

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th September 2016 At Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Ennals (Chairman)
Cllr J Miller
Cllr J Stavenhagen

Cllr C Baker
Cllr A Carstairs
Cllr J Knowles

In attendance:

Mrs K Sheehan (Clerk), 2 members of the public and Cllr J Haynes (WDDC)

426. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Debbie Billen.

427. Declarations of interest and grants of dispensations

None.

428. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2016

Proposed by Cllr Carstairs and seconded by Cllr Baker, the minutes were duly signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to the correction of a typo in the Highways report referring to the 'snow plan in place'.

429. Matters arising

Cllr J Haynes reported that arrangements for the volunteer network aiming to 'replace' the mobile library network had firmed up and it seemed likely that the Post Office staff would be offering an 'ordering' service, subject to funding for an internet connection. Cllr Miller reported that she had looked at the regular mobile library users and had not identified anyone without an internet connection.

Cllr Stavenhagen reported that the Frogmore Lane beech hedge would be cut back as far as possible and added that he was continuing to collect Badger Lane consultation responses. Cllr Carstairs clarified that there is no snow plough available to, or located in, Toller Porcorum.

430. County Matters

None.

431. District Matters

Cllr Haynes updated Members on the continuing consultation around local government reorganisation in Dorset. She highlighted the very short time frame involved as a decision would be made before the end of the year. Some discussion took place around the role of Local Area Boards and the possibility of Parish Councils applying to them for match funding for projects. Cllr Ennals thanked Cllr Haynes for her time and Cllr Haynes left the meeting.

432. Finance and Procedure

The Clerk updated Members of the Council on the recently published external audit for 2015/16, where no major issues had been raised. The Chair thanked the Clerk for her work in the audit process.

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i. To consider the receipts and payments due

Receipts			Aug/Sept 2016
			<hr/> 0.00 <hr/>
Payments		Voucher	
Mrs K Sheehan (first)	Salary/exp	154	293.70
			<hr/> 293.70 <hr/>

ii. To consider the adoption of a Press and Media Policy

Cllr Ennals invited comments from members. With the sole change that the policy should be reviewed next in 2019 by the new Parish Council, the policy was **proposed** by Cllr Miller, **seconded** by Cllr Stavenhagen and duly **adopted**.

iii. To receive an update on the Council's position regarding employee pensions

The Clerk updated the Council, stating that during October the Council would write to the Clerk to confirm the required information, and then the Council would be in a position to declare its compliance to the Pensions Regulator.

iv. To consider any proposals to submit to the DAPTC AGM

No proposals were received.

v. To review and confirm the Clerk's contract

This item was deferred until the November meeting.

433. Planning

i. To consider any planning applications in circulation

There were no current planning applications in circulation but with respect to WD/D/16/001554 (land at Middle Farm, Higher Kingcombe), Cllr Carstairs reported that a unilateral undertaking had been signed to tie the new property with the existing property, preventing them from being sold separately.

ii. Determinations

Approvals for the following applications were noted:

- WD/D/16/001344 – Woolcombe Valley Farm – APPROVED

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- WD/D/16/001247 – Dairy House Farm – APPROVED
- WD/D/16/001531 – Lower Farm Cottage – APPROVED
- WD/D/16/001341 – Woolcombe Valley Farm - APPROVED

434. Highways

i. To discuss the fingerpost sign opposite the former Swan Inn

Cllr Baker reported concerns about the poor condition of this fingerpost sign. Some discussion took place about the most effective way to have it restored. Cllr Stavenhagen agreed to contact DCC to see if they would agree to restore it.

Action: Cllr Stavenhagen to contact DCC to see if they would undertake restoration of the fingerpost. Clerk to research contact details for Fingerpost preservation/restoration groups.

ii. To receive an update on Highways issues

Cllr Stavenhagen noted that farm expansion had resulted in much larger vehicles using very small roads and the bridge and stated his intention to investigate the possibility of a statutory weight or width restriction for the village. It was noted that the bridge was now the responsibility of the Highways Agency Historic Rail Estate (HAHRE).

iii. To consider 'Working Together – Highways' document from DCC

Councillors reviewed the document recently published by DCC. The following issues were raised for Andrew Martin at the upcoming Clerks' Conference:

- What is the revised frequency of verge cutting?
- Poor quality of surface preparation through the village

Cllr Ennals noted that with budget cuts it would be necessary to consider small highways works and improvements in the PC's next budget. There would also be considerations for the Council's insurance and health and safety training for any volunteers used by the Council.

Action: Clerk to find original verge cutting works programme.

435. To consider quotations for First Aid courses in the village

The Clerk updated the Council on the work of the WI to secure a defibrillator and who were now planning to run at least two training and first aid sessions. Members agreed that with these courses now planned, the PC's proposed courses would not be necessary.

436. To consider a formal response to the consultation 'Reshaping your Councils'

Members agreed not to submit a corporate response to this, but that they would endeavour to respond as individuals.

437. Correspondence

Councillors reviewed correspondence received by the Clerk on behalf of the Council since the July meeting. The Clerk highlighted an email received from Toller WI, asking for financial assistance with the purchase of a defibrillator cabinet. Cllr Miller proposed that the Council made a one time only donation of £200 to assist the WI with this. After discussion a vote was taken and the proposal was not carried.

Action: Clerk to contact the WI with response regarding funding for the cabinet.

438. Items for the PC meeting on Wednesday 9th November

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- Review of the Clerk's contract
- Budget 2017/18

The meeting closed at 20.36.

Democratic Forum

Mrs M Miles stated that as a result of the recent cuts to bus services she was no longer able to get to Maiden Newton.

Cllr Stavenhagen asked that the Parish Council write a letter of condolence to Cllr Billen, recognising the enormous contribution that Norman has made to the village.