

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 15 January 2025 7pm at Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Neil Farmer (NF)

Councillor Peter Crabbe (PC)

Councillor Debbie Billen (DB)

Councillor Steve Hodson (SH)

Councillor Helen Jones (HJ)

Councillor Chris Wardle (CW)

In attendance:

Clare Smith (Clerk)

Dorset Councillor Neil Eysenck (NE)

Members of public: 3

25/01-1. Public Democratic Forum

2 members of the public described the community health initiative they would like to introduce to the village to help residents with health knowledge to live healthier lives. They asked Toller Porcorum Parish Council (TPPC) for endorsement of 3 small events. They were advised this was on the agenda to be discussed (25/01-13 ii).

Another member of the public told the meeting that the Village Hall has been approached by LiveWell Dorset to hold events separate from the community health initiative.

The same member of the public thanked councillors for their work and thanked the clerk for information about blister packs and fly tipping raised at the last meeting.

Regarding fly tipping, they were concerned that Dorset Council (DC) spends £100,000 a year clearing fly tipping and stated they did not think charts supplied as part of the response were correct and did not include traders who get 6 permits a year at household recycling centres (the tip). They went on to ask NE what traders are supposed to do with waste and could permits be increased to 12.

NE responded that major changes are due in the future and permits is one of the discussion points. NE confirmed household recycling centres are for household waste and not for businesses. When an update is available NE will forward to the clerk.

25/01-2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted for councillor Jane Curry.

25/01-3. To receive declarations of interest or any grants of dispensations

In the spirit of transparency the clerk informed TPPC of their acceptance of a contract as Communications Officer with Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC).

25/01-4. Welcome by Chairman

NF formally welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2025.

25/01-5. To accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13 November 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: HJ

Seconded: CW

Accepted

25/01-6. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

Answers to queries raised by members of the public were answered in Appendix B.

Queries about hedge cuttings and claims will be answered as soon as possible.

25/01-7. Dorset Council report

NE explained devolution process to create a mayoral council of Wessex from Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset and possibly Swindon and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) and would have responsibility for: transport and local infrastructure (strategic transport planning), skills and employment support, housing and strategic planning, economic development and regeneration, environment and climate change, health, wellbeing and public service reform and public safety.

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The process is moving fast and Dorset is aiming to be in the first group to achieve this status in May 2026.

This could change how things are done at town and parish council levels.

DC budget continues to be a challenge as some grants are disappearing. This makes DC's transformation process more important and difficult. £4 million more has been ringfenced for Place services which includes Highways.

NE will send the cabinet update to the clerk to circulate.

25/01-8. Finance

i. To approve the accounts for November and December 2024

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

Bank on 2 January 2025: £16,213.54

Proposed: PC

Seconded: SH

Approved

ii. To consider and approve the payments due for January and February 2025

The clerk submitted 2 additional payments to be considered:

- £13.97 to the clerk for reimbursement of stationery supplies
- £112.39 to Debbie Billen for reimbursement of printing of the Toller Times

Total payments to be approved: £1899.16

Payee	Detail	Amount
DAPTC	Training	£140.00
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting January	£11.99
Dorset Council	Election recharge	£736.70
C Burt	Defibrillator pads	£89.94
Clare Smith	Clerk's pay November and December	£424.32
	Clerk's allowance Nov and Dec	£52.00
	Mileage	£42.66
	Tax returned due to tax code change	£190.80
	Reimbursement of stationery supplies	£13.97
J Curry	50% costs of Christmas tree	£34.39
TP Village Hall	Hall hire	£50.00
Debbie Billen	Toller Times printing August - January	£112.39

Proposed: PC

Seconded: SH

Approved

iii. Review budget and precept for 2025/26 against Band D rate

No change required and previous resolution stands (24/11-8 iv).

ACTION: clerk to submit precept.

iv. To approve in principle moving to gov.uk website and email addresses subject to costs

Decision deferred to March meeting when quotes will be available.

25/01-9. Review Action List 2024-25

No action required.

25/01-10. Highways

i. Receive report from 20mph speed limit meeting

NF and HJ attended webinar in which 20mph made sense. Councillors have had a mixed response from informal canvassing of residents. Clarity is needed from DC on policy and associated costs. Informal canvassing of residents to continue and feedback to be gathered at Annual Assembly in April.

ii. Receive report on condition of Barrowland Lane

Despite being resurfaced in summer 2024, huge potholes have appeared and the road surface is breaking up. NF and HJ have constantly reported potholes, which have been

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filled but the surface around the fillings is breaking apart. NF asked NE to investigate on TPPC's behalf.

