

**Minutes of the 821st meeting of Toft Parish Council  
Held on Monday 6 January 2025 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), E Darbyshire, B Harris, E Miles, S Tebbit and C Watson.

In attendance: 1 member of the public and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

**Public participation on agenda items and matters of mutual interest (includes reports from County and District Councillors and representation by members of the public)**

None.

**1. Apologies for absence and declaration of interests**

**1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence**

None.

**1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda**

None.

**1.3 To receive written requests for dispensations and to grant any dispensations**

None.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 2 December 2024**

RESOLVED that the minutes of 2 December 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop MY, 2nd BH, unanimous)

**3. To consider any matters arising from the last or a previous meeting including**

**3.1 (3.1) Grass cutting contract – to consider quotations if received**

RESOLVED having considered four tenders received, to ask one of those tendering to clarify their prices, and if they are correct, to seek a reference and to defer a decision to the next meeting. (Prop MY, 2nd BH, unanimous)

**3.2 (3.3) 20 mph resubmission and LHI application – update**

RESOLVED, given that the window for applications for the 20 mph limit opens at the end of January and extends until the end of March, that Cllr Darbyshire should submit the application during that period. The County Councillor's support for the 20 mph scheme had been sought.

The CCC officer had confirmed that it was permissible to apply for both the 20 mph and LHI schemes during the same year. However, Cllr Darbyshire reported that it had not been possible to submit an LHI application as evidence of prior consultation with residents was required.

RESOLVED, noting that the application for a speed limit reduction from 50 mph to 40 mph between Toft and Comberton would not proceed this year, to carry out a consultation with residents and speak to Comberton Parish Council in advance of next year's application. RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should consider the suggestions discussed for the format of the consultation, including an online survey as well as making paper copies available and publicising the consultation in the Calendar and on notice boards to encourage residents to respond.

**3.3 (3.4) Community notice board at the Birdlings – update**

Cllr Yeadon reported that the management company for the Birdlings had agreed to raise the idea of providing a community notice board at the next meeting of the residents' board in the spring. Cllr Yeadon will seek an update at that time.

**3.4 (3.5) To consider quotation and proposal for QPJ area - update**

Cllr Yeadon reported that it might be better to grass the area in March/April rather than turf it. He would be meeting Tricia and Cynan Ellis-Evans to discuss the options and will report back to the next meeting.

**3.5 (3.6) East West Rail – to consider consultation response**

RESOLVED, having considered the draft response read out by the Chairman, to incorporate further suggestions including that the northern route had not been fully

considered and the increasing population from Northstowe and Waterbeach was not being well served, and seeking sight of a business case justifying the route.  
RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should circulate the updated response to members for review before submission.

Cllr Yeadon reported that he had received a request for a “Scoping Opinion” relating to East West Rail from the Secretary of State for the Environment and would respond seeking further information.

3.6 (3.7) Report on MVAS speed data for High Street

Cllr Yeadon reported that he had published the data in the Calendar. There had been a drop in speeds when the light was flashing.

3.7 (3.8) Bird Boxes – update and locations

Cllr Darbyshire reported that the Men’s Shed were still building the boxes and that she would stay in touch with them regarding progress. She had asked Home Meadow whether they would be happy putting boxes on their site, and other proposed locations included the churchyard, the Methodist Church, around the village green, and possibly Lot Meadow.

3.8 (3.5 of 4.11.24) To consider quotation for MVAS solar power conversion equipment

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Morelock for two solar panel kits for the sum of £863.00 plus VAT. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

3.9 (7.9 of 4.11.24) To consider response from Environment Agency regarding Bourn Brook

RESOLVED to note that the Environment Agency were unable to assist with maintenance, which was the responsibility of the riparian owners.  
RESOLVED to leave the matter in abeyance for the time being.

**4. To consider correspondence received since the last meeting requiring the Council’s attention**

4.1 Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – Consultation on Supplementary Planning Documents (Deadline 25 January 2025)

4.1.1 Draft Greater Cambridge Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

RESOLVED to make no comments.

4.1.2 Draft Greater Cambridge Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document

RESOLVED to make no comments

4.1.3 Draft Cambridge Biomedical Campus Supplementary Planning Document

RESOLVED to make no comments.

