meeting.

ii. DAPTC

Executive meeting on 13 September 2024, ahead of AGM in November. DAPTC is facing a shortfall of funds and an increase in subscription fees for member councils is possible.

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iii. Community including Church and Village Hall

A report from the Church was received detailing maintenance and ongoing activities. The Church is encouraged to apply for a grant from Parish Council for maintenance of the church yard.

iv. Emergency Planning

The Emergency Plan is under review by the clerk. It will be circulated to councillors for consideration in due course.

v. Ammonite Patient Participation Group

CW toured new pharmacy in August. Stage 2 of renovation is to move reception into current waiting room which will provide direct access to pharmacy. It is hoped this work will be completed in 2024 and a book exchange will be put in place.

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) met 3 September 2024. The practice is requesting contributions towards blood pressure machines for patient use for Maiden Newton and Beaminster locations. The practice continues to be closed to patients on Thursdays for staff training - this is to be reviewed. Work is ongoing to bring back Citizens Advice Bureau presence and vaccination clinics for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and flu/COVID are underway or planned.

24/09-17. To receive any correspondence received for noting

None received.

24/09-18. To confirm arrangements for Parish Council meeting in November

Meeting to be held Wednesday 13 November 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:54pm