

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 14th May 2014
At Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Ennals (*Chairman*)

Cllr J Miller (*Vice Chairman*)

Cllr J Knowles

Cllr D Billen

Cllr C Baker

Cllr Peter Davies

Cllr P Rutherford

Cllr R Knox (DCC)

Cllr J Haynes (WDDC)

Mrs M Harding (Clerk)

18 members of the public

Apologies: None

1. Welcome

Cllr Ennals welcomed all to the 2014 Annual Parish Assembly and introduced the speakers for the meeting.

2. Speaker: Mr Martin Hill- Routine and Winter Service Manager for DCC Highways

Mr Hill gave a slide presentation and answered questions and queries on road issues including pot holes, road repairs, the velocity patcher , infra-red patching and the service the DCC Highways provides. He explained about reporting online on “Dorset for you” and ringing highways on 01305 221000 to report faults. One item raised was the junction at the entrance to Toller on the A356 and looking at the white lining after a fatal accident. It was suggested to contact Andrew Brown at Traffic Management. Mr Hill was thanked for his informative presentation and for taking the time to come out to the parish.

3. District Councillor Report: - Cllr Jill Haynes reported on the considerable changes within the district over the year, new offices, the sale of the Old building which has also been sold on again. There is now a new Chief Executive who starts in June. The Charles Street development is now moving forward and major retailers are on board. The boundary commission are considering a reduction from 48-43 Councillors. The Draft Local Plan has been stalled due to the lack of housing figures so more sites are being sought. The Council tax was increased by 1.99%.

4. County Councillor report: - Cllr Rebecca Knox reported on the new leader of the Council and 4 new directors which has a completely new look and feel within the Council. More money is now available for children’s services to make sure that all children receive the help they need. The Council is now member lead but not member managed; the Council are now listening to the community and members. Also a further 5.8M has been made available from government for road repairs to be done by the summer holidays.

Cllr Ennals thanked both Rebecca and Jill for attending the Parish meetings and always being helpful and supportive. Cllr Davies also reminded the meeting that Cllr Knox has her own website where there is lots of useful information.

5. Speaker Tara Hansford: - Tara spoke to the meeting about the trailway project between Maiden Newton and Bridport. She explained how the project is progressing. The need for landowner’s permission and goodwill. The needs of cyclists, walkers and equestrian users are being considered by this project. Tara also spoke about the changes within ROW. The Countryside Rangers are now responsible for green space, parks, roadside verges and school playgrounds. The policy now for verges is a non-cut policy unless it is on an accident black spot or dangerous junction; this is to enhance the wild flowers.

6. Apologies none received

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7. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly on 8th May 2013

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly having been previously circulated and available at the meeting were approved as an accurate record.

8. Matters arising- None

9. **Report of the Chairman**-Cllr David Ennals reported on the activities of the council over the last year and the projects planned for the coming year including the Bus Shelter and painting of the Railway Bridge. He thanked the Councillors for their support over the last year and Jane Ennals for preparing the refreshments assisted by Michele Harding. Cllr Ennals reported that David Walbridge has decided to step down as Flood Warden after 14 years of valued service. Paul Comer has agreed to continue as long as another volunteer is found. Cllr Ennals read out the report from the Flood Wardens.

10. **Financial report from the Clerk**- the Clerk read out the financial report and noted particular expenditure in the year including the Bus Shelter and the raise in the precept.

Opening balance-	£2921.02
Closing balance-	£2847.25
Precept raised at-	£7062.20 for 2014-15

11. Report from the Recreation Area Committee-

Cllr Debbie Billen reported on the Recreation area having been in place now for 12 years, general repairs are done by the committee and plans are being made to plant a Chestnut tree. A field day event was held on the recreation ground and another event is planned for this year.

12. **Report from the Village Hall Committee:** - Alex Carstairs reported on the Village Hall. The Village hall was left a parcel of land and as a charity it could not give the land away so have sold the land to the CLT for the new development of affordable homes and a Post office. Cllr Colin Baker reported that the completed section 106 agreement should be signed by the end of the week and then planning permission should be granted shortly after. Mr Carstairs also suggested that when the sale of the land goes through the Council do not need to give a grant to the Village hall this year.

13. **Report from the Parochial Church Council:** - Cllr Judy Miller reported on the activities of the Church and thanked all those who support the Church and its fundraising events.

14. **Democratic Forum**- Cllr Miller reported that "Plant Aid UK" would like to put a clothing bank at the Village Hall. It was suggested that a "Bag to school" pick up could be considered and funds raised could then go to village charities. The Dorset Waste partnership scheme starting October 2014 was raised, if anyone has concerns they need to contact WDDC by 19th June. Cllr Billen was asked if there was any further news on the Tennis Court, a survey was carried out in the village and many would support it but it would need to be further away from houses and there was the funding to consider. Residents raised concerns about the sandblasting to the railway bridge and who was liable if it further damaged the bridge, the Council will follow this up.

Close for refreshments

Meeting closed at 9.05pm