

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Michele Harding

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Toller Porcorum village hall

### Present:

Cllr N Farmer (NF)

Cllr P Crabbe (PC)

Cllr H Jones (HJ)

Cllr D Ennals (DE)

Cllr J Miller (JM)

Cllr Stavenhagen (JS)

Cllr C Wardle (CW)

### In attendance:

Mrs M Harding (Clerk)

2 members of public

**Public Democratic Forum**—Up to 15-minute session to give residents the opportunity to indicate interests in the agenda items/put questions to Council that may be answered at a later date/become a future agenda item- *no comments*.

### **23/07-1. Chairman's announcements and housekeeping**

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs to the meeting and noted that Cllr Alford was on leave so unable to attend and welcomed 2 members of public.

### **23/07-2. Apologies for absence-** Cllr A Alford (Dorset Council)

**23/07-3. Declarations of interests and grants of dispensations-** DE, NF and JM regarding the Recreation area as trustees, DE regarding the VH grant.

### **23/07-4. Dorset Council Ward member report**

AA had sent a report in his absence:

1. We are working on our housing strategy to set out our vision for future housing in the Dorset Council area. At the end of July, we will launch our housing strategy consultation and we want to hear residents' views. Our vision is to ensure our residents have access to affordable, suitable, secure homes where they can live well as part of sustainable and thriving communities. Good, safe, environmentally sustainable and affordable housing is important. It leads to healthier more independent lives. We are looking for a wide variety of views to help us shape the strategy.

*Cllrs commented that if this was highlighted for the village, the PC would like to support Affordable Housing in Toller Porcorum.*

2. Dorset Council will lead in the preparation of a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the county.

It will help to show where our most valuable spots for nature currently are. It will also explore the opportunities to restore, grow and connect wildlife in our county.

*Cllrs commented that the Old Railway line could be used as a wildlife corridor.*

3. Dorset Council has recruited and trained 950 people to be embedded digital champions. On average, each embedded digital champion is helping at least one person a week with their digital skills. This means potentially around 46,000 Dorset residents are being supported by embedded champions every year.

4. Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) reopened for applications on 4 July 2023 aiming to give support for low-income households in the Dorset Council area.

The support will be in the form of supermarket vouchers. Citizens Advice will be allocating this fund on behalf of Dorset Council and vouchers will be issued to residents who meet the eligibility criteria.

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

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*Cllrs commented that this is a new round and likely to be used very quickly as it has previously.*

5. Dorset Council is strengthening the help it gives to young carers. Firstly, the council wants to identify all young carers in the county and assess the impact of caring has on the child.

6. Record numbers of affordable homes have been built for Dorset residents in the last financial year as we respond to the huge need for affordable housing.

7. A consultation has started by Dorset Council on a new Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPPO). *Cllrs commented that this is mainly for beaches.*

## **23/07-5. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**

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 CW Seconded HJ

**23/07-6. Matters arising from the minutes-** none as covered under agenda items.

## **23/07-7. Finance and Procedure.**

### **i. To consider the Grants due:**

- a. Country Cars £40-** PC reported that the renewal of the mobile phone contract is due in August, so as soon as this has been renewed then the donation will be made to the value of up to £40.
- b. TPRA £870-** this will be discussed further in the meeting.
- c. Coronation Grant £180-** the Coronation event was a success; the costs were less than expected a grant request of £82.84 was received and approved. Proposed HJ Seconded JM -all agreed.
- d. Village Association £180-** the grant is to support the annual PO insurance; the VA no longer has a bank account due to inactivity so a new account is to be set up as soon as this has been done it will be paid. Proposed JS Seconded DE All agreed.

### **ii. To consider the internal auditors report and giving to matters of the Church.**

The PC had received a grant application form from the village hall for support towards their grass cutting contracts and in order that the PC will assist the grass cutting costs at the Church, a grant of £430 was requested.

Proposed PC Seconded HJ All agreed. 1 abstention.

### **iii. To consider the receipts and payments due**

Payee	Detail	Amount
ICO	Data protection	£35.00
123 Reg	Website costs	£28.66
Admin Costs		£417.10
DAPTC	Training- HJ	£30.00
Coronation Costs		£82.84
<b>Receipts</b>		
Lloyds Bank	Interest	£13.30

HJ had carried out the checking of invoices and bank reconciliation.

Bank as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 £15,232.83

Proposed HJ Seconded CW All agreed.