NE drove and walked the lane and was shocked at the condition. NE has taken this issue to Highways to stress it is a surface failure issue and confirms it is being investigated by DC. NE will contact NF when he has more information.

PC thanked NE for his efforts in this matter.

iii. Update on Powerstock Bridge

Positive steps being taken. NF and HJ to attend meetings with National Highways and DC to monitor situation along with George Sartin, an interested landowner.

iv. Update from the clerk on refilling of grit bins

Refills requested for junction of Kingcombe Road and Kingcombe Lane, Higher Kingcombe and for bin at junction of Lower Lane and Kingcombe Road.

Bins on School Lane, Hereward Close and Toller Lane near summit with A365 need refilling but DC wants to charge or the bins are not registered with DC.

ACTION: clerk to investigate refills and ensure bins are added to DC's database.

v. Update from the clerk on SLOW road marking on Lower Road

Clerk has emailed Highways again as requested. A reply that it is still being investigated was received 13 January. Clerk has also asked for an explanation of 'code of practice'.

vi. Brief verbal report from representative

Nothing further to report.

25/01-11. Environment including Rights of Way

i. Agree Parish Council response to Dorset Council's Climate and Nature Emergency survey

Survey completed with majority answers from councillors except for two questions. After discussion answers were agreed.

Proposed: CW Seconded: HJ Agreed

ACTION: clerk to submit survey

ii. Brief verbal report from representative

CW reported 2 stiles on Frogmore Farm as having dog gates nailed shut. Dog gates are not a requirement, so reports were closed. CW reported another stile for being unstable and dangerous and is awaiting a response.

Parish Council understands that Dorset Council has carried out land valuations on two sections of the Trailway to Maiden Newton. Valuations are felt to be appropriate but using section 16 legislation is going to take time. NF asked NE if more pressure for haste could be applied and NE agreed to follow up with the relevant DC department.

25/01-12. DAPTC

i. Agree Parish Council response to Standards in Public Life and Conduct consultation

Consultation completed by NF. Councillors discussed answers to four questions with different answers being agreed.

Proposed: CW Seconded: HJ Approved

ACTION: clerk to submit response

ii. Brief verbal report from representative

Increase in membership fee is significant but is planned for in the budget for 2025/26.

25/01-13. Community including Church and Village Hall

i. Update from clerk on costs of delivering defibrillator training

One quote at this time of £295+VAT for Defibrillator Familiarisation session of 1 – 1.5hrs for an unlimited number of people.

The clerk will investigate further and contact other local parishes to also take part.

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ii. Update on health group at Village Hall

TPPC supports the community health initiative. Concerns were raised that plans between the Village Hall and LiveWell Dorset conflicted with the initiative and would be confusing to residents.

Council resolved that NF would write an open letter to the chair of the Village Hall Management Committee about not duplicating efforts and all health related events should go through the community health initiative as it has parish council support.

Proposed: CW Secoded: HJ Resolved

iii. Brief verbal report from representative

Church raised £240 for Julia's House on Christmas Eve.

In the absence of councillor JC, DB shared the positive feedback received for the live Christmas tree at the Village Hall.

The Chair proposed a motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes at 9pm. Motion was carried.

25/01-14. Emergency Planning

i. To approve updated Community Emergency Response Plan

Changes required to the plan include:

- Contact details for DC and the Emergency Planning team throughout
- Changes to Local Skills and Resources information
- Grit bin and sandbag locations
- Communication chain

Councillors discussed a communication chain and decided to each take a section of the Toller Times delivery route. In the event of the plan being triggered they will knock on doors within those sections to inform residents.

Questions were raised about insurance cover for volunteer services and equipment.

Plan approved subject to final changes.

Proposed: CW Secoded: SH Approved

ACTION: clerk to investigate insurance questions with Emergency Planning team.

ACTION: DB to acquire Toller Times delivery routes.

ACTION: to be circulated to Distribution List, clerk to update on website and send the Emergency Planning team, all councillors to keep a copy.

25/01-15. To receive brief verbal reports from councillors representing the areas below:

i. Recreation Ground Working Group

SH writing Toller Times article asking what residents would like. SH is applying for a grant for up to 10 apple trees for a community orchard.

ii. Ammonite Patient Participation Group

A volunteer driver for prescriptions delivery from the Tunnel Road surgery is required. Nothing further to report.

25/01-16. To receive any correspondence received for noting

None received.

25/01-17. To confirm arrangements for Parish Council meeting in March 2025

Meeting to be held Wednesday 12 March at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.29pm.