

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Michele Harding

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Toller Porcorum village hall

### Present:

CLlr Neil Farmer (NF) Chair  
CLlr Helen Jones (HJ)  
CLlr David Ennals (DE)  
Mrs Michele Harding (Clerk)

CLlr Jeremy Stavenhagen (JS)  
CLlr Judy Miller (JM)  
CLlr Chris Wardle (CW)

### In attendance:

CLlr A Alford (Dorset Council)

No members of public

**Public Forum (15 Mins):** None

**23/03-1. Chairman's welcome-** NF welcomed all to the meeting.

**23/03-2. To receive apologies for absence-** CLlr P Crabbe away.

**23/03-3. To receive declarations of interests and grants of dispensations-** none

**23/03-4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January and sign the same.** DE asked for an amendment to item 23/01-11 (ii) the sentence to read "PC noted that this was DE's report". These minutes were proposed and duly accepted with the above amendments as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed HJ Seconded CW

**23/03-5. Matters arising from the minutes-**none.

**23/03-6. Dorset Council Ward member report-** AA reported on the following:

- 1) Councillors have voted in support of a £2m cost-of-living support fund for residents funded from reserves. The fund will support a range of projects to provide immediate and longer-term support to those residents hardest hit by the cost of living. Examples of projects:
  - Support for low-income households, disabled people and vulnerable older people with measures to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
  - Off-grid energy discretionary vouchers for households reliant on off-grid energy sources (oil and gas)
  - Additional Discretionary Housing Payment allowance to help prevent residents becoming homeless.
  - Supermarket vouchers for residents in greatest need
  - Further support for Dorset's network of social supermarkets, community fridges and food banks
  - Additional pre-school hours for 3–4-year-olds, enabling more parents to work.
  - 'Ready to thrive' locality programme to support children with their readiness to start school.Dorset Council will work closely with partners such as Citizens Advice Dorset, Age UK, the NHS and Jobcentre Plus.

CLlrs asked how we can get this information across to the residents, AA will supply the website link for funding information for the website.

- 2) The government's Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS Alternative Funding) is now open for applications. The EBSS Alternative Funding is a payment of £400 to households who do not have a direct relationship with an energy supplier and therefore were unable to previously receive it. This includes residents living in park homes, houseboats or off the electricity grid or who pay for their energy through a landlord, housing manager or site owner. Applications can be made through an online form on the government website.

- 3) Work is in progress on advisory planning guidance on the subject of:

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Planning for Climate Change. Under 3 main headings: Interim Guidance & Position Statement, Sustainability Checklist and Listed Building guidance.

Note – it is not planning policy. It is effectively a checklist for developers/applicants to complete. The Listed Building component promotes what can be done. There will be consultation and briefing for Parish Councils soon.

Clrs asked if this would become statutory or advisory, so Parish Councils can make comment when being consulted. AA commented that at this stage it will be advisory and there will be a questionnaire for applicants to reflect on their application.

Clrs also asked why putting solar panels on the roof is not part of any new planning applications. AA explained that this would need to be part of the NPPF consultation and the local plan in order to make changes to policy.

- 4) A summary of comments from the consultation of the draft Dorset Council Local Plan is now published. All of the comments received from the 6,000 respondents have already been searchable on the council's website, but they have now been categorised against the draft policies and relevant areas of Dorset. The consultation, which took place in early 2021, resulted in over 50,000 comments on the separate policies, more than all of the most recent former district and borough local plan consultations combined.

It was explained that another planning session with Dorset Council hosted by DAPTC in April when further information will be made available on these changes.

## 23/03-7. Finance and Procedure

### i. To consider receipts and payment due or paid since the last meeting

Payment	Detail	Amount
Staff costs	Salary and office expenses	£382.41
HMRC	PAYE	£73.80
Normtec	Fingerpost repairs	£101.00
Mr Phillips	Fingerpost paint	£44.50
Starboard Systems	Accounting software	£216.00

Proposed CW                      Seconded HJ-                      Bank Balance as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 £14,412.14

- ii. **To discuss a grant application for the Coronation celebrations-** A grant awarding form had been completed by the Coronation event organisers, the event was expected to cost approx. £550 based on the costs of the Jubilee event. An application for funding was being requested from the Parish Council, Village Hall and CLT, the request was for a third of the cost of the event.

Clrs discussed the application and agreed to funding a third to the value of £180 on the receipt of costings and receipts of expenditure for the benefit of the community.

Proposed JM                                      Seconded CW

- iii. **To consider an Ecological and Environmental policy for the parish**

Following the last meeting NF had found a suitable template for a policy to meet the needs of the PC for these purposes and circulated to all for comment, some minor changes to the policy were made and it was adopted.

