

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

DRAFT Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 7pm at Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Neil Farmer (NF)

Councillor Peter Crabbe (PC)

Councillor Debbie Billen (DB)

Councillor Helen Jones (HJ)

Councillor Chris Wardle (CW)

In attendance:

Clare Smith (Clerk)

Dorset Councillor Neil Eysenck (NE) Members of the public: 3

Public Democratic Forum

Resident presented petition for signatures to prevent closure of Maiden Newton Fire Station.

26/03-1. Welcome by Chairman

Meeting opened at 7:05pm.

The council spent some time in silence to remember Peggy Denty.

26/03-2. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Steve Hodson.

26/03-3. 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.

CW declared his interest in actions about High Street bridge as part of it is on his property. CW will not vote in any decisions.

26/03-4. To accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 14 January 2026 (Appendix A)

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: CW

Accepted

26/03-5. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

Model Health and Safety policy under review by DAPTC. Clerk will wait for new model before presenting updated policy.

26/03-6. Dorset Council report

Budget: extra funding for flood defenses and more funding for Highways approved. Collaborative approach with neighbouring counties is being taken to flood prevention. Additional funding for Highways will hopefully allow more proactive than reactive approach. NE appreciates frustration with delay to pothole repairs.

Signed by Chair: Date:

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TPPC hopes flood budget is used quickly rather than being held up while a strategy is planned. TPPC strongly recommends proper repairs by Highways rather than quick fixes that are destroyed by seasonal weather.

Country Cars: still investigating insurance situation for the future but the scheme is currently covered.

Trailway: progress being made in other areas but no update on Toller Porcorum to Maiden Newton stretch.

Proposed Fire Station Closures: Maiden Newton Parish Council (MNPC) has clearly stated it does not support proposals. NE has major concerns not just about fires but attendance at road accidents on rural roads. NE and other ward councillors recommend petitions and delivering them with a speech at cabinet or full council meetings.

26/03-7. Finance

i. To approve the accounts for January and February 2026 (Appendix B)

HJ carried out the checking of invoices, bank statements and bank reconciliations. Bank on 28 February 2026: £15,995.77

Proposed: HJ

Seconded: PC

Approved

ii. To approve the payments due for March and April 2026 (Appendix C)

Additional payment of £38.67 to Footprints for Toller Times printing was submitted by the clerk at the meeting.

Total payments to be approved: £1,128.98

Payee	Reason	Net	VAT
Lloyds	Service charge (February)	£4.25	£0.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grass cutting (February)	£116.67	£23.33
Jane Ennals	APA refreshments	£50.00	£0.00
Hugo Fox	Website (March)	£9.99	£2.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grass cutting (March)	£116.67	£23.33
Lloyds	Service charge (March)	£4.25	£0.00
Dorset LGPS	Pension	£126.28	£0.00
Clare Smith	Salary & allowances	£507.29	£0.00
TP Village Hall	Hall hire	£24.00	£0.00
Footprints	Toller Times	£38.67	£7.73
Hugo Fox	Website (April)	9.99	2.00
Lloyds	Service charge (April)	4.25	0.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grass cutting (April)	116.67	23.33
Total:		1,128.98	81.72

Proposed: HJ

Seconded: CW

Approved

Signed by Chair: Date:

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- iii. **Authorise the clerk to apply for a debit card on the council's bank account to be used in accordance with the council's Financial Regulations**

Authorised with provision clerk gets approval for purchases from bank signatories in advance.

Proposed: NF Seconded: JC **Resolved**

- iv. **Approve the creation of a direct debit for contractual payments to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd**

Proposed: PC Seconded: HJ **Approved**

26/03-8. Policies (Appendix D)

- i. **Consider and approve update to Financial Regulations**

Proposed: CW Seconded: JC **Approved**

- ii. **Review and adopt Data Audit Schedule (Appendix E)**

- iii. **Review and adopt Data Protection policy (Appendix F)**

- iv. **Review and adopt Freedom of Information policy (Appendix G)**

- v. **Review and adopt Retention and Disposal policy as replacement for Retention Guidelines (Appendix H)**

- vi. **Review and adopt Accessibility Statement (Appendix I)**

Items 26/03-9.ii – vi adopted on block

Proposed: PC Seconded: DB **Adopted**

26/03-9. Review Action List 2025-26 (Appendix J)

Reviewed, no action required.

26/03-10. Planning

- i. **Confirm response to planning application P/VOC/2026/00827**

Location: 5 Barton Close

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and front porch (with variation of Condition 1 of Planning permission WD/D/18/002658 granted 2018) - to amend design to rear roof and front porch.

Response: Support. Toller Porcorum Parish Council supports this application. The revised design is still in keeping with the Barton Close development and the council sees no reason to deny the Variation of Condition 1.

Proposed: JC Seconded: CW **Confirmed**

- ii. **Consider planning application P/HOU/2026/00883 and decide response**

Location: 1 Clift Lane

Proposal: Erect a single-storey rear extension together with single and two-storey side extensions. Erect garage/studio/garden room.

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Response: Conditional response. Toller Porcorm Parish Council generally supports the application and is impressed with the measures in place to protect wildlife while work is in progress. The council has concerns with the height, colour and build type of the proposed fence and it hindering the openness of a National Landscape. If the fence were to be changed, the council would support the application.

Proposed: NF

Seconded: HJ

Resolved

iii. **Consider handling of licensing applications from Dorset Council and decide any actions**

Clerk to only circulate licensing applications that are within a 3-mile radius of the parish and/or Maiden Newton.

Notes

Proposed: DB

Seconded: PC

Resolved

26/03-11. Highways

i. **Receive update on Powerstock Bridge and decide any actions**

National Highways is working to finish site investigation works. Meeting with Dorset Council Planning and Environment Teams to discuss Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements to offset works. BNG needs to be confirmed before design can be finished and planning applied for.

TPPC requires confirmation from all involved that project will go ahead soon. On estimates previously provided work should already be underway.

NE pushing for support from senior members of Highways.

ii. **Receive update on High Street Bridge and decide any actions**

National Highways is yet to formally confirm if the bridge has failed its capacity assessment. There is agreement that a weight restriction is not a suitable solution.

Strengthening bridge is required by repair which involves intensive work and months' long road closure or by partial infill (method to be decided) which involves 2 week long closures, 12 months apart.

TPPC agreed in principle to an infill method as long as no restriction on Toller Brook is introduced and access for residents is maintained. NF to inform National Highways.

TPPC agreed to consult with residents when National Highways put forward further plans.

Proposed: PC

Seconded: DB

Resolved

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iii. Update on Barrowland Lane and decide any actions

Notice of works received on this day to take place 13 March 2026.

iv. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

HJ emailed Highways February with details of all potholes registered on Dorset Council system and provided photos.

No acknowledgement or response which is very disappointing.

26/03-12. Environment and Rights of Way

i. Receive an update on Trailway to Maiden Newton and decide any actions

No update.

ii. Agree council response to Wild Beaver Release consultation

Clerk to submit on behalf of TPPC.

Proposed: CW

Seconded: JC

Agreed

iii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

CW to put chippings down near Old Mills as soon as possible.

26/03-13. Community including Church and Village Hall

i. Discuss proposed closure of Maiden Newton Fire Station and decide any actions

Poll on Community Facebook page whether TPPC should support campaign to save Maiden Newton Fire Station 100% in favour with 60 votes, plus 2 presented to NF in person.

TPPC resolved to adopt the following position:

1. Toller Porcorum Parish Council asks Edward Morello MP and Leader of Dorset Council to write to the appropriate government minister to request the funding formula for Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service be reviewed to take into account the rurality of large areas of Dorset and Wiltshire.
2. Toller Porcorum Parish Council objects to the proposed closure of Maiden Newton and other fire stations in Dorset unless assurances are provided that response times (as of the date of this meeting, 11 March 2026) to Toller Porcorum and the surrounding areas can be maintained at current levels or improved upon as part of any proposal to close fire stations and reduce the resources allocated to rural areas.

Proposed: CW

Seconded: HJ

Resolved

ii. Agree council response to Fire Station Closure consultation

Clerk to submit on behalf of TPPC.

Proposed: HJ

Seconded: CW

Agreed

Signed by Chair: Date:

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iii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

Village Hall roof is going to need re-tiling. No update on drainage issue from Church Mead gully.

26/03-14. To receive brief verbal reports from councillors representing the areas below and decide any actions:

i. Recreation Ground Working Group

SH contacting contractor for next grass cutting.

50% of collection from Peggy Denty's is to be donated to the Recreation Ground. TPPC is very grateful and expresses thanks. How to use funds and recognise Peggy's 96 years in the village to be discussed at a future meeting.

NF proposed a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Motion passed.

ii. DAPTC

AGM changed to 30 May 2026. TPPC response to motions to be discussed at next meeting.

iii. Ammonite Patient Participation Group

Pound Piece to be closed for resurfacing 19 March and 20 April 2026. Surgery will be open with pedestrian access only.

26/03-15. To receive any correspondence received for noting

Response supporting the council's position regarding High Street bridge from Edward Morello MP.

26/03-16. To confirm arrangements for the Parish Annual Assembly in April 2026 and the Annual Parish Council Meeting in March 2026 and decide any actions

Parish Annual Assembly, 8 April 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Speaker: Chalk Stream Restoration Frome Headwaters Project.

Clerk to produce poster and NF to organise refreshments.

Annual Parish Council Meeting, 13 May 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed: 9:17pm

Public Democratic Forum

Resident informed TPPC that Church for Future Generations has currently raised enough money for the church roof to proceed with required works in 2026.

Signed by Chair: Date: