

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

Minutes of the full Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 7pm at Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Neil Farmer (NF)
Councillor Steve Hodson (SH)

Councillor Debbie Billen (DB)
Councillor Helen Jones (HJ)

Councillor Jane Curry (JC)
Councillor Chris Wardle (CW)

In attendance:

Clare Smith (Clerk)

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

Public Democratic Forum

A member of the public raised difficulty of reading agenda and minutes on noticeboard and asked if the text size could be bigger. Council agreed to make noticeboard documents easier to read. They also asked if there was any update on the blocked gully at Church Mead.

The same member of the public reported the financial positions of the Village Hall and St Andrew's and St Peter's Church in support of grant applications to be considered later in the meeting.

25/11-1. Welcome by Chairman - meeting opened at 7:20pm

25/11-2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Peter Crabbe.

25/11-3. To receive declarations of interest or any grants of dispensation

DB and JC declared their roles on the Village Hall management committee and excluded themselves from voting on a grant application from the Village Hall. DB and JC were each granted a dispensation to take part in the discussion on the basis their knowledge was valuable to council. The dispensations were granted for this meeting only.

NF is the DAPTC representative under the dispensation granted 14.05.25, ref: 25/05-5.

25/11-4. To accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10 September 2025

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: SH Seconded: HJ Accepted

25/11-5. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

Adoption of telephone box complete. A notice will be placed in the box stating this.

Grit bin situation is not resolved. The clerk is chasing Dorset Council on the matter.

Water treatment plant will be planting trees/shrubs to screen the plant from view. To date, no planting has taken place.

No update received from Dorset Council regarding blocked gully at Church Mead.

New No Dogs signs have been installed at the Recreation Ground.

25/11-6. Dorset Council report

Blocked gully at Church Mead - NE and NF received email stating person responsible would be in touch after a meeting in early October but a response has not been received. NE is going to escalate.

Highways – NE has spoken to head of Highways about poor communications, particularly in relation to Barrowland Lane. 2 new community Highways officers have been recruited and this should start to ease the burden on the officer covering Toller Porcorum. A new Highways system is being implemented and is due to launch next year.

Barrowland Lane – work is scheduled to start later in the week. NE and the council await to see what works are completed.

Signed by Chair: Date:

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Trailway to Maiden Newton – officer waiting for land agent and serving of legal notices in Toller Fratrum. Challenges remain in Loders area. NE is coordinating record of action from all departments at Dorset Council and will provide updates to affected local councils.

Devolution – double devolution, the transfer of assets from Dorset Council, is looming.

NE has concerns that Dorset Council will seek to offload assets without quite understanding what they are and their importance to communities.

NE noted NF's article on devolution and stated that grouped parish councils does create challenges in representation for smaller councils within the group.

Dorset Council budget simulator – all encouraged to try on the council's website.

Poor End – works are ongoing with no change to landscaping at this time. NE will continue to monitor.

25/11-7. Finance

i. To approve the accounts for September and October 2025

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

Bank on 31 October 2025: £19,059.29

Proposed: CW Seconded: JC **Approved**

ii. To approve the payments for November and December 2025

Additional payments of £150 to DAPTC for 2 conference places and of £400 to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd for reset grass cutting were submitted by the clerk at the meeting.

Total to be approved: £1620.61

Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
Clare Smith	Signs at Recreation Ground	£9.97	£1.99
Ken Hussey	Recreation Ground inspection	£27.50	
SC Marsh Ltd	Hedge cutting	£110.00	£22.00
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting November	£9.99	£2.00
Clare Smith	Salary and allowances Oct and Nov	£515.00	
Dorset LGPS	Pension	£122.32	
Lloyds	Service charge	£4.25	
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting	£116.67	£23.33
TP Village Hall	Room hire	£24.00	
Hugo Fox Ltd	Website hosting December	£9.99	£2.00
DAPTC	2 x conference places	£150.00	
Lloyds	Service charge	£4.25	
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting	£116.67	£23.33
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Reset grass cutting	£400.00	£66.67
	Total	1620.61	£141.32

Proposed: HJ Seconded: SH **Approved**

iii. Consider and agree 2026/27 budget as recommended by Finance Working Group

Budget of £11,116.43 agreed.

Proposed: JC Seconded: DB **Agreed**

NF proposed a motion that the draft budget be circulated for public comment

Proposed: NF Seconded: JC **Motion carried**

iv. Consider and agree 2026/27 precept as recommended by Finance Working Group, subject to Band D rate being acceptable

Precept not agreed.

Signed by Chair: Date:

