

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Neil Farmer

Clerk Clare Smith

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 8 July 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)

Public Democratic Forum

None present.

26/07-1. Welcome by Chairman

Meeting opened at 7:02pm.

NF raised the importance of checking and publishing Registers of Interest and commented that the new platform was much easier to use.

26/07-2. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jane Curry.

26/07-3. To receive declarations of interest or any grants of dispensation

NF declared their non-pecuniary position on the board of DAPTC. A dispensation was granted that NF can continue as the council's representative of DAPTC, take part in DAPTC discussions on the basis their knowledge is valuable and vote on DAPTC matters except financial ones. The dispensation was granted for the remainder of the financial year 2026-27.

26/07-4. Approve and sign, as a true and accurate record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13 May 2026

Proposed: PC

Seconded: CW

Accepted

26/07-5. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting for information only

3 consultations/surveys have been completed and submitted.

26/07-6. Dorset Council report

Fire Stations: NE explained a grant from government had prevented the closure of 8 fire stations in Dorset and Wiltshire for 12 months but the future was by no means secure. Proposals are being put forward to keep the stations open in the longer terms and what action is required including an increase in council tax.

Signed by Chair: Date:

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A comprehensive strategic review is needed in the near future.

Maiden Newton flooding: Dorset Council are conducting a flood review made more difficult by a reluctance to report flooding. Any action taken must guarantee no detriment to locations upstream and there is £1.3m available for specific projects for these areas.

Trailway and Rights of Way Improvement Plan: the Trailway is included at a high level in an upcoming survey that residents and councils are encouraged to complete. NF stated the council's frustration with the lack of action on the Toller Porcorum to Maiden Newton section when all parties are in agreement to open the route.

Planning: NE has concerns over an upcoming government proposal to have a national scheme of delegation. This would remove the ability of local authorities to call applications to committee for review.

26/07-7. Finance

i. Approve the accounts for May and June 2026

HJ carried out the checking of invoices, bank statements and bank reconciliations. Bank on 30 June 2026: £17,284.90

Proposed: HJ

Seconded: SH

Approved

ii. Approve the payments made and due for July and August 2026

Total payments to be approved: £845.10

Payee	Reason	Net	VAT
Hugo Fox	Website	9.99	2.00
Ken Hussey	Play area inspection	27.50	0.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grass cutting	116.67	23.33
Clare Smith	Salary & allowances	284.36	0.00
Dorset LGPS	Pension	67.20	0.00
Lloyds	Service charge	4.25	0.00
Hugo Fox	Website	9.99	2.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grass cutting	116.67	23.33
Clare Smith	Salary & allowances	263.02	0.00
Dorset LGPS	Pension	67.20	0.00
Lloyds	Service charge	4.25	0.00
	Total:	845.10	50.66

Proposed: CW

Seconded: PC

Approved

Signed by Chair: Date:

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iii. Consider options for a high interest savings account and agree institution and amount to deposit

Open Instant Access Savings and 32-Day Notice accounts with Unity Trust Bank; £7,000 in a 32-Day Notice and remaining reserves in a Savings account. Close Lloyds Savings account.

Proposed: HJ Seconded: CW **Agreed**

iv. Consider a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan and agree any actions

Council will not pursue a PWLB this financial year. NF, DB and HJ will meet with church representatives to discuss the Church for Future Generations project. Delegation to report back to council.

Proposed: PC Seconded: HJ **Agreed**

26/07-8. Armed Forces Covenant

i. Reaffirm agreement to sign Armed Forces Covenant

Not agreed as answers not received from MOD to clerk's questions.
Item deferred until questions are answered.

ii. Agree pledges of Armed Forces Covenant

Not agreed and item deferred as above.

26/07-9. Consider reducing active Facebook accounts and agree any actions

Proposed: PC Seconded: DB **Agreed**

26/07-10. Receive and agree response to planning application: P/HOU/2026/02900

Location: Dairy House Farm, Kingcombe Road DT2 0EQ

Proposal: Erect single storey side extension

Response: Support. The proposed extension will not cause damage to the surrounding area and is in keeping with the current building and environment.

Proposed: CW Seconded: HJ **Agreed**

26/07-11. Review Action List 2026-27

Reviewed.

26/07-12. Environment including Rights of Way

i. Consider resident request to become a hedgehog friendly village and decide any actions

Council supports residents to follow hedgehog friendly practices

Signed by Chair: Date:

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throughout village where possible.

Proposed: SH

Seconded: DB

Agreed

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

Frustration at lack of action on the Trailway.

26/07-13. To receive brief verbal reports from councillors representing the areas below and decide any actions:

i. **Recreation Ground Working Group**

SH and PC met Peggy Denty's family to agree locations of memorial bench and tree.

Council agreed on a plum tree and hiring a contractor for planting.

Proposed: SH

Seconded: CW

Agreed

ii. **Highways**

Due to holiday HJ unaware of progress. NF reported that potholes and gullies have been repaired but edges on Barrowland Lane at Grey's Farm still need repairing. Toller Lane junction with A 356 needs cutting again.

iii. **DAPTC**

Nothing to report

iv. **Community including Church and Village Hall**

Church has secured a grant from Dorset Historic Churches Trust which will help pay for architect drawings for new roof. Fundraising events continue to take place.

Village Hall is hosting a music extravaganza coming 24 July.

v. **Ammonite Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

AGM cancelled due to heatwave, not rearranged as yet. PPG next meets 14 July.

26/07-14. To receive any correspondence received for noting

None received.

26/07-15. To confirm arrangements for Parish Council meeting in September 2026

Meeting to be held Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed: 8.57pm

Public Democratic Forum – none present.

Signed by Chair: Date: