

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Michele Harding

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Toller Porcorum village hall

### Present:

Cllr N Farmer (NF)

Cllr P Crabbe (PC)

Cllr D Ennals (DE)

Cllr J Miller (JM)

Cllr Stavenhagen (JS)

### In attendance:

Mrs M Harding (Clerk)

2 members of public

**Public Democratic Forum**—Up to 15-minute session to give residents the opportunity to indicate interests in the agenda items/put questions to Council that may be answered at a later date/become a future agenda item— *residents who attended for interest only and to see what goes on for potential new Councillors in the future.*

### **23/09-1. Chairman’s announcements and housekeeping**

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs to the meeting and noted that the CEO of DAPTC had approached him to stand as Chair of the Central Area Committee and thus join the DAPTC executive, this will not take the role of DAPTC rep from HJ but to aim to bring the DAPTC structure into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **23/09-2. Apologies for absence-** Chris Wardle and Helen Jones

### **23/09-3. Declarations of interests and grants of dispensations-** None.

### **23/09-4. Dorset Council Ward member report**

AA had sent a report in his absence:

1. Extract from a Dorset Council statement.

As part of the Council’s pan-County compliance review of its assets, an extensive programme of surveys has been commissioned of all our schools, not just for the presence of RAAC but also to establish their broader current condition and where investment needs to be targeted and prioritised.

In terms of RAAC, Dorset maintained schools that fall within the period 1950’s to 1990’s have been inspected in accordance with the 1st phase inspection as set out in the DfE guidelines. The Chartered Surveyors reports have been received and include a statement that “we have not identified RAAC within the subject property”. The Council’s remaining schools are now being surveyed as a further safeguarding measure and we are working with Academy colleagues to assist them with their processes.

In terms of the next steps (ie the DfE Stage 3 Assessment), in line with the DfE’s recommended guidance, the Council is now engaging a team of structural engineers to undertake detailed assessments in the form of intrusive surveys and this will include taking small samples of building elements. To provide further assurance to schools, the structural engineers will be supported by a contractor in attendance who will make good any sample holes and ensure the area is left clean.

However, before that process can begin, the schools asbestos register is being checked to ensure it is up to date. Where it is not, the register highlighting asbestos containing materials will be updated with immediate effect.

All schools will be informed of the dates of the next phase of surveys and to reduce the impact on our children, all surveys and work to clean up will take place during evenings and/or weekends. The programme to complete all stage 4 surveys will take place between September and December.

Finally, you will be aware that the use of RAAC is not confined to just schools and the survey programme is being extended to other Council assets deemed to be at risk. This includes buildings such as care homes, libraries and offices etc.

2. Following a reassignment of roles we will shortly have a new Community Highways Officer who is James Stone, replacing David Carey.

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

Chairman.....

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Michele Harding

3. Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) will reopen for applications at 10am on Thursday 7 September 2023 for low-income households in the Dorset Council area.

4. We are just over halfway through the Housing Strategy consultation period. It finishes on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

5 The regulations for temporary recreational campsites or 'pop up' camping sites have changed with the introduction of new permitted development rights. Land can still be used for up to 28 days per calendar year as a campsite with unlimited number of tents only without formal planning permission. This right applies until 25 July 2024. The new rights also allow land to be used for up to 60 days in any calendar year as a campsite. This latest change permits up to 50 pitches of either tents or campervans. With this usage Dorset Council needs to be notified in writing first. There may also be the need for a site licence.

Permitted development rights come from a general planning permission granted by Government rather than local councils. These rights mean that certain types of work can be carried out without needing to apply for formal planning permission. All the rights are subject to limitations and conditions.

6. Plans have been unveiled which will make a difference to the lives of children, young people and families in Dorset over the next ten years. A partnership of local agencies from across Dorset has published its ambitious Children Young People and Families Plan which details the work that it will carry out to create a bright future for Dorset's children and young people. The Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People brings together senior people from the council, police, health, fire and rescue services, schools, early years settings and the voluntary and community sector to shape and transform services for children and young people that achieve improved outcomes.

## **23/09-5. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

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 JM Seconded JS all agreed.

**23/09-6. Matters arising from the minutes-** The Clerk reported that we now have the bank details for the Toller Porcorum Village Association so their donation can be made.

## **23/09-7. Finance and Procedure.**

### **i. To consider the grant towards Country Cars mobile phone costs.**

The data had been circulated on the use of the service as follows:

There have been 255 trips in the last year and these had been spread across the 3 Parishes so the payment due is based on these figures, this would be paid directly to MNPC who had made the whole payment already.

MNPC 69.4% £83.29 FVPC 16.9% ££20.23 TPPC 13.7% £16.48

Proposed DE Seconded JS. This was agreed by all

### **ii. To consider the costs of the website from Oct 2023.**

The current provider of the hosting of the website is Hugo Fox who have been providing this FOC but with increased costs there is now to be a charge of £11.99 inc. vat per month. Cllr agreed to this cost. Proposed PC Seconded JS All agreed

### **iii. To consider the receipts and payments due**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
TPVH	Grant	£430.00
J Ennals	APA refreshments	£58.00
Admin Costs	2 months	£473.14
Toller Porcorum Village Association	Donation	£180.00
Country Cars	Donation	£16.48

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Michele Harding

<b>Receipts</b>		
Lloyds Bank	Interest Aug/Sep	£18.50

PC had carried out the checking of invoices and bank reconciliation.

Bank as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 £14201.90

Proposed PC                      Seconded JS                      All agreed.

- iv. DE commented on the payment made for the grass cutting paid to the Village Hall at the last meeting. The VH committee were not in agreement to this process and voted to return the money to the PC bank account.
- v. The Clerk reported that following Cllr training held at another PC the advice from DAPTC was that NALC's view is that no Parish or Towns have the power to support the fabric of the Church or religious buildings. The DAPTC are aware that there are many parishes who still support the grass cutting costs to the Churchyards and cemeteries as a community asset, as there is currently no case law against this the advice is that as long as this support does not run into hundreds of pounds this would be acceptable, there is a move by Church led organisations to change the act soon as possible. The PC were minded to rescind the previous decision and reconsider at the Nov PC meeting.  
Proposed DE                      Seconded JM
- vi. To receive the financial summary report to date  
The report was circulated to all, the Clerk suggested moving £3000 to the deposit account when the precept payment is received, this was agreed by all  
Proposed JM                      Seconded DE

## 23/09-8. Work Plan 2023-24

- i. **To update on the Toller Recreation Ground transfer to the Parish Council**  
Fields in Trust have provided a draft agreement, their costs to transfer to the PC would be £1500 plus vat and the costs of a solicitor to act on behalf of the PC would be £750 plus vat. The PC would be requested to fund these costs. There was discussion on the transfer of the lease and still being part of the Fields in Trust, what do the Fields in Trust do as there is no funding via the membership, it was asked whether the PC could take on the freehold and own the site being the trustees without the involvement of Fields in Trust. This would be looked into to establish what the costs might be. It was agreed to hold back on the transfer of the lease on the proviso that this is in perpetuity and that the costs would be. NF, PC and DE will look into this.  
Proposed PC                      Seconded JS all those eligible to vote supported the motion.  
The TPRA meet on the 11<sup>th</sup> Oct when this will be further discussed.
- ii. **To consider the promotion of the Elections 2024 with Cllr input.**  
NF asked Cllrs to write a sentence on what it's like to be a Parish Councillor in preparation for the elections in 2024 for the Toller Times, website and Facebook.

## 23/09-9. Planning -To consider any other planning matters-None in circulation.

## 23/09-10. Highways matters-

- i. **Update on highways matters as per action list-**
  - a. NF reported that the Powerstock bridge is not to be demolished, the highways officer advised that a new drainage scheme for under bridge being designed.
  - b. River Hooke and Toller Brooke- this is being dealt with by the highways officer as the opinion varies between Dorset Council and the Environment agency on their management, as the area is a flood plain, the agent for the land has been contacted

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Michele Harding

by the DC officer to maintain the watercourses concerned. It was suggested that the MP could be asked to comment on the differing views. NF and Clerk to follow up.

