

**Annual General Meeting of Toller Porcorum Village Hall
Monday 25th March 2024**

1. Present

David Ennals (Chair), Jenny Johnson (Treasurer), James Feaver, Mick Rawling, Patrick Woodford, Charlotte Woodford, Judy Miller, Jenny Crumpton, Jane Ennals, Debbie Billen, Thelma Billen, Julia Stantiford & Jane Curry

2. Apologies & Absences

Apologies for absence were received from Christine Burt and notice of resignation from Pete Hammonds.

3. Minutes of last A.G.M.

The minutes of the annual general meeting held on 29th March 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Financial Report – Jenny Johnson

Draft	<u>Toller Porcorum Village Hall Accounts: FY 2023</u>	
Cash Assets		
	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22
Santander Current Acct	36,085.16	39,284.89
Cash Box	1,009.02	823.30
	<u>37,094.18</u>	<u>40,108.19</u>
Creditors		
Debtors & pending not yet in accounts	60.00 <i>note 1</i>	366.00
	 37,154.18	 40,474.19
<u>Movements on Accounts</u>		
Santander		
Opening	<u>39,284.89</u>	<u>48,243.27</u>
Payments	-7,184.23	-13,647.66
Deposits	3,984.50	4,689.28
Closing	<u>36,085.16</u>	<u>39,284.89</u>
	-3,199.73	
Cash Box		
Opening	<u>823.30</u>	321.69
Payments	-2,983.04	-2,340.00
Deposits	3,168.76	2,841.61
Closing	<u>1,009.02</u>	<u>823.30</u>
	185.72	
Total Cash Movement	-3,014.01	
Profit/Loss on Year Cash Assets		
Opening Position	40,108.19	48,564.96
Closing Position	<u>37,094.18</u>	<u>40,108.19</u>
Movement on accounts/cash/creditors/c	-3,014.01	-8,456.77
Non Cash Assets		
Closing Position Stock	<u>0</u>	<u>145.88</u>
Total closing position inc stock	<u>37,094.18</u>	

Note 1 Debtors of £60 (estimate of potential FIT payment)

Note 2 Total Movement on Bank and Cash Acc Closing -3,014.01 matches Income v Expenditure Summary

Toller Porcorum Village Hall Accounts: FY 2023

	FY23	FY22	Diff	
	£	£	£	
Hall Hire	2,534.50	2,746.10	-211.60	8% Lower
Total Income	5,066.26	4,870.20	196.06	4% Higher
Total Expenses	8,080.27	13,326.97	-5,246.70	40% Lower
	-3,014.01	-8,456.77		
Highest Exp Category				
Maintenance/Repair	3,018.03	9,260.16	-6,242.13	
Electricity	862.80	500.86	361.94	

Summary:

Cash assets down on last year by circa £3,000

Hall hire down by circa £200

Income up by 4%

Expenses down due to lower maintenance costs

Balance March 2023 £37,094.18 to March 2024 £40108.19.

We are operating at a loss. Consideration should be given to more marketing and promotion but how much more can we do? We don't have the benefit of being easily accessible or central to other surrounding villages.

Vote of thanks given to Jenny for all her efforts and input into the role of Treasurer.

Jenny did inform the meeting of her likely move out of the area in the next 12 months which was advance notice to seek another Treasurer.

5. Chairman's Annual Report – David Ennals

I am very grateful to Charlotte and Jenny who have continued to work extremely effectively. Jenny now has full control of the account and the umbilical cord with Nigel Stephenson as regards Santander seems now to be severed, however, we still have a problem with OVO Energy who continue to contact Nigel and even send him cheques for our feed in tariff payment, despite Jenny submitting all the necessary documentation and evidence that she is the new Treasurer. In hope of clarifying the matter for OVO, I wrote a letter earlier this month again submitting all the required information only for them to send Nigel another email requesting the same information that both Jenny and I have sent. This is so time wasting and frustrating, not least because we still haven't received a re-issued F.I.T payment that was sent to Nigel.

On the brighter side, as F.I.T payments are being sent – albeit to Nigel – at least the Solar panels are now working again following a repair, which included a new Inverter being installed in the storeroom, by Stephenson Electricals of Bridport.

As you know this is the last meeting where Charlotte will act as Secretary. As a relatively new Chairman, I didn't realise until recently that Charlotte has served the Community as Village Hall Secretary for 15 years. We have some idea of the work involved as she keeps us in line with agendas and minutes, but minute taking is a skill that we probably take for granted and together with all the follow ups as a result of the decisions made by the Trustees, she has been both thorough and informative, as well as a superb gentle nagger! Thankfully, it is not goodbye to Charlotte as she is staying on as a Trustee, and knowing her commitment she will continue to give us her wisdom and experience for the foreseeable future.

This would seem to be the correct moment to welcome Jane Curry, who has agreed, without too much arm twisting, to replace Charlotte as our Secretary. For this to occur, I must thank my wife, Jane, who just happened to casually mention to Jane at a recent WI meeting that the post was becoming vacant, and that she didn't want to do it! Jane, we thank you for agreeing to join the Committee and we hope that despite the extra responsibilities, you will enjoy working with us and for the village.

