

# Toller Porcorum Parish Meeting

**A Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday, 18th May, 2011  
in the Village Hall at 7 p.m.**

*Draft*

**1. Apologies:** There were no apologies.

Present were: Cllrs. Ennals, Miller, Baker, Knowles, Davies, Rutherford and Billen. Cllrs. Knox (County) and Haynes (District) Mr. Applebee (Clerk). Thirty-seven members of the public were present.

**2. Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman:** The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced those who would be giving reports.

**3. Report by Cllr. Rebecca Knox (D.C.C.):** Cllr. Knox explained the difference in responsibilities between County and District Councils. She explained that the Highways were to be restructured due to cuts. The Parish should then come under one department for repairs and maintenance of the roads. Libraries have not generally been affected in Dorset by the cuts. The Mobile Library is working hard and would appreciate support. Adult Social Services and Education are the responsibility of the County and also Schools and Transport. If there are any problems with these she would try and sort them out for the Parish. Any problems with roads and hedges should be made through Cllr. Davies. A question was asked by the Chairman relating to how the Localism Bill would affect the Village. Cllr. Knox replied that this generally concerned the purchase of land and buildings. When this becomes an Act of Parliament the Village will be given a greater say in how fields and buildings within the Parish should be used. This concept should be encouraged for the future and built on in the Parish Plan.

**4. Report by Cllr. Jill Haynes (W.D.D.C.):** Cllr. Haynes explained that she had stood for election because Nick Pattmore had become too ill to continue his work. She was getting to grips with her new responsibilities.

**5. Report by Chairman – Cllr. David Ennals:** Cllr. Ennals explained that due to the election it was felt that the Council had a special mandate to serve the Parish and he welcomed Cllr. Baker as a new Councillor, although he had been a past Clerk to the Parish. Cllr. Connolly had stood down from the Parish Council and was thanked for his work. Shelley Collins, the previous Clerk, had had to resign but was thanked for her help. The present Clerk had taken up his duties in August. During the year the Council had looked into affordable housing and a suitable site had been set aside. The Council will be contacted when it was known whether funds are available and have been allocated for this project.

Street Lights: Complaints had been made about the condition of them and they have now been upgraded and adopted so the Parish has no responsibility now for maintenance or electric bills.

Gritting of roads in the winter: After much discussion with D.C.C. Toller Lane should qualify for the minimum attention of pre-gritting this winter. Cllr. Ennals explained about the grit bin being stolen from Mop Pitts Hill and the new one sited on the bridge. By the end of the winter the bottom of Toller Lane was in poor condition. Cllr Ennals had photographed this stretch of road and forwarded pictures to Mr Ackerman (Head of Highways). He had replied that it would be resurfaced early in 2011. Cllr. Davies continues to liaise with the P.M.U.

The Old Swan: This has been a long and frustrating effort; the hot topic being the true valuation of the pub. S.O.S. has a potential purchaser and a statement has been agreed by Dr. David Evans with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, at a meeting on 16th May to say that, *If Palmers will not negotiate with SOS's Potential purchaser, then provided the purchaser has proof of sufficient funds and WDDC has the contact details of that purchaser, they will begin a CPO.*

Traffic Speed: The Council has had much discussion on how to reduce the speed of traffic through the Village and traffic calming measures will be looked into. The idea of village gates were dismissed by everyone present. The condition of two High Street signs have deteriorated but will be refurbished by the Clerk to help keep the character of the Village. The Village has a Litter Warden, Darwin Culley, who is paid £100 a year out of Keep Britain Tidy Campaign. Toller Porcorum has a website with much information on it and thanks went to Don Bowman and Cllr. Davies for their efforts in setting up and maintaining it.

Footpaths: Cllr. Knowles, who has done much to keep footpaths open and maintained, thanked Arthur Povey for much work in the past in walking the paths and reporting on them. She brought to the attention of the meeting how to report problems on the paths, both by telephone and the internet.

The Chairman closed by thanking Cllr. Knox for her support and advice, the Clerk for his willingness and hard work, the Parish Councillors for their enthusiasm and giving their time so freely, the Vice Chairman Judy Miller, for her valuable advice.

**6. Reports by Village Organisations:** Flood Emergency: Paul Comer spoke of the only incident in the Village last year as being the bottom of Toller Lane. He and David Wallbridge were thanked for their past and continuing work. Home Watch: Barry Rutherford explained that he was the liaison between the Police and the community and that the Village, belonging to Homewatch, could reduce house insurance. Friday Club: Margaret Barrett reported that children's work in Toller, Hooke and surrounding area continues with help from parents and others. They encourage the children to look at life's deeper questions. P.C.C.: A new Rector had been appointed, Rev. David Baldwin. A report was read by Cllr. Ennals who explained that following the Bells Fund, the work on the Tower was nearly complete, however there was an ongoing need for funds to keep the Church open for public use. Short Mat Bowls: Cllr Rutherford encouraged a wider

participation in the village and said that they were over coming difficulties with the new floor. Save the Old Swan: Jeremy Stavenhagen gave a potted history of the group's activities and the progression that they hoped to make. Village Association: Cllr. Baker felt that their chief priority was more affordable housing, six units plus a Post Office being planned. Recreation Field: Cllr. Billen has secured funds for further play equipment which should be installed soon by a local firm, Hux of Bridport. Gardening Club: Michael Boardman said that there would be a visit to a local garden next Wednesday. There is to be an annual barbecue in July and an illustrated talk in September by Dr. and Mrs. Wiley on their recent visit to the Arctic. Village Hall Committee: Cllr. Miller spoke of the Village Show in August and the need for new blood on the Committee. Women's Institute: Jill Smith spoke of the many and various activities and outings and their commitment to charities. Table Tennis Club: Cllr. Ennals said that there was a growing interest in this sport and numbers had grown. Parish Plan: Siobhan Tindal. A report was read out by Cllr. Davies. Following the survey 54% had responded, mainly permanent residents. At present the return is being analysed and a document will be produced in due time and distributed to all Villagers. THADS: Cllr. Miller reported on the on-going success of the pantomime and was pleased to report that Judith Hansen has agreed to produce the pantomime this winter. SUSTRANS: Peter Henshaw and George Sartin said that they were still making efforts to open the route by negotiation with landowners. There is still some opposition, but out of the eighteen who own land over which the track runs between Maiden Newton and Bridport, only four were against the idea. He stated that in addition to obvious benefits, the route would be useful for shopping in Maiden Newton when roads were blocked by snow as experience showed last winter.

**7. Comments from Registered Electors:** It was pointed out that 'Give Way' signs at the top of Toller Lane needed cleaning.

The meeting ended at approximately 9 p.m. and was followed by a time of socialising over an appetising and well presented variety of refreshments provided by Jane Ennals.

Nicholas Applebee (Clerk)