- c. Hedge at junction of Toller Lane and A356 has been cut back the visibility is better.
  - d. Dorset Council are investigating the overgrown hedge on the left side of Toller Lane after you go over the bridge.
  - e. Overgrown Hedge and verge overgrowth - Clift Lane, DC to investigate and seek to get appropriate works carried out to clear the highway, NF to monitor.
  - f. School Lane – overgrown verge, works order has been issued after being reported.
  - g. School Lane – roadside weeds, works order has been issued after being reported.
  - h. High Street- Old Railway Bridge – roadside weeds, DC are investigating.
  - i. High Street – overgrown hedges- reported online, no date for works given.
  - j. High Street – Junction of School Lane to Mogg Pits (end of garden of Bracken House) works order issued.
  - k. Gully at entrance to Village Hall Car Park off Church Mead- DC confirmed that this gully and the road it is located on, according to Dorset Council records, does not form part of the highway. Senior Dorset Council officers declined to accept DC's recommendation to include gully on Council work schedule. No further action as unadopted highway. DE will look at the deeds from the Village Hall to clarify given the recent request for the land in this area.
  - l. It was noted that the Dorset Council highways team are recruiting so there are delays in road line painting and SLOW signs on roads.
- ii. **To further discuss the EC Charging points to be located at the VH or phone box-** DE commented that the VH committee agreed in principle. The Clerk reported that DC had contacted several larger parishes to enquire about the installation of EV points for fast chargers one of those being Maiden Newton, this would be 100% funded from a grant obtained by Dorset Council from government funding to improve local electric vehicle infrastructure. A request will be done online to register the interest in Toller Porcorum.
- iii. **To discuss the issues of Road Closures in term time affecting the school bus service**  
Following the recent road closures and the requests sent to change the dates due to the impact on the school bus service, the PC will request that all future road closures are scheduled for school holidays in the future.  
Councillors were asked to check all grit bins are ready to receive in preparation of the annual grit bin fill by Dorset Council.

## **23/09-11. To receive an update of Rights of way/Footpath matters**

- i. **Gates Project update-**Waiting for Dorset Council rights of way to progress matters on gate 2 (near Mount Pleasant). All new gates due to be installed late September/early October.
- ii. **River Hooke and Toller Bridge update-**  
As noted under highways reports.
- iii. **RoW Noticeboard-** No further updates on the digital map, AA will assist with this progress.

## **23/09-12. To receive any correspondence for noting**

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Michele Harding

**i. To discuss asbestos concerns in the village**

The cladding on the old barn on Toller Lane looks like asbestos, it was agreed that as this is not on a public highway or footpath that this is down to the landowner to pursue, no further action.

**ii. To discuss the old railway bridge on the East of the Trailway permissive path.**

It was reported that the Trailway to Maiden Newton should be maintained to the temporary bridge on the boundary with Little Toller Farm, but this is not on a right of way, the PC are not aware if the permissive path is still in operation. The PC will ask the landowner/agent if this is still in operation.

**iii. The land to the north of the path owned by Dorset Council query for discussion.**

The PC had been sent a map and request from DC for information on the land around the village hall as Dorset Council were considering the sale of the land for grazing.

The PC asked the VH committee to look into their lease with DC as the land for the car park, allotments and paddock are deemed to be of community asset.

The PC and VH committee could register the land as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) in order to protect the site.

The request has also thrown up further questions regarding the drainage in this area so this will be pursued.

The PC agreed to support the VH committee in their decision.

Proposed PC                      Seconded JM    All agreed except those who had an interest in the item.

**23/09-13. To confirm arrangements for the Parish Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November.**

Budget and donation to the Church for grass cutting. A budget meeting will be arranged in Oct. Emergency Plan review.

Meeting closed at 8.44pm.