

Toller Porcorum Parish Assembly

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 20th May 2022

At Toller Porcorum Village Hall

6.45pm for 7pm

Refreshments were served at the meeting

Present:

Cllr N Farmer (Chair)

Cllr C Wardle

Cllr P Crabbe (Vice Chair)

Cllr H Jones

Cllr J Miller

Cllr J Stavenhagen

Cllr D Ennals

Cllr Anthony Alford (Dorset Council)

Mrs M Harding (Clerk)

21 members of the public

1. Welcome by Chair of the Parish Council

Chairman Cllr Neil Farmer introduced all the Councillors, the new Clerk and welcomed all members of public to the Annual Parish Assembly. It was explained that due to Covid it had only been 6 months since the last APA, but now that face to face meetings have resumed the APA has been brought forward in line with the regulations of APA meetings.

NF welcomed the speaker Stephen Oliver from DWT on the Beaver project in the area.

2. Speakers:

• Dorset Wildlife Trust- Stephen Oliver, speaking on the Beaver Project

Stephen Oliver spoke to the meeting on the current project locally to introduce Beavers to the area. This began in February 2021; it is a closed site which is being studied to raise the awareness. The project will offer site visits once the project has been established. Mr Oliver spoke and took questions on the project:

The benefit of this project is to add data on Beavers and monitor hydrology to assist with learning to live with beavers again, generating wetlands and the benefits this brings. The Beavers can travel from a two hundred metre to half km stretch but are enclosed as they are very territorial.

There are male and females and are about 20 months when they mature, and growth is based on the foods that are available to them. The beavers will improve water quality as they create a filter. Beavers are at the top of the food chain, so what would the impact be on the local environment, it was explained that the natural predator for Beavers are humans, wolves and bears, they are 20kgs when fully grown but if their habitat inhabits food then they wont breed. If necessary, they may need to relocate them if this was the case, culling would be a last resort. He was asked about the flood system would this not exacerbate the issue with water running too much and too quickly, this will be monitored as part of the project.

Mr Oliver was thanked for his informative talk and left at 7.25pm

• Health care issues with the local surgery and Ammonite group- (DE)

DE reported to the meeting that following a request from Maiden Newton PC to come together with all parishes affected by the issues with the current care provision in Maiden Newton which has now merged with Ammonite health. This was brought up due to the number of complaints that parishes have received. Some of the issues raised were, online booking or getting face to face appointments, collecting prescriptions, lack of Doctors or having to travel to Bridport for some services. The representatives from the parishes of Maiden Newton, Frampton, Toller Porcorum, Comptons Toller and Wynford, Frome Vauchurch and Frome Valley have met a few times gathering feedback from residents in each of the villages, this is being collated and a draft report has been

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written which will be presented by a rep from each of the parishes to Doctors and managers of the Ammonite group when a meeting can be arranged.

More information will be made available when a meeting has been organised.

3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th Oct 2021

Proposed CW

Seconded DE

4. Matters Arising- none

5. Chairman's Report for 2021-22 –

1. The Chair reported on the support for the village groups, the Recreation Association, Church and Post Office to ensure community facilities can be sustained. Also this year the PC are assisting with the costs of the Jubilee support by way of Coins for the Parish Children.
2. Statutory issues – The PC considered and commented on 11 planning application (including proposed Wraxall Solar Park off A356), a planning enforcement issue and noise complaint and continue to comment on new Dorset Local Plan as it effects on the village.
3. Highways – 4 x fly tipping issues, abandoned motor bike, broken drain in high street fixed. Gullies empties in Barrowlands lane and continue to put pressure on the Council to address flooding under Powerstock Bridge, seeking to have road profiling carried out on the high street and improvement to water running into gullies. Also asking Dorset Council if Toller Lane can be added to road gritting schedule and depth gauge be added near sewage treatment works. The PC have also considered off road parking, issues in Old Mills and Herewith Close and maintaining highway furniture, the Phone Box and bench have been painted and the noticeboard repaired.
4. Footpaths – The PC pushed for the works on the trailway to commence and be completed and a for further extension of trailway to Maiden Newton, the parish gates project to replace styles with gates is ongoing. The PC have also commented on Dorset Council Rights of Way review.
5. Administration -The PC were able to find a new Clerk after Katharine was appointed clerk to Crewkerne Town Council, Michele was welcomed back to the role. There is a new Code of Conduct and now there is now a Digital Register of Interests, supported by a new Complaints Procedure. Chairs and Vice Chairs have attended training. The PC has commented on the community governance review. The PC continue to support the maintenance the village defibrillator and training. The Emergency Plan has been refreshed.
6. Going forward – The PC will look to create its own Parish Council website including email addresses for Cllrs, review all our policies and working practices and look to create a community goodwill award. The PC will also consider the parishes position on climate change and green issues.

