

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7pm at Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Neil Farmer (NF)

Councillor Peter Crabbe (PC)

Councillor Debbie Billen (DB)

Councillor Steve Hodson (SH)

Councillor Helen Jones (HJ)

Councillor Chris Wardle (CW)

In attendance:

Clare Smith (Clerk)

Dorset Councillor Neil Eysenck (NE) Members of the public: 1

Public Democratic Forum

Member of public raised the deterioration of field entrance on Toller Lane that is used as a passing place. It has become very washed out and is about to start causing damage to vehicles. TPPC is unsure of responsibility, but NF will register defect on Dorset Council website.

26/01-1. Welcome by Chairman

Meeting opened at 7:04pm.

26/01-2. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jane Curry

26/01-3. To receive declarations of interest or any grants of dispensation

NF is the DAPTC representative under the dispensation granted 14.05.25, ref: 25/05-5.

26/01-4. Resolve to adopt the General Power of Competence (GPC) as TPPC now meets the qualifying criteria

TPPC congratulated the clerk on becoming qualified.

Proposed: HJ

Seconded: CW

Resolved

26/01-5. To accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 19 November 2025 (Appendix A)

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: HJ

Seconded: SH

Accepted

26/01-6. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

None arising that do not already feature on agenda.

Signed by Chair: Date:

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

26/01-7. Dorset Council report

Dorset Council meeting 4 December 2025 – NE reported a recommitment was made to devolution and the extra funds the process provides in theory.

NE will provide the latest cabinet update to the clerk to share with TPPC.

Church Mead gully – NE has investigated drainage systems and provided the relevant person at Dorset Council with the information. NE is pushing for serious action and will be taking this forward as Dorset Council as the landlord has a responsibility. No further action required from TPPC at this time. No further action required from Parish Council at this time.

26/01-8. Finance

i. Agree to increase the clerk’s pay by two scale points to L10 due to achievement of CiLCA qualification

Increase backdated to December 2025 when clerk became qualified.

Proposed: CW Seconded: PC **Agreed**

ii. To approve the accounts for November and December 2025 (Appendix B)

HJ carried out the checking of invoices, bank statements and bank reconciliations. Bank on 31 December 2025: £16,895.60

Proposed: HJ Seconded: DB **Approved**

iii. To approve the payments due for January and February 2026 (Appendix C)

Total payments to be approved: £966.20

Payee	Reason	Net	VAT
Hugo Fox	Website	9.99	2.00
Lloyds	Service charge	4.25	0.00
Clare Smith	Salary & allowances	507.27	0.00
Dorset LGPS	Pension	126.28	0.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grass cutting	116.67	23.33
Clare Smith	Microsoft 365 subscription	70.83	14.16
Hugo Fox	Website	9.99	2.00
Lloyds	Service charge	4.25	0.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grass cutting	116.67	23.33
Total:		966.20	64.82

Proposed: PC Seconded: SH **Approved**

Signed by Chair: Date:

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

- iv. **SPECIAL MOTION** moved by CW, PC and HJ: to amend the resolution of the council made 19 November 2025, ref: 25/11-7.iii, setting the budget for 2026/27 to £11,116.43 and changing it to £10,756.00 as the Band D rate on the original budget is not acceptable (Appendices D and E)

TPPC made changes to the 2026/27 budget and resolved to set it at £10,705.00. This amount delivers a precept of £10,615.00 which provides a Band D increase of £3.75 (6.75%) which the council finds acceptable.

Proposed: HJ Seconded: SH **Resolved**

- v. **Agree 2026/27 precept (Appendix E)**

Precept of £10,615.00 agreed

Proposed: PC Seconded: DB **Agreed**

26/01-9. Policy updates (Appendix F)

- i. **Review and adopt Information Technology (IT) Policy (Appendix G)**

Specifications agreed and policy adopted.

Proposed: CW Seconded: SH **Adopted**

- ii. **Review and approve updated Co-option and Procedures Policy (Appendix H)**

Proposed: PC Seconded: HJ **Approved**

- iii. **Review and approve updated Health and Safety Policy (Appendix I)**

Deferred to next meeting due to concerns over role of Safety Officer. Clerk to investigate.

- iv. **Review and adopt Privacy Notice (Appendix J)**

Proposed: CW Seconded: PC **Adopted**

26/01-10. Review Action List 2025-26 (Appendix K)

Reviewed. Signing of Armed Forces Covenant in progress with the clerk.

26/01-11. Receive open letter from National Association of Local Councils (NALC) new chair, Iain Hamilton (Appendix L)

Received, no action required.

26/01-12. Recreation Ground Working Group

- i. **Discuss and decide actions to repair fencing on School Lane**

Reusable fence posts are available from the Trailway. NF will investigate acquiring some and repairing fence with other councillors.

- ii. **Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions**

Nature Recovery Dorset plaque received. NF to install.

Signed by Chair: Date:

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

26/01-13. Highways

- i. **Consider residents' requests for community gritting and decide any actions**

Council recognises the issue and reluctantly accepts there is nothing TPPC can do at this time.

- ii. **Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions**

Powerstock Bridge: site investigation w/c 19 January to track water main so depth can be established at a later date in order to design slope of road to prevent flooding.

High Street Bridge: assessed capacity calculations in progress that will require certification. Request received from National Highways to discuss traffic types now, in the future and options available.

NF to respond on behalf of TPPC.

Proposed: PC

Seconded: SH

Agreed

26/01-14. Community including Church and Village Hall

- i. **Update on meeting about Church Mead gully and decide any actions**

Update in Dorset Council report: 26/01-7.

- ii. **Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions**

A Church for Future Generations village meeting is being held at the Village Hall, Monday 19 January. Notices in village and on Facebook.

26/01-15. Ammonite Patient Participation Group

- i. **Receive report on last meeting and decide any actions**

CW attended the PPG meeting, 13 January. Four staff, including a GP, attended from the practice.

Care Quality Commission (CQC) is visiting and practice is hoping for a good review. Patient survey results have been published and improvements are reflected in results.

Renovations to Maiden Newton surgery due to finish in February and patient-use blood pressure machine, paid for by PPG, to be installed.

Practice is well staffed but is seeking a female GP. Trainee GPs completing training at Ammonite have expressed desire to stay at practice once qualified.

Plans for AGM are underway and likely to be at Village Hall again.

CW will send clerk the minutes once available for publishing on TPPC website.

Signed by Chair: Date:

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

26/01-16. To receive brief verbal reports from councillors representing the areas below and decide any actions:

i. Environment including Rights of Way

Dorset Council is chasing draft agreement/proposal by the land agent on behalf of landowner for parts of Trailway to Maiden Newton. NE has received a draft breakdown of progress on entire Trailway and will monitor.

ii. DAPTC

AGM 2025 delayed to 14 March 2026 and motions to be considered will be discussed at next council meeting.

26/01-17. To receive any correspondence received for noting

Email from resident requesting information about hunt shooting.

Response sent and no further action to be taken.

Email to NF from resident asking if TPPC can consider gritting of village roads. Discussed in Highways: 26/01-13.i.

26/01-18. To confirm arrangements for Parish Council meeting in March 2026

Meeting to be held Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

26/01-19. Consider and decide action on speakers for Parish Assembly in April

Speakers in order of preference: Edward Morello MP, Chalk Stream Project representative, wild release beaver consultation representative.

NE to ask availability of Edward Morello MP on behalf of TPPC.

Clerk to check deadline for Parish Assembly to be held.

Meeting closed: 8:45pm

Public Democratic Forum - *no members of the public were present to comment at end of meeting.*

Signed by Chair: Date: