

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th July 2021
7pm, Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Cllr N Farmer (Chair)
Cllr D Ennals
Cllr C Wardle

Cllr P Crabbe
Cllr J Miller

Cllr H Jones
Cllr Stavenhagen

In attendance:

Mrs K Sheehan (Clerk), Cllr A Alford (Dorset Council).

Public Democratic Forum

No issues raised as no members of the public were in attendance.

765. Apologies for absence

None.

766. Declarations of interests and grants of dispensations

None.

767. Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Farmer reported that:

- He and Vice Chair Cllr Crabbe had recently attended DAPTC training for new Chairs;
- A new Code of Conduct had been produced and DAPTC was keen for all councils to adopt it. Cllrs were urged to take advantage of the DAPTC training sessions ahead of the September meeting when the new Code would be on the agenda;
- Dorset National Park – proposals to create a National Park in Dorset had not made the shortlist this year, but could potentially be revived for later years.

768. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th May 2021

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: Cllr H Jones

Seconded: Cllr D Ennals

RESOLVED

769. Matters arising

Members noted that the Declarations of Acceptance of Office had been signed by both Chair and Vice Chair.

770. Reports from Outside Bodies

i. Dorset Council

Cllr Alford reported that:

- The weekly Dorset Council newsletter contained up to date information;
- Dorset Council would meet that week to determine the terms of reference for the proposed Community Governance Review and associated timetable;
- There were considerable delays in planning due partly to covid and staff shortages. The planning portal was currently disabled for planned maintenance. There was a plan to withdraw the 'neighbouring property' notification letters going forward.

ii. DAPTC

Cllr Jones reported that she was monitoring the DAPTC newsletter for relevant information and would highlight anything of note to members.

iii. TP Recreational Area Association

Cllr Farmer reported that:

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- The new slide and swing seats had been installed and received positively;
- Possibility of raising funds towards a boules court was discussed briefly.

iv. Village Hall Committee

Cllr Miller reported that the VHC was considered supporting village projects with small donations.

v. Digital

Cllr Crabbe reported that there are a number of projects to improve internet speeds and accessibility in Dorset. Most of the village did have access, however a few properties situated remotely did not. He would continue to monitor the funds and schemes available. Cllr Stavenhagen reminded members that BT had left the telephony in the BT kiosk because of the internet issues in the village.

Action: Cllr Crabbe to survey villagers to assess potential for uptake for any of the current digital connectivity schemes.

771. 2021/22 Parish Council Work Plan: to consider items to be included in a PC work plan for the current year

i. Refresh of Emergency Plan

It was noted that the EP was in need of a refresh. Cllr Crabbe would lead a small working group to achieve this and members were asked to contact him directly if they would like to be involved.

ii. Creation of a stand-alone Parish Council website

Cllr Farmer expressed support for investigating costs to build and run a stand-alone PC website, noting that the past year had demonstrated the importance of communications and websites.

Action: Clerk to circulate links to PC sites which are compliant for comparison and seek three quotes for build/hosting etc.

iii. Climate Change agenda

Cllr Farmer noted that there were a number of initiatives available to smaller authorities, and had asked the Clerk to circulate details of the Climate Emergency group in Dorset. Cllrs Jones and Wardle stated they would look further at the group with a possible view to joining.

Action: Clerk to send details of Climate Change meetings to Cllrs Jones and Wardle.

iv. Refresh/replacement of village noticeboard

Cllr Ennals agreed to speak to Mr Turner to assess the extent of work required to the board.

v. Council benchmarking

A brief discussion took place about possible council benchmarking schemes. Cllr Farmer agreed to look into this further.

772. The Queen's Canopy (a tree planting project to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022)

i. To consider joining the Queen's Canopy Project and ii. To consider suitable locations for trees

Members considered the project and felt it had merit and was worth pursuing. The Recreation Area and Mr Sartin's tree copse were suggested as possible locations. It was agreed that members would give some thought to cost and location and look again at this in September.

Action: Cllr Farmer to liaise with TPRAA about locations, Cllr Wardle to liaise with Mr Sartin.

773. Finance & Procedure

i. To consider the receipts and payments due, note bank reconciliation and budget/spend update (Q1)

Receipts	Receipt #	Jun/Jul 2021
None		
Total		£ -

Payments	Voucher #	Chq No/BACS	
ICO	Data Protection fee	292	DD £ 35.00

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The condition of the bench situated next to the BT kiosk was raised. The Clerk was unable to identify that this was a PC asset from the asset register. Cllr Ennals agreed to ask Mr Turner to cost up the price of painting the bench. The possibility of a stone bench would be looked into at a later date. Councillors debated the future of the BT kiosk, noting that the PC could adopt it for £1, but that this would entail the removal of the telephony. Cllr Ennals recalled that the kiosk had been listed in the past.

Action: Cllr Ennals to seek a price for painting the bench. Clerk to write to BT to ask them to paint and maintain the kiosk to an acceptable standard.

iii. To receive a Footpaths update

Cllr Wardle reported that he was still waiting for a response from Tara Hansford at Dorset Council regarding the proposed gate replacement on Dorset Wildlife Trust land.

It was noted that no response had been received from a local landowner regarding the progression of the Trailway at Toller Fratrum.

Action: Clerk to draft letter to Cllr Ray Bryan at Dorset Council regarding possible next steps in supporting the Trailway to completion.

Cllr Wardle also reported that Dorset Council were proposing to carry out a Rights of Way review and that he would monitor this when it opened.

(Cllr Alford left the meeting).

776. Future Agenda Items

It was noted that all items for future agendas should be submitted to the Clerk seven days in advance of the meeting date.

777. Notable correspondence not previously circulated

Members noted that all correspondence would be circulated for information at the time it was received by the clerk, thus avoiding the need to draw up a list of things members had already seen. Any additional or notable correspondence could be highlighted verbally at this point in the meeting.

778. Date and items for the next meeting

September Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 8th September
Annual Parish Assembly – Friday 17th September