6. Financial Report from the Clerk-

The PC started the year with £12886.91 in the accounts.

Receipts in year	£5960.00
Payments made in the year	£6532.23
Balance as at 31-03-22	£12389.28

The precept for the coming year was raised at £6485.00

CIL payments have been received in the year of £3242.50 there are specific projects that this can be spent on for community benefit.

7. Update on the Emergency plan for Toller Porcorum (PC)

The PC have now updated the Emergency plan showing what to do and who to contact in an emergency. Copies of the plan will be on the website, village noticeboard and PO, this will be updated annually.

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8. Report from the Recreational Area Association

NF reported on the Fallen tree and insurance issues. Logs are available for a donation from the removal of trees. A tree survey should be carried out to assess the boundary with the allotments. Thanks to Peter, Vince, Micky, James and Ian Geddes for their hard work and support. Thanks to George Sartin and team for addressing bottom hedgerow. Thanks to CLT, Parish and Village Hall to support costs of running the recreation area.

The Big Breakfast raised nearly £500. The Jubilee tree planting has taken place, these trees came from the Woodland Trust it was a well-supported tree planting morning.

Volunteers are needed for the recreation group in order to keep the area maintained.

9. Report from the Parochial Church Council

Judy Miller reported that with the congregation is getting older and lower. There is tea in the Church every other month to raise funds for the Church Tower work and funds for a permanent roof, it is difficult when people are getting older in the village.

10. Report from the Village Association

The Village Association was set up as a legal entity to support the Post Office and ensure that the PO continued running. The PC gives an annual donation of £180 towards the costs of the insurance.

11. Report from the Village Hall

DE reported that following Covid restrictions the hall is recovering thanks for Covid grants. All the Allotments are let except for 1. The website is up to date and is Facebook. New decorations are being done and as the new Chair of the VH he thanked the outgoing chair and all volunteers for their support. A new secretary is required and new committee members if anyone was interested.

12. Report from the WI & Jubilee committee

The WI is a group set up for friendship and company it is a national federation the local group is Toller & Hooke although there are currently no members from Hooke, new members are welcomed. It is not solely for ladies; gentlemen are also welcomed to meetings. Each year the federation supports a government paper this year it is working better with ASD/ADHD. A new program of events has been arranged and will soon be published.

The Jubilee party tea is being arranged with the WI and volunteers, making celebration cakes and tickets are being sold for £2 per family for catering purposes. There will also be a raffle and it is hoped to have commemorative coins

13. Democratic Forum

Peter commented on the new fence on the trail way.

Issues were raised on speeding through the village specifically the high street and Kingcombe lane. It was suggested that this should be reported to Dorset Police or a Community Speed watch scheme could be set up if volunteers came forward. There is a cost to the equipment but volunteers are needed to carry out the surveying, letters are produced for those exceeding the speed limit but action is only taken after 3 letters or if the Police speed watch team are in attendance.

Badger lane has been left off the definitive map and it was requested that this is added, there needs to be substantial evidence if use in order to make a DMMO.

14. Close and refreshments- Thanks was given to Jane Ennals for organising the refreshments and the meeting closed at 8.30pm