Unfortunately, we do say good-bye to Patrick. He has served in various roles in the 15 years he has served the community. This includes being Treasurer, Chairman, the allotment supremo and the general 'go to' chap for anything to do with the grounds and the legalities that go with that. I think we all know how thorough he has been over the instalment of the Trailway and the time it has taken to work with Solicitors in terms of transfer of land, a matter that is still not fully resolved. Latterly, Patrick became aware that Dorset Council received an enquiry about purchasing the North paddock through which the public footpath runs. The enquiry was from a neighbour with a view to using it as an allotment or smallholding. The land is within the lease from Dorset Council to the Trustees that includes the carpark, allotments and other land. There is no provision for the council to take the land back. The hall trustees considered the matter and came out against the proposal. This position was supported by the Parish Council and it was agreed to advise Dorset Council of this and to point out that the land is, in any event, tied up securely within the terms of the lease (they seemed to be unaware of said terms). Patrick wrote to the Council's surveyor accordingly and nothing further has been heard.

Regarding the Trailway: Nothing has been heard back from the Dorset Council's legal department towards regularising the removal of the trailway land from the lease. It is clearly on record that the hall trustees have effectively given up the land to accommodate the trailway plan so no further attempts have been made to engage with them over this.

Despite Patrick leaving, he has very kindly agreed to continue with the transfer of land until that is finally resolved. For insurance purposes, the hall and surrounding land needs valuing and with Patrick no longer a Trustee, and therefore no interest to declare we can now employ him to give the valuation.

Today, Charlotte and I received an apologetic email from Peter Hammonds saying, "After a lot of thought I will be standing down from the committee. I am increasingly unable to support meetings due to my work commitments (as will be the case this week again). Also to be honest the leg work getting everything together to put on a decent do is becoming unworkable. I think that it is probably time for someone else to have a go. I have enjoyed my time on the Committee and putting on the events, getting Toller rocking. I hope you understand. Kind regards, Peter. I have replied thanking him very much for all his efforts in organising events – both musical and quizzes. I think we all realise that those of us who do have full time work, voluntary work creates a time pressure that can become unwelcome.

I may as well continue with Patrick's report on the grounds, Allotments have full occupancy. Fees were increased this year to half a plot £10 and full plot £20. They are all generally tidy apart from a couple of plots. There are several fees still outstanding. The Paddocks are still being grazed by James Gibson's sheep. Grazing continues to be free of charge to keep the grass down.

Maintenance: We now have a new sandbag store on the disabled parking area, courtesy of the Parish Council, and next to it is a grit bin for use when the entrance is iced over. Harry Turner has installed doors for the kitchen hatch so the heavy metal roller blind no longer needs to be used. The doors are fire resistant for approximately 30 minutes. The water ingress on the main hall ceiling which I reported on last year has not occurred again – a real mystery!! But a similar ingress occurred in the Committee Room, however, once the gutter was cleared out this has not re-occurred thankfully. The curtains in the main hall were difficult to open and close and so Charlotte spent much time researching a suitable curtain tracking, these were then installed by Harry and myself, which drew the matter to a close! As a result of me trying to book the hall for table tennis with one of my grandsons, it became very apparent that this was not possible after one table leg kept falling off and a net that couldn't be erected – I asked Harry to assess whether a repair was possible, and he has done that but I haven't road tested it! The lower part of the carpark remains a bog and this is the reason for the 4 bollards, but the main cause is the blind gully adjacent to the Wilson's house. Dorset Council were claiming this gully was not their responsibility, but when we were looking at the leased land re that potential sale of the upper paddock, it became clear that Dorset Council do own that piece of highway and therefore that gully. The matter is ongoing with our County Councillor, Tony Alford. This is a collection of the emails thus far:

Good morning Cllr Alford,

Maintain Drains our contractor has visited site and completed the following as noted in their site report below:

REMOVED SILT FROM SHALLOW STORM DRAIN ON ROAD BY BELL MOUTH INTO PARKING AREA TO EXPOSE OUTLET TO GULLY. HIGH PRESSURE WATER JET AND ROD FOR APPROX 2.5 MTRS TO DEAD STOP. UNABLE TO SURVEY THROUGH PIPE WORK AS NOT DRAINING.

THIS STOP POINT IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, UNCERTAIN IF THIS IS A COLLAPSE OR DESTINATION OF PIPE WORK, I.E. SOAKAWAY.

OPTIONS COULD BE TO UNDERTAKE EXPLORATORY EXCAVATION IN THE ROAD AT THIS POINT, TO CHECK ON STOP POINT, UNSURE IF PRIVATE ROAD OR IF ROAD OPENING LICENCE IS REQUIRED.