Proposed DE                      Seconded CW                      All agreed

- iv. **To consider the internal auditor for 2022-23**

Last year the PC used a new Internal auditor that suited the previous Clerk in Crewkerne, but the Clerk has suggested a new internal auditor closer to the PC office. Mrs Debbie Wiltshire- Retired Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountant (CIPFA) Not a current

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member. Previously Audit Partnership Manager for an audit partnership of 4 District Councils in Dorset. Then Finance Manager for a joint working partnership of two District Councils in Dorset, latterly interim Chief Finance Officer for the same joint working partnership of two District Councils (Christchurch and East Dorset) and ex Parish Council and Chair. NF noted that he had worked with Mrs Wiltshire and could vouch for her but registered an interest so would not vote.

Councillors supported the change in internal auditor. Proposed CW          Seconded HJ

## 23/03-8. Planning

### i. To consider any planning applications in circulation –

P/FUL/2023/00953 Proposal: Installation of ground mounted solar photovoltaic array with associated infrastructure, security fence, CCTV, cable route, landscaping and onsite biodiversity net gain Location: Land South west of Wraxall Woods, Wraxall Road-The Council supported the application with the following constraints: *The hedge on the A356 is to be screened with mature hedging of at least 6ft high.*

*The panels to be sited so as not to be a nuisance to traffic with glint and glare, this would be supported by the installation of a mature hedge as above.*

*To ensure that those parishes affected by the application gain some community benefit from the application as per the public consultation events held.*

Proposed CW

Seconded JS

### ii. To consider any other planning matters – none

## 23/03-9. Highways matters.

### i. To discuss Dorset Council's 20mph policy and criteria-

NF reported that he had attended the webinar and explained that DC do not have a large budget only £75,000.00 for the whole of Dorset. There is a specific criteria to apply for the 20mph, including evidence in order to provide a need. It was also noted that unless there is a significant accident the police do not report this to the Council. Cllrs considered if the village has a speed problem and felt that the village does not have a significant problem and will not proceed with this project at this time.

### ii. Update on the Flooding and drainage on Toller Lane-

The landowner/agent has given permission for Dorset Council to pipe into the river to assist with flood alleviation. The gully on the other side of the bridge has now been cleared.

### iii. To discuss the gritting routine for the school routes in rural areas-

JS commented on the school bus routes not being gritted so children are losing out on schooling.

AA commented that there is a criteria of more than 300 children attending the school in order that the routes are gritted, Cllrs commented that Beaminster school has many more than 300 and yet the route was not gritted. AA will follow this up with the gritting team.

### iv. Update on Powerstock Bridge-

NF commented that he happened to be walking by the bridge when someone was carrying out an inspection, they explained they were carrying out a Bat survey. Assuming that this is mitigated then works could be carried out.

### v. To receive an update on Highways issues-

JS commented that Frogmore lane has been resurfaced and yet this is one of the least used roads in the village and the high street requires attention. Highways officer to asked why this has been carried out.

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It was reported that the drain cover opposite the Old Swan is in need of repair, this has been reported to highways.

## **23/03-10. To receive an update of Rights of way/Footpath matters**

- i. **Update on the gates project-** Russell Goff is still awaiting landowner permissions, but has another gate if the PC were interested, it was agreed to replace the stile on the right of the trailway going east just down from the Old Swan. The Council suggested further stiles and will contact Countryside to see if this is possible.
- ii. **Rights of way notice board-** This is still with Russell Goff at present.

Cllrs discussed permissive paths which are no longer open as this has lapsed along the Cliff Lane field and from School Lane towards the trailway. There is also a bridge in need of repair if this was re designated as a permissive path, the Council will contact the insurance company to see if this is possible and be covered within the PC public Liability insurance, if the PC were to promote this opening of the permissive path.

## **23/03-11. To receive feedback from Parish Reps**

- i. DAPTC- It was recorded that many Cllrs work and cannot attend daytime DAPTC sessions. DAPTC will be contacted on this issue.
- ii. Ammonite- the PPG has been set up but no further feedback has been received to the PC reps, Clerk to follow up as currently there are no reps for Toller.

## **23/03-12. Correspondence**

- i. **Update on the river blockage-** an email had been sent to the agent and he was waiting on instruction from the landowner. This will be followed up prior to the May PC meeting.

It was noted that the Kingcombe Centre visit is booked for the 17th March DE is organising.

NF commented on the Police report circulated, this being a new report now being circulated, the current rural crime rep will be asked if he is happy to continue.

NF also noted that the Great Big Dorset Hedge project is looking for funds and has been sent a grant form for completion in order to consider the donation.

## **23/03-13. To confirm arrangements for the Annual Parish Assembly on 12<sup>th</sup> April, speaker Chris Loder MP and items for the Annual PC meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023-**

Jane Ennals has agreed to do the refreshments, a notice will be sent on Facebook asking for questions for Chris on topics for discussion prior to the agenda going out.

The PCC and recreation ground would be invited to speak as donations are made also the organiser of the Jubilee will be invited to say a few words after receiving funds from the PC.

The meeting closed at 20.54