

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

A Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd February 2011 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies: Cllr. Knox.

Present : Councillors – Ennals, Miller, Billen, Rutherford, Knowles, Davies and Connelly. Clerk: Mr Nicholas Applebee.

2. Comments from the public:

i. Why were not all road potholes marked for repair? Cllr. Davies replied that it depends on the hazard they constituted for traffic, and the depth of the hole. Highways only fill in the deep ones.

ii. The road was sinking by the skittle alley, and on School Lane just above the B.O.A.T. Cllr. Davies said that he had made representation to the County for much repair on the roads with photographs to support, at this stage we can assume it will be repaired, but it is too deep for the PMU to deal with.

iii. Why the Precept figure, as discussed at the last meeting, was not put on the Minutes? The answer to this was that the figure had not been verified by the District Council at that stage.

iv. Could the road be resurfaced at the approach to the village on Toller Lane outside Manor Farm entrance? The answer given was that many requests had been made by the Chairman who was told that this was not a high enough priority by Highways, and they would only repair the deepest holes. Cllr. Miller commented that it had the effect of slowing traffic and was therefore an advantage to the Village, others disagreed and were concerned about damage to their cars. The Chairman said he would explore the possibility of taking on a loan to get the road repaired by resurfacing. This met with a mixed response.

v. Can the council do something about getting the hedge cut back and topped on the south side of the High Street from the Post Office to Old Mills? The Clerk to make contact with the tenant of the land.

3. Declaration of Interest – Cllr. Connelly declared an interest in the Old Swan and therefore would not vote on any issues to do with this.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting, held on 8th December 2010 were read and signed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising:

Traffic Speed: There was some discussion regarding the idea of gates (fixed open) at either end of the village, which should have the effect of slowing traffic. Opinions would be sought for this idea within the village and further consideration given to the suggestion. As the Parish Plan is now complete, this scheme could not be included in it, but there will be an opportunity to raise the issue within the questionnaire.

Street Lighting: Lamps have now been adopted by D.C.C. and an invoice for the upgrade is awaited.

Blocked Drains: Cllr. Davies is monitoring progress and has applied for the blocked drains to be sluiced.

Salted Grit: All bins have been topped up in the village and a request has gone through to Highways Dept. for dumpy bags as a supplement.

6. Financial Statement: The Clerk made a statement on the financial position of the Parish. The Precept of £4,290 has been accepted by the W.D.D.C. This will mean an increase from 58p to £1.66 a month on a Band D property. By the end of April the Parish should be in a more healthy financial position.

7. Update on the Old Swan: There was much discussion on the Chairman's correspondence with various interested parties. Cllr. Davies suggested that a C.P.O. should be sought for health and safety reasons alone i.e. buildings were in a dilapidated condition. The Chairman asked S.O.S. if they wanted the council to apply for another grant on their behalf, for a business plan to include the cost of refurbishment. This was the case as S.O.S. had insufficient funds. The Chairman agreed to seek a true valuation of the property to be carried out by the District Valuer, as this carried more weight in law. If this valuation was known S.O.S. would be in a better position to find a purchaser if a C.P.O. was granted. The Chairman was to write to W.D.D.C. requesting a grant, valuation, and would defer the vote on whether

to indemnify W.D.D.C. should they proceed with a C.P.O. as, at present, it was impossible to assess costs, especially if Palmers opposed it in the courts. (The Chairman would send draft copies to councillors for them to approve and/or suggest amendments). If the Localism Bill became law, the community's position would be strengthened, as it was understood it would not be possible for Palmers to appeal against a C.P.O. It was stated that S.O.S. are not yet Registered as a limited company with a bank account, and if they were this would strengthen their position in law.

8. Clerk's Report on the Central Area Meeting: Main points of interest were the meeting in Dorchester at the W.D.D.C. on 8th February to discuss new sites for the park and ride venture and concessionary transport which is still under discussion. Those interested were encouraged to attend – info from the Clerk.

9. Street Lighting: All lighting is now the responsibility of W.D.C.C.

10. Highways: Replacement of the stolen grit bin from the top of Mop Pitts Hill was discussed and a new one will be bought in the Autumn, if the budget allows. Unfortunately insurance did not cover theft, damage only.

Additional locations, apart from Toller Trailers and Barton Farm, for the storage of dumpy bags will be looked into.

11. Planning: Approval was made for first floor extension at 21, High Street.

Part of footpath 4, Hooke at Manor Farm.

Replacing existing extension at Venerly Lodge, Clift Lane.

12. Litter Warden: Cllr. Rutherford reported that Darwin Culley patrols the village fortnightly and reports that most rubbish is from Toller Lane. The Keep Britain Tidy Day in January was not attended by anyone despite the event being advertised by poster.

The Christmas tree collection carried out by Mr Culley and the Clerk produced approximately 20 trees. Thanks were expressed to those who took part in this new venture to help the village and the environment.

13. Correspondence: received regarding the Census in March; the Elections of Parish and District Councillors on 5th May. Letters from the Chairman had been sent to Cllr Peter Finney (Dorset Cabinet Minister for Highways) and Andy Ackerman (Head of Highways) concerning the absence of gritting of Toller Lane during icy conditions. The Clerk had also sent emails. Residents are urged to write to these persons making their own, personal complaints, (this would also support the Parish Council's efforts to have gritting re-instated).

14. Bills for Payment and Payments Received:

Paid: M. Wilson, D. Culley, N. Applebee, Village Hall Committee, Southern Electricity, Dorset County Council. Received: Highways refund.

15. Items for next Agenda: May elections. Clerk to inform Councillors by e-mail.

16. Comments from Public: was it true that there was land for purchase in the village. Cllr. Rutherford replied that Mr Rutherford had responded on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. It appears that this land is not yet up for sale.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday, 6th April, 2011. at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Toller Porcorum.

The meeting concluded at 21.35 hours.