IF THIS IS THE DESTINATION THEN EXTEND THE PIPEWORK INTO THE GRAVEL CAR PARK AND INSTALL NEW SUITABLE SOAKAWAY, SUBJECT TO PERCOLATION TEST FINDINGS ETC. LOCAL RESIDENTS ADVISE THAT THIS DRAIN HAS NEVER WORKED SINCE ITS INSTALLATION.

Do you have any information on the gully installation or its ownership? Is it highways?

We probably going to need to cost for some design/calculation works to alleviate the issue here, if this is definitely under your responsibility, please let me know and I'll get a quotation over for the initial works.

I have confirmed that it is under our (Property & Assets) remit and not Highways and requested from Maintain Drains possible solution(s) and quote(s) including any initial works required.

Kind regards, Jonathon Parratt, Regional Property Surveyor.

Village Show: Mick and Janie Rawling did an amazing job organising another Village Show. Entries were on a par with recent years but there were far fewer entries from Hooke; more entries in the cake competition and the Tea Room run by Debbie Billen did very well. A small profit was made but that is not a priority of the event. Mick would like to log a special thank you to Kai Kenway and Edward Stantiford.

Hall Hire: Jan Turner reports: The regular weekly hall bookings continue, i.e. Mahjong, Yoga, Badminton, Bowls, the monthly WI and the TPPC. Since September the Dorset Fiddlers (part of the Thomas Hardy Society) have been practicing monthly and gave praise for such a well-kept hall. Junior badminton has ceased due to Kai's other commitments. The hall has been booked a further 31 times including 11 parties, two paying wakes, a fundraiser, English Truffles, Wessex Water, Lib Dems, 3 x Dancing practice, and Dorset Butterfly Conservation. There were 7 non-paying events (Coronation, Big Breakfast, Harvest Supper, Christmas Meal, Cream Teas, Pub Night, and the Village Show, plus 10 Soup & Roll lunches). We are very grateful to Jan for her careful booking organisation. She is willing to continue for another year but is thinking of giving it up at next year's AGM.

Technical Support: James Feaver reports: **Wi-Fi** - In June a new SIM card was purchased at a cost of £45. The amount of data this allows will be enough to get to the expiry date (1 year). Use of the broadband has increased significantly since last year meaning more hall users are taking advantage of the facility.

Web Site

No major changes this year. The main ongoing effort is keeping all components up to date to minimise chances of hacking. Over 50 attempts per week are made to break in but the measures taken minimise this risk.

PA and / or Computer Projector

I have shown several hirers how to set these up, for example playing music at parties. I do feel that the projector is under-utilised; possibilities include film nights (subject to licensing).

It is so good to have James' support with this aspect of our Hall use. I am sure most of would be floundering if we were put in his shoes! Thank you, James, we are all very grateful.

Trustees: It seems fitting to close my report with a comment on the Trustees themselves. As Chairman, I am so grateful to you all for supporting this important community asset, and for supporting and responding to the work of our Secretary and Treasurer who do the bulk of the work, and quite frankly if we did not have such solid, willing workers in these two positions we would probably have to decide to close the hall. Fortunately, we move forward in this financial year fully staffed including 13 of us as Trustees, hopefully 14 should Jane Curry be willing to become a Trustee. Who each Trustee represents is on the Agenda but currently the representations are:

David Ennals (Chair) – Parish Council
Jenny Johnson (Treasurer)
Charlotte Woodford (Secretary) – Co-opted
Judy Miller - Parish Council
Jane Ennals – PCC
Debbie Billen – Recreation Area
Thelma Billen - PCC
Julia Stantiford – Youth user
James Feaver – Website & IT
Mick Rawling – Home Watch
Pete Hammonds – Co-opted
Christine Burt – Mahjong
Jenny Crumpton – WI
Patrick Woodford – Allotments & Paddocks

My grateful thanks to all of you for your varying contributions to keeping this excellent village facility functional and popular!

6. Representatives

The following were nominated as trustees to represent their respective organisations and signed the members' book:

Parish Council	Judy Miller
Parochial Church Council	Jane Ennals & David Ennals
W.I.	Jenny Crumpton & Debbie Billen
Toller Times	Debbie Billen
Bowls	Thelma Billen
Allotments & Paddocks	Charlotte Woodford
Home Watch	Mick Rawling
Co-opted trustees	Julia Stantiford & Jane Curry
Recreation Ground	Debbie Billen & David Ennals
Mah-Jong	Christine Burt
IT & Communications	James Feaver
Treasurer	Jenny Johnson

There are still opportunities for more Trustees as hall user organisations can provide up to two representatives. Members are asked to go back to their respective organisations to propose additional members at the next meeting. David Ennals to contact the badminton and short mat bowls groups to see if they had anyone willing to stand and represent them.

The Recreation Ground charity has now formally closed and has been taken over by the PC. They have subsequently set up a working group in preference to a sub-Committee as a means of avoiding formal agendas and minutes. Neil Farmer will ask one member of the working group to become a Trustee representative.

Patrick Woodford resigned as a Trustee but offered to provide any professional advice and guidance to the Trustees as and when required going forward and will continue to help and support any events in the hall in future.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.42 pm.