TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer Clerk Clare Smith

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 11 November 2026 at 7pm at Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Neil Farmer (NF) Councillor Peter Crabbe (PC) Councillor Debbie Billen (DB)
Councill Jane Curry (JC) Councillor Helen Jones (HJ) Councillor Chris Wardle (CW)

In attendance:

Clare Smith (Clerk) Dorset Councillor Neil Eysenck (NE)

Public Democratic Forum

No members of the public were present.

26/11-1. Welcome by Chairman

NF informed the council that the Staffing Committee met before the meeting for the clerk's mid-year appraisal and approved their performance as excellent.

26/11-2. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Steve Hodson.

26/11-3. To receive declarations of interest or any grants of dispensation

NF is the DAPTC representative under the dispensation granted 8.07.26, ref: 26/07-3.

26/11-4. Approve and sign, as a true and accurate record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 9 September 2026

Proposed: HJ Seconded: CW **Approved**

26/11-5. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

Awaiting response from MOD regarding the Armed Forces Covenant.
No action taken to date re telephone box, notice board etc.

26/11-6. Dorset Council report

NE had attended Community Conversations and stated the Ward Boundary Review and closed and work on the Local Plan continues.

Briefings on flooding and investigations are underway and NE has provided details to residents at risk of flooding and contact details for Environment Agency.

Wessex Mayoral Strategic Authority by 2028 could improve funding to

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the area but nothing further to report at this time.

No specific update on the Trailway but NE remains frustrated by slow progress and a lack of information.

Whetley Bridge, near Whetley Farm on King's Lane, Powerstock is closed as extensive work is needed to make the bridge safe.

Planning Enforcement continues to be a source of frustration.

26/11-7. Finance

i. To approve the accounts for September and October 2026

HJ carried out the checking of invoices, bank statements and bank reconciliations. Bank on 31 October 2026: £20,462.71.

Proposed: PC Seconded: CW **Approved**

ii. To approve the payments made and due for November and December 2026

Total payments to be approved: £1,396.92

Payee	Reason	Net	VAT
Hugo Fox	Website	£9.99	£2.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grass cutting	£116.67	£23.33
Lloyds	Service charge	£4.25	£0.00
Dorset LGPS	Pension	£69.41	£0.00
Clare Smith	Salary & allowances	£311.97	£0.00
DAPTC	Conference places	£120.00	£0.00
Hugo Fox	Website	£9.99	£2.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grass cutting	£116.67	£23.33
S C Marsh Ltd	Hedge cutting (estimated)	£120.00	£24.00
Lloyds	Service charge	£4.25	£0.00
Dorset LGPS	Pension	£69.41	£0.00
Clare Smith	Salary & allowances	£269.31	£0.00
DAPTC	5 x finance training	£175.00	£0.00
	Total:	**£1,396.92**	£74.66

Proposed: HJ Seconded: JC **Approved**

iii. To receive a report from Recreation Ground Working Group for funding in 2027/28 and decide any actions

Proposals in report approved

Proposed: JC Seconded: CW **Approved**

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iv. To receive DRAFT Budget 2027/28 Report and agree any actions

Any underspend to be added to Working Reserve

Proposed: PC Seconded: CW **Resolved**

v. Consider and agree budget 2027/28 put forward by Finance Working Group, subject to Band D rate being acceptable

Budget of £11,555.39 proposed.

Proposed: CW Seconded: DB **Agreed**

vi. Consider and agree precept 2027/28 put forward by Finance Working Group, subject to Band D rate being acceptable

Precept of £11,100.00 proposed.

Proposed: DB Seconded: CW **Agreed**

NF proposed feedback be sought from the community on the budget and precept

Proposed: HJ Seconded: CW **Resolved**

26/11-8. Policies

i. Receive Governance Health Check

Part of the recent DAPTC conference attended by NF, DB and the clerk in their DAPTC role. Focus was on councillors' responsibilities to good governance and the legal running of councils.

Received

ii. Consider and agree updates to Financial Regulations

Proposed: CW Seconded: DB **Resolved**

iii. Consider instructing the Staffing Committee to review employment contract and create staff handbook to incorporate more HR policies

Staffing Committee instructed to work with the clerk

Proposed: DB Seconded: HJ **Resolved**

iv. Instruct the clerk to investigate AI and Ageing Population policies

Clerk instructed to investigate AI policy but not an Ageing Population policy.

Proposed: HJ Seconded: CW **Resolved**

26/11-9. To receive reports on planning matters and decide any actions

NE and the council shared frustration with Planning Enforcement overall.

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NF proposed he and the clerk compose a letter of complaint to the relevant officer.

Proposed: JC Seconded: HJ **Resolved**

26/11-10. Receive report on Community Conversations meetings

NF, HJ and the clerk attended meetings at Beaminster. Discussions between Dorset Council, local councils, volunteer sector and healthcare to improve relationships and develop future services. It is early days and measurable outcomes and timescales are required.

Received

26/11-11. Consultations and surveys

i. Confirm response to Dorset Council Local Plan: Scoping Consultation 2026

Proposed: CW Seconded: HJ **Resolved**

ii. Consider and agree response to Trailway to Maiden Newton Section 26 Pre-application Consultation (Appendices J and K)

Option 2 to be submitted by the clerk.

Proposed: HJ Seconded: CW **Resolved**

26/11-12. Consider screening of People's Emergency Briefing and decide any actions

PC attended screening at Maiden Newton and CW at Bridport. Both left feeling proactive about taking action locally to improve climate and nature.

PC to investigate holding screening at village hall.

Proposed: CW Seconded: JC **Resolved**

26/11-13. Review Action List 2025-26 (Appendix L)

Reviewed

26/11-14. Environment and Rights of Way

i. Consider applying to make track near High Street into footpath (Appendix M)

Reported as unpassable by resident to NF who reported to Countryside Team and discovered it is an adopted road. NF has reported to Highways for clearing.

No further action to be taken at this time.

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ii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

PC to attend Environment Agency Groundwater Workshop, 13 November.

26/11-15. DAPTC

i. To receive report on autumn conference

As in item 26/11-8.i

Received

ii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

Nothing further to report

26/11-16. To receive brief verbal reports from councillors representing the areas below and decide any actions:

i. Recreation Ground Working Group

The clerk has requested quotes for a plum tree and is waiting for responses.

ii. Highways

NF to conduct check on grit bins and refills.

iii. Community including Church and Village Hall

Nothing to report.

iv. Ammonite Patient Participation Group

Next meeting to be held 17 November.

26/11-17. To receive any correspondence received for noting

Request for date of death of parishioner. Treated as FOIR.

Notice of cyber incident from email and domain provider in September. Accounts and passwords were not accessed.

Permission requested from resident to connect to water main just outside Recreation Ground gate. Permission has been granted.

26/11-18. To confirm arrangements for Parish Council meeting in January 2027

Wednesday 13 January 2027 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed: 8:57pm

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Signed by Chair: …… Date: ……

Clerk to the Council: Clare Smith | Email: clerk@tollerporcorumparish.org
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