4.2 SCDC Net Zero Villages grant scheme grant applications open (deadline 26 January)

RESOLVED, with regard to the suggestion that a grant application for EV chargers could be made, but that the Parish Council had no suitable land to install them, that Cllr Watson should raise the suggestion at the People’s Hall AGM next week.

RESOLVED, in response to a question regarding the ownership of the People’s Hall, to send a copy of the trust deed to Cllr Tebbit for perusal.

**5. Finance, Procedure and risk assessment and use of delegated powers**

5.1 To consider the finance report and approve the payment of any bills

RESOLVED to receive the financial report and check the invoices and bank statements before the payments were approved. (Prop MY, 2ndCW, unanimous)

|                           |                   |         |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Salaries                  |                   | £186.53 |
| Toft People’s Hall        | Room Hire         | £15.00  |
| RH Landscapes             | Grass cutting     | £524.40 |
| Community Heartbeat Trust | VETS system Yr 7  | £120.00 |
| CYAN                      | Bench allotments  | £270.82 |
| LGS Services              | Admin support Dec | £505.82 |

- 5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required  
Cllr Watson reported that the play area had been well used by children in the holidays. A tree had fallen and a resident had kindly assisted the Chairman to cut up the wood. RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to the resident.
- 5.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety and relates to Council property  
A fallen tree was reported in Toft Wood. RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should take a look.
- 5.4 To review the bank signatories  
RESOLVED, given that Cllr Watson had indicated her wish to be removed as a signatory, to check the list and consider the matter further at the next meeting.
- 6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received**
- 6.1 Planning applications received – to be considered
- 6.1.1 20/03757/CONDF – Land adjacent to 6 Hardwick Road – Submission of details required by conditions 3C (Remediation method statement) and 4 (Verification request) of planning permission 20/03757/FUL  
Noted.
- 6.2 Planning applications for which a response has been made between meetings using delegated powers – to be noted  
None.
- 6.3 SCDC planning decision notices and appeal notifications and applications for information only.
- 6.3.1 21/01919/CONDE – Land rear of 6 Hardwick Road – Submission of details required by condition 6 (Biodiversity enhancement) of planning permission 21/01919/FUL – Condition discharged in full.
- 6.3.2 20/03757/CONDE – Land adjacent to 6 Hardwick Road – Submission of details required by condition 17 (Biodiversity enhancement) of planning permission 20/03757/FUL – Condition discharged in full.
- 6.4 Tree works applications
- 6.4.1 24/1435/TTCA – 11 Mill Lane  
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 7. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**
- 7.1 Village Maintenance  
Nothing to report
- 7.2 Highways  
Cllr Darbyshire had reported potholes and a fallen sign on Hardwick Road to CCC. Water gushing down at the bottom of Hardwick Road had also been reported online, with a separate email to the officer seeking urgent attention to this matter. The water had frozen over, resulting in falls. Cllr Darbyshire will press CCC for action.  
Blocked drains were reported in the High Street near Beldams Close. RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should ask CCC to attend to them.  
A smell of sewage in Comberton Road was also reported.  
Drain covers where water was bubbling up from the sewage system were a cause for concern on health and safety grounds and had been reported several times. It was hoped that Anglian Water would address the problem.  
No-one had come forward following the request in the Calendar to become a winter gritting volunteer. The equipment was being looked after by a resident in School Lane.
- 7.3 Toft People's Hall  
Cllr Watson had missed the last meeting but would update the Parish Council on next week's AGM at the next meeting.
- 7.4 Footpaths

Cllr Harris reported that several gate posts were loose or insecure, particularly on the entry to Long Field west of the High Street, at the junction of footpaths T1 and T19 and T2 and T19.

7.0.4 Toft Wood book

Cllr Miles reported that the author had no copies left.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should ask the author for a PDF version which could then be placed on the website.

7.0.5 Welcome packs

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should arrange for 5 additional copies of the welcome pack to be produced and that the Parish Council approves the cost.

7.5 Birdlings liaison

Nothing to report.

7.7 Lot Meadow

Nothing to report.

8. **Closure of meeting**

Cllr Yeadon reported that he was updating the Toft 2020 booklet and was asking various people to write articles regarding specific items to produce "Toft 2025."

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.42 pm.

Signed .....Chairman .....date.

