TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer Clerk Clare Smith

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7pm at Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Neil Farmer (NF) Councillor Debbie Billen (DB) 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.

26/09-1. Welcome by Chairman

Meeting opened at 7.02pm.

26/09-2. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Jane Curry, Peter Crabbe and Steve Hodson.

26/09-3. 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.

26/09-4. Approve and sign, as a true and accurate record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 8 July 2026

Proposed: CW Seconded: HJ **Accepted**

26/09-5. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

All councillors' Registers of Interests have been updated on new system.
Application for debit card approved and waiting for delivery.
Opening of Instant Access Savings account at Unity Trust Bank in progress, once open 32-Day Notice account can be applied for.
Deactivation of grey Facebook account in progress.
NF met with representative of the church to explain the council's position and discuss fundraising.

26/09-6. Dorset Council report

Planning Enforcement: aim is to ensure compliance with the rules and facilitate whatever has been done being able to meet rules. NE is investigating how these decisions are made and where they are recorded

as decisions are made without elected members. NE also pushing for better communication about progress and decisions.

Trailway to Maiden Newton: progress is being made but it is involved and complicated and takes time. TPPC would appreciate a timeline of the options available to make this happen.

Dorset Council: currently £8m overspent but was in same position at same time last year and the year came in under budget. Inflation is the main driver of costs.

26/09-7. Finance

i. To approve the accounts for July and August 2026

HJ carried out the checking of invoices, bank statements and bank reconciliations. Bank on 31 August 2026: £16,445.12.

Proposed: HJ Seconded: CW **Approved**

ii. Accept Local Government salary award 2026/27 and agree to update and backdate clerk's pay accordingly

Proposed: HJ Seconded: CW **Agreed**

iii. To approve the payments due for September and October 2026

Total payments to be approved: £1,024.98.

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	£81.67	£0.00
Clare Smith	Salary & allowances	£338.57	£0.00
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	£273.51	£0.00
	Total:	**£1,024.98**	£50.66

Proposed: DB Seconded: HJ **Approved**

iv. Consider grant application and agree grant amount

Grant agreed to Toller Porcorum Village Association, for Post Office insurance, for £200.

Proposed: CW Seconded: HJ **Agreed**

Signed by Chair: …… Date: ……

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v. Finance Working Group to receive views from council to consider when setting draft budget and precept

Consider a Community Project reserve to be able to fund larger projects in the future.

Recreation Ground Working Group to meet to discuss budget, clerk to arrange.

Clerk to arrange date for budget meeting for Finance Working Group.

26/09-8. Armed Forces Covenant

i. Agree pledges of Armed Forces Covenant

Pledges agreed as per the recommendations in the appendix.

Proposed: HJ Seconded: CW **Approved**

ii. Reaffirm agreement to sign Armed Forces Covenant

Proposed: CW Seconded: DB **Agreed**

26/09-9. Consider refurbishment of telephone box area, including box, bench and noticeboard, and decide any actions

Telephone box to be repainted, bench repaired and possibly varnished, cork in noticeboard to be replaced and exterior possibly varnished.

NF proposed the clerk investigate quotes to repair and repaint and report back at a future meeting.

Proposed: HJ Seconded: DB **Resolved**

26/09-10. Consultations and surveys

i. Consider and agree response to Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2026 to 2036 consultation

Agreed with changes to draft response to answer demographic questions with 'prefer not to say' as it is a TPPC response.

Proposed: CW Seconded: HJ **Agreed**

ii. Consider and agree response to Dorset Council Draft New Wards consultation

Agreed with no changes to draft response.

Proposed: HJ Seconded: CW **Agreed**

iii. Confirm response to Police Force Mergers public consultation

Proposed: CW Seconded: DB **Resolved**

26/09-11. Review Action List 2025-26. Reviewed.

Signed by Chair: …… Date: ……

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26/09-12. DAPTC

i. Agree attendance at autumn conference

NF and Clerk will attend. Councillors to inform Clerk of attendance.

ii. Brief verbal report from representative and decide any actions

NF and HJ reported on the Dorset Council Planning and Building Control Forum. Slides have been shared with councillors.

First part about National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and update seems to take a top-down approach with local authorities having some decision making removed.

Second part about Local Plan: has to comply with NPPF. Different planning stages will be considered by either planning officer with no councillor input or with officer/single councilor input. Only large and/ or significant applications to be considered by planning committee..

TPPC concerned this is not as democratic as current system as it removes the public and elected members from some decisions.

26/09-13. To receive brief verbal reports from councillors representing the areas below and decide any actions:

i. Recreation Ground Working Group

Group to meet as stated in item 26/09-7.v. Nothing further to report.

ii. Highways

High Street bridge: feasibility study and heritage assessment will provide more information on repair options available.

Reduction in capacity is not sudden but due to deterioration through use and bridge is highly unlikely to fail.

Highways reporting on Dorset Council portal: suspended between 14 and 22 September while new system is installed.

iii. Environment including Rights of Way

Trailway to Maiden Newton: as discussed it item 26/09-6.

Resident raised a concern about detritus on the footpath behind the telephone box.

TPPC has been asked to speak to landowners about unattended fires on property. NF to contact.

iv. Community including Church and Village Hall

Church has received architect's drawing and once bat survey is complete will apply for planning permission for roof.
Upcoming fundraising events, Broadwindsor Gallery Quire, 26 September and an Evening of Music and Food, 14 November.
Bell ringing to be reduced to 2 full peels and 2 quarter peels per year.

v. Ammonite Patient Participation Group

CW reported the rescheduled PPG AGM was held at the Village Hall, 27 August with a GP providing an informative talk.

The Chair proposed a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes at 9.04pm. Motion was carried.

26/09-14. To receive any correspondence received for noting

Email from Fields in Trust regarding water main access at Recreation Ground. Clerk to respond with information.

Email from resident regarding littering of cigarettes and fire risk at Recreation Ground. Clerk replied.

Email requesting copy of budget survey from last year. Clerk to provide.

Invite to councillors and clerk to attend relevant Dorset Council Community Conversations Area Meetings in October and November.

Invite to People's Emergency Briefing screening, 12 October, Maiden Newton. Cllr Crabbe to attend.

Email from friend of the Way family in USA requesting if any distant relations lived in the village. Clerk shared on Facebook and Way family met with visited the village, found related gravestones in the churchyard and met with relations. They conveyed how grateful they were for the help from council.

26/09-15. To confirm arrangements for Parish Council meeting in November 2026

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

Meeting closed: 21:18pm

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

Signed by Chair: …… Date: ……