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Michele Harding

## 23/07-8. Work Plan 2023-24

- i. **Actions from the Clerks appraisal-** following the Clerk's appraisal the following actions were added to this year's work plan, some carried over from last year.
- ii. **Potential future of the Recreation Ground-**

NF explained as the Chair of the TPRA on the current committee there have been issues with recruiting new members as many of the committee would like to step down after spending many years on the committee, NF explained that the TPRA was set up some time ago by DE in order to protect the area with a lease from Fields in Trust and local support, fund raising is carried out to maintain the area as well as an annual grant from the PC. The Trust have tried to gather further support from the community including parents of children who use the site through Facebook and the Toller Times. The committee had their annual meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July and a proposal agreed to request the PC consider taking on the Recreation Ground in perpetuity. The Proposal being: *There being no disadvantage to the management of the playing field, and with the Chair having given one year's notice, and with no other residents willing to come forward to replace Trustees who may wish to retire (with the exception of SC), the Trustees agreed that: there must now be a discussion involving the Parish Council, Fields in Trust, together with the existing Trustees to ascertain the best route forward for the Parish Council to take on the management of the Playing Field by July 2024 at the latest.*

NF noted that the committee had a commitment to purchase a new Seesaw with current funds and they had enough funds at present to cover current costs without the need for the PC grant at this time. Any funds left at the handover could be transferred to the PC and ringfenced for the Recreation ground maintenance. DE commented that if the PC took over the management it would be funded by the precept and any grants that the PC could obtain, so this would mean all of the electors would be contributing to the upkeep of the area not just those who supported fundraising efforts. The Cllrs on the committee did not enter into any further discussion and decisions so Peter Crabbe as vice chair then led this part of the meeting. PC, HJ, JS and CW discussed this and the benefits to the village, and all agreed that this was the sensible thing to do as many Parishes have responsibility for play areas. Therefore, the Council supported the request of the committee to investigate the transfer to the PC by next year.

Proposed JS    Seconded HJ all those eligible to vote supported the motion.
- iii. **Preparing Council for 2024 local elections-** to be added to a future agenda in preparation for May 2024.
- iv. **Gates Project phase 3-** on the agenda
- v. **Potential Flooding- Toller Stream and River Hook-** on the agenda
- vi. **Reprofiling of High Street-** on the agenda
- vii. **Review of policies as and when requested-** As and when necessary.

## 23/07-9. Planning -To consider any other planning matters-

- i. **P/FUL/2023/02494-** The Old School House-Convert existing garage into new dwelling house. Form new access- *No objections raised.*

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Michele Harding

## 23/07-10. Highways matters- To receive an update on Highways issues.

- i. **High Street Update-** NF reported that a meeting has been set up for 19<sup>th</sup> July with NF and JS to discuss this item further. Other items raised to be discussed, drainage at Barrowlands, Hedge by the sewerage works, hedge by the railway bridge on the dangerous corner, the junction onto the A356 to be cut back and Churchmead gully.
- ii. **Toller Lane Drainage-** this will also be discussed on the 19<sup>th</sup> July.
- iii. **To further discuss the EC Charging points to be located at the VH or phone box-** DE noted that this was missed from the last VH committee meeting but could not see an issue and will go back to the members and then report to the PC who will in turn inform Dorset Council of the potential site.
- iv. **Potholes update-**It was noted that a lot had been reported and that more had been repaired recently and thanked DC for all they have done so will pass this on to Tony.

The Clerk had brought a wheelie bin sticker supporting the 20's plenty campaign, these are not legal but can be used on wheelie bins and private property to raise the profile of the cause. Cllrs considered purchasing the stickers for residents to use, it was agreed to purchase 70 and add this to another Councils' order to reduce the cost.

## 23/07-11. To receive an update of Rights of way/Footpath matters

- i. **Gates Project update-**NF reported on the project, DC officers met with landowners and agreed a further gate onto school lane and gates from Hereward Close to the High Street these have now been agreed, this has taken some time to get things moving but hopefully this will be done this year.
- ii. **River Hooke and Toller Bridge update-**NF reported he had met with Andrew Proberts, flood officer for DC and had showed him the concerns regarding flood risk, AP has taken this forward and contacted Symonds and Sampson the agents to pursue this further. Also, there is to be a meeting with the EA to discuss the Main rivers as the watercourses are dealt with different bodies.

DE reported he was attending a meeting in Maiden Newton regarding the River Hooke.

NF reported on the visit to the Beaver site with HJ who are both volunteers, they viewed Beavers and their Kits. It was reported that the Beavers are in an enclosure, and it is a 3-year project to breed and monitor behaviour. It is hoped to invite Stephen Oliver back to the APA meeting for an update.

- iii. **RoW Noticeboard-** As there had been no further progress, it was agreed to request a map from of Rights of way including the Trailway from the Countryside Ranger and then have this laminated and sited on the current board.
- iv. **Update on permissive path route-** CW reported on the meeting with the landowners to consider this route being reopened as a permissive path and

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

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the insurance implications. The Landowners did not have a problem with locals using the route respectfully, but the Landowners were however upset at the number of complaints they had received about animal welfare, which was reported to authorities, no issues were found, but they were not keen on supporting the village request. There had also been some issues with a path being cut by a resident.

NF commented on a report regarding the trailway being overgrown and who is responsible for cutting the area near the village hall, this will be investigated and reported to RoW.

**23/07-12. To receive any correspondence for noting- none**

**23/07-13. To confirm arrangements for the Parish Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September.**  
NF asked if the meeting could be moved on a week, this was agreed, and the meeting will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.