

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly

11th May 2016

At Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Ennals (Chairman)

Cllr C Baker

Cllr J Miller (Vice Chairman)

Cllr D Billen

Cllr J Stavenhagen

Cllr A Carstairs

Cllr J Knowles

In attendance:

Mrs K Sheehan (Clerk), Cllr Jill Haynes (WDDC)

31 members of the public, 7 speakers

Apologies were noted from Cllr Rebecca Knox (DCC)

1. Welcome

Cllr Ennals welcomed all to the 2016 Parish Assembly and introduced the speakers for the meeting.

2. Mr Paul Coles (BT South West Regional Partnerships Director) – Telephone and broadband service

Mr Coles of BT introduced himself and his role and noted the high standard the village telephone box had been maintained at. He apologised for the number of disruptions experienced in the village earlier in the year and was hopeful that the residual issues would soon be resolved.

A number of residents and councillors raised issues including:

- Nuisance calls ignoring TPS
- Length of time to be connected and fibre broadband capacity in the village
- Difficulties in communicating with BT Call centres
- Problems with broadband speeds
- Internal communications issues between Openreach and BT
- Difficulties when BT is not the ISP
- Threats to charge customer £129.99 if fault is located on property/own equipment
- Target repair times for non BT customers
- Levels of compensation

Mr Coles thanked the residents for their comments and feedback and offered to look into all the above points and respond in full via the Parish Council Clerk. Residents who had a particular issue for Mr Coles to investigate were asked to email the details to the Clerk to collate.

3. Ms Kate Fisher (Assistant Community Responder Officer, South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust) – Defibrillators

Ms Fisher introduced the residents to a working defibrillator which she demonstrated, explaining that the machines make a significant difference to survival rates. She stated that

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although no training is required to use one, the Ambulance Trust do provide it as a confidence aid. All models of defibrillator were slightly different, as were the schemes administering them. Ms Fisher answered a number of questions relating to the defibrillators and the schemes/grants available. Cllr Ennals thanked Ms Fisher for her time and noted that the Parish Council would further discuss the matter at their next monthly meeting.

4. Cllr Jill Haynes (WDDC) – Annual Report

Cllr Haynes addressed the Assembly on issues facing WDDC in the coming months, including:

- Boundary reviews
- Future of the Dorset Councils
- Local Plan
- Future of local government funding

Cllr Haynes felt that it was likely that the number of Councillors across the county would reduce moving forward and that greater devolution to small authorities, including Parish Councils would take place. This might take place through a model such as the Local Area Boards. Cllr Ennals thanked Cllr Haynes for her time and continuing support of the Parish Council throughout the year.

5. PCSO Sarah Pilcher (Dorset Police) – Telephone and Internet Fraud

PCSO Pilcher addressed the topics of internet and telephone fraud, emphasising that these types of fraud were changing on an almost daily basis. She gave some advice, including:

- Use a strength checker for passwords
- Keep anti virus software up to date
- Don't click on links or attachments from unknown senders
- Make regular file back ups
- Don't advertise your holidays on social media
- If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is

6. Mr George Sartin and Ms Tara Hansford (DCC) – Pathways and Trailways

Ms Hansford and Mr Sartin updated residents on the progress of the Trailway. Mr Sartin reported that he was predominantly fundraising and that sales of kindling at the Post Office had now raised £500. Ms Hansford reported that every section from Toller Porcorum to Bridport was now considered active and that the main hold ups were now related to diversions or extinction of rights, some of which had a long backlog. She emphasised that she was now seeking to fast track these where possible and that all landowners involved were positive. The Trailway would be designated as a bridleway.

7. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2015

The minutes of the previous APM had been circulated. No issues were raised and they were duly signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PROPOSED: P Davies

SECONDED: P Hope

RESOLVED

8. Matters Arising

None.

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9. Chairman's Report

Cllr Ennals gave the following report on the Parish Council's activities:

The activities of the PC over the past 12 months began with our May AGM. At that meeting it was agreed that Cllr Baker was to represent TPPC at the Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils. Cllr Judy Miller was elected Vice Chair and was to be our representative on the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Janet Knowles agreed to stay as our Rights of Way Officer. The parish emergency contacts were to be Mr Paul Comer, and Mr James Billen. We are grateful to these gentlemen for their care and concern over the past year; no doubt you will have seen their signs out round the village when the weather was bad. Paul reports that:

"Although the roads have been flooded several times last winter no houses have had water in. Two cars were written off having driven into flood water - one on the road out of Toller towards main road and one at Powerstock Common. Signs were received from DCC to put out when floods were expected. The signs and cones were put out when Powerstock Common flooded." However, Paul reports sadly that, the 2 cones and one of the signs were stolen and the other sign was put into the road and driven over. This is very dispiriting for our flood wardens. Paul added that, "Signs were also put out on the road out of Toller but even when I was putting them out people totally ignored them and drove into the floods". The wardens have therefore given up putting out signs any more. A fresh supply of sandbags was obtained and put in the store behind the village hall. You will appreciate that Paul's and James' work has not met with a very responsible response from some people driving through or boundaries. I hope Paul and James will be prepared to continue as our flood wardens, if you have a chance when you meet them please encourage them and give them some positive comments.

At our November meeting we confirmed the awarded grants to: Churchyard £320, Recreation Field Association £165, Village Association for the benefit of the Post Office £165.

Planning: Cllr Alex Carstairs has continued to work extremely effectively as our Planning Co-ordinator. Planning issues can be detailed, and sometimes controversial, so as a Parish Council we are grateful to Alex to lead us through the various applications. Planning documents are sent by email to the Clerk, who forwards them onto all councillors. Cllr Carstairs collates feedback. If there are contentious issues, Cllr Carstairs requests an extension to the deadline so that issues can be resolved at the next Parish Council meeting. When planning documents fall within the compass of normal Parish Council meetings, Cllr Carstairs would consider the applications on his own and then make recommendations to the council at the next meeting. This year we have commented on 11 applications, if you wish to see the applications these are easily accessed through the dorsetforyou.com website planning section where you do a localised search by entering your postcode. Alec would like me to reiterate that any member of the public can either write a letter or comment on line, both of which will appear on the website against any applications commented on.

Cllr Janet Knowles has chased up various repairs to stiles and steps on footpaths, and continues to liaise with Jill Exton the Rights of Way Officer. One pathway/bridleway under

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review at the moment is Badger Lane. Unfortunately, this is not marked on the definitive map, but Jill Exton states it is a Bridleway. DDC are undergoing a consultation about its use, and there is a form which you can complete to help resolve the outcome, so if you have ever used Badger Lane for walking or riding or using it for access for any reason the Parish Council urges you to complete the form – please take a copy with you tonight.

Highways is always a regular agenda item! Cllr Jeremy Stavenhagen has worked tirelessly to get the quality of our local roads improved. He has organised site meetings, a meeting at the council offices, pinned down highway personnel by persistent emails and holding people to account. The patching of our roads, pot hole filling, verging and now the top dressing of local roads is largely down to his persistent efforts. I would like to ask him to give his short report now.

For my own part, I had a site meeting about having SLOW sign painted on the road just before the bridge on Lower Road together with the cutting back of vegetation to improve the site lines at the corner. Rather amusingly, a highways employee thought the vegetation at the railway bridge was proving dangerous so he cut that back as well. This exposed the precipice to the left of the road, which is on private land and Highways stated that they were not responsible for the fencing. The ownership of this piece of land is a subject of conjecture, but urgent action was required in terms of safety so the Parish Council arranged for fencing to be installed.

Last year a group of ladies, 2 of which were Councillors thought it would be a good idea to start a village newsletter, and within a few weeks the Toller Times was launched, and this has now become a regular publication 10 times a year, the Parish Council decided to fund its print run and we hope that residents find it a helpful community resource.

I would like to emphasise again the value of the TP Website and to thank our former councillor Peter Davies for running the website www.tollerporcorum.org And you will be pleased to know that you can catch up on all the PC minutes (and even the Chairman's reports!), but the information it holds is of interest to the historian as well as resident. Superfast broadband entered into discussions from time to time last year, and over the past 12 months much has happened in this respect. We have heard from Mr Paul Coles tonight his views of the problems we as a community have experienced. His words were encouraging, but your Parish Council has worked hard to resolve the issues especially in the early part of this year when so many of us were adversely affected by poor, intermittent or no service at all. As a consequence of such frustrations we, as a Parish Council, made contact with Mr Clive Selley (BT Chief Executive), which brought about the visit of Mr Coles tonight.

I received a letter from Toller and Hooke WI requesting that the Parish Council apply for funding for a defibrillator through the British Heart Foundation. The funding has now been withdrawn, but we have held an open mind as whether a defibrillator would be of practical use to the village and that is the reason we have delayed any decision, and to help in that respect it has been very worthwhile to listen to Kate Fisher together with her demonstrations. This up to date knowledge will help us to make a decision in due course.

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Cllr Jill Haynes has mentioned the decline of rural bus services. I have been in touch with Dorset Community Transport, and am delighted to say that the now defunct 213 service is running again via a 16 seat mini-bus. Today was its inaugural run and I am delighted to say that Mr & Mrs Knowles made use of it today. If you wish to use this service next week, please give me your name tonight. This service is called 'Plus Bus' and departs Toller at 0957, departing Dorchester for the return journey at 1320 hours. The cost is £5 per person.

Before finishing, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors who make for lively but friendly debate at meetings. They give freely of their time for the good of our community and to our hard working Clerk, Katharine Sheehan.

Thank you to everyone for coming tonight, and should anyone have any concerns or issues through the forthcoming year please don't hesitate to approach one of us or attend one of our meetings which are, of course, open to members of the public and you can share your concerns or ideas during the public forum sections.

10. Financial Report from the Clerk

A finance report previously circulated to those in attendance was noted. No questions were asked.

11. Report from the Recreation Area Committee

Cllr Debbie Billen reported that:

- Some improvements had been made, including a new fence
- A contractor was now undertaking regular grass cuts
- The committee was seeking new members
- A summer fayre was being planned to raise funds for grass cutting

12. Report from the Village Hall Committee

Cllr Alex Carstairs reported that:

- Repairs had been made to the coin meter and toilet seats
- Various kitchen improvements had taken place
- Underlay mats had been purchased for short mat bowls
- Keysafe will be installed and coded for regular users to relieve keyholders
- Expenditure currently exceeds income so an auction of promises is planned
- New trustees are very welcome

13. Report from the Parochial Church Council

Cllr Judy Miller reported that:

- Congregation is approximately 10 at present
- Repairs to window have taken place
- Fundraising events have been well attended
- Bells are rung by visiting teams

14. Report from County Councillor Rebecca Knox

Apologies were noted from Cllr Knox. A short note had been received from Cllr Knox to alert residents to consultation currently taking place by the Clinical Commissioning Group.

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15. Democratic Forum

Cllr Ennals invited questions from the floor. A member of the public noted that rats had been seen at the church end of Church Mead. Cllr Ennals noted that members of the PCC would follow this up.

Mr Peter Hope thanked members of the Parish Council for giving up their time for the benefit of the village.

The meeting closed at 9.19pm.