

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2015 At Toller Porcorum Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D Ennals (Chairman)	Cllr C Baker
Cllr J Miller (Vice Chairman)	Cllr D Billen
Cllr J Stavenhagen	Cllr A Carstairs
Mrs K Sheehan (Clerk)	Cllr J Haynes (WDDC)
2 members of the public	

331. Welcome and Introduction of the new Clerk

Cllr Ennals introduced Mrs Katharine Sheehan as the new Clerk to Toller Porcorum Parish Council with effect from 1st September 2015. A formal contract of employment was signed by Cllr Ennals on behalf of the Parish Council, and Mrs Katharine Sheehan.

Cllrs noted the hard work of the outgoing Clerk, Mrs Michele Harding, and that she continues her employment with the Council until 30th September 2015. All queries should now be directed to Mrs Katharine Sheehan, who will circulate her contact details following the meeting.

Action: Clerk

332. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Janet Knowles.

333. Declarations of interest and grants of dispensations

None.

334. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th July and sign the same

The minutes of the meeting on 8th July 2015 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

335. Matters Arising for information only

Item 320: The Clerk to establish whether an official response from Patrick Myers was received, and if not to contact him directly. Cllr Carstairs to contact Rorie Geddes regarding the hedge cutting at the T-junction at the top of Toller Hill.

Action: AC and Clerk

Item 326: It was noted that the planning application at Thunderbolt Farm had subsequently been approved.

336. Democratic Forum

None.

337. County Matters

None.

338. District Matters

Cllr Jill Haynes reported on the recent findings of the Planning Inspector regarding the Local Plan, emphasising that insufficient housing stock remains the principal issue. While 35% of the stock is supposed to be for social housing, Cllr Haynes felt there were unlikely to be

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enough smaller affordable homes. Since supported housing had not been included in the plan, there was a gap in provision for elderly people, who were in turn going into care due to the lack of available small properties. Cllr Haynes reported that the Planning Inspector had stressed that those areas classed as Sustainable Communities would need to produce a Neighbourhood Plan in order to ensure development is better focused, spaced and controlled in the long term. She concluded that overall there was likely to be a shortage of 1500 houses per annum for the next five years.

Cllr Haynes explained that all rural Dorset Councils are looking into moving to a devolved budget, which might in turn impact upon authorities' structures in the future.

Cllr Haynes left the meeting at 19.30.

339. Finance

i. To consider the receipts and payments due

Receipts	Detail		Amount
VAT	Paid in error		809.80
VAT	Refunded to correct error		-809.80
Payments	Detail	Voucher	Amount
SLCC	Charles Arnold Baker volume 9	126	69.00 (pd August)
Mrs M Harding (last)	Salary/exp	127	344.85
Mrs K Sheehan (first)	Salary/exp	128	101.12
HMRC	PAYE	129	89.60
J Miller	Toller Times	130	6.80
DAPTC	Chairman Seminar	131	30.00

Proposed Cllr D Ennals

Seconded Cllr D Billen

Resolved

340. Planning

i. To consider any applications in circulation

None.

ii. Report of the Post Office and Affordable Housing

Cllr Baker reported that the old Post Office was now closed and the new Post Office would be opened officially on Friday September 25th. The interior and exterior of the old building had been photographed. The official opening would be by invitation only due to limited space and Cllr Baker stated that the affordable housing was now all taken up.

Cllr Carstairs explained that an application would be made to change the use of the old Post Office back to residential. Councillors discussed the implications of 'Right to Buy' for the affordable housing in Toller Porcorum. Cllr Carstairs was concerned that Oliver Letwin MP had not confirmed that rural affordable housing would be exempt from Right to Buy. It was **resolved** to write to Oliver Letwin, providing some background information on the fight for affordable housing in Toller Porcorum, and confirming the Parish Council's opposition to Right to Buy.

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Action: AC and Clerk

341. Highways

i. To report on the meeting with the Head of DCC Highways

Cllr Stavenhagen reported that he and Cllr Baker had met with Highways Officers from Dorset County Council to discuss highways matters affecting Toller Porcorum. He stated that:

- A lengthsman will undertake various works in the village;
- Potholes should be repaired and allowed to settle for six months; and
- Road resurfacing should be undertaken at some point in 2016.

Cllr Stavenhagen concluded by assuring Cllrs that he would continue to report potholes to DCC. Cllr Ennals thanked Cllr Stavenhagen for his efforts to date.

ii. To report on the site meeting at the bridge, Lower Road with Highways

Cllr Ennals reported that on visiting the village, the Community Highways Officer had agreed that the triangular sign at the bridge should be accompanied by a 'Slow' sign as there is no footpath. The officer also proposed that the surrounding vegetation should be cut back and was now in the process of producing a work order for this, and the installation of the sign, repair of potholes, rodding and gully clearance throughout the village.

iii. Any other Highways issues

None.

342. Broadband issues in the Parish

Cllrs discussed recent problems with broadband experienced throughout the village. Cllr Ennals invited Mr Chris Wardle (member of public) to address the Council regarding his letter to the Chief Executive of BT Openreach regarding slow installation and poor broadband speeds. Cllrs noted that the delays in installing telephone lines had caused the new Post Office's opening to be postponed. Mr Wardle reported that he had received a response stating:

- No date has been fixed for the new fibre connections from Maiden Newton – this is now likely to be in 2016;
- This will involve roadworks and will not improve telephone line quality as purely for broadband; and
- Upgrades to improve telephone lines likely to be much further in the future.

Toller Porcorum Parish Council **resolved** to write to Joe Garner, Chief Executive of BT Openreach to highlight the Council's continuing concerns and requesting an outline schedule of works.

Action: Clerk

343. Correspondence (see attached)

No comments.

344. Budget Items for November meeting.

Cllr Baker requested that the Council discuss the maintenance of the memorial at the top of Toller Hill.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Ennals agreed to trim the grass around the telephone box before the next meeting of the Council.

Actions: DE

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345. Democratic Forum

Cllr Ennals outlined the rules of the Democratic Forum and invited Steve McCoughlin (member of public) to address the Council.

Steve explained that oversized vehicles using Frogmore Lane to access the sawmills were causing significant damage to verges, hedges and trees.

It was **resolved** that the Parish Council should write to the owner of the property in question, outlining the issue and asking if they could request that the haulier use smaller vehicles and requesting a response before 11th November 2015.

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 20.18.