

**Minutes of the 816th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Held on Monday 1 July 2024 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

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

In attendance: 2 members 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)

A resident reported that overgrown hedges were forcing pedestrians to walk in the road, which was hazardous.

A resident of the High Street reported that noise from the musical play equipment was affecting their property and could be heard in the garden or with the windows open. They asked whether anything could be done to mitigate this. The Parish Council agreed to look into and monitor the position for a month or two and consider the way forward.

The resident kindly offered the use of their brush cutter if needed, and asked whether there was a mowing and management programme for Lot Meadow. He expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of planting wildflowers and creating different environments in the space, and managing them accordingly. A suggestion was made that Lot Meadow could be used for an annual summer event such as a fete or music festival to raise funds for the village.

The Parish Council outlined the background to Lot Meadow and the considerable work done by the community and the management committee. An annual fete was held by the Church. The resident indicated that he did not wish any event to be in competition with existing events, but in addition to them.

The Parish Council thanked the resident for mowing the grass in Lot Meadow prior to the D-Day commemorations.

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of interests

1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Darbyshire.

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 3 June 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes of 3 June 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
(Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

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

3.1 (3.1) Queen's Platinum Jubilee area – to consider the next steps

RESOLVED that the Chairman should submit an application for funding to the SCDC Green Spaces Shared Prosperity Fund, to replace the grass, put in hedging and add a bench.

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should obtain costs for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is willing to provide supporting funding if required, but to make clear that it has already funded tree works and the installation of a fence.
(Prop MY, 2nd BH, unanimous)

3.2 (3.2) Grass cutting contract – update

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Harris's verbal report that one cut had so far been carried out by the new contractors, including the Recreation Ground and Lot Meadow.

RESOLVED, given Cllr Harris's observations that the contract was complicated in places and should be reviewed, that she discuss it with the current contractors and re-draft the specification over the summer in the light of what the village wants.

RESOLVED, noting that the arisings had not been removed from Lot Meadow, that Cllr Harris should put the contractors in touch with Mrs Ellis-Evans.

The resident commented that a village survey about the usage of Lot Meadow would be beneficial.

- 3.3 (3.3) Signage for Lot Meadow and the playground – to consider quotations if received
Cllr Miles reported that she had been in touch with the Men's Shed and will bring quotations if received to the next meeting.

- 3.4 (7.0.12) Bird boxes – to consider quotation if received
RESOLVED, as nothing further had been received, to defer this item to the next meeting.

- 3.5 New notice board – update
Cllr Yeadon reported that the notice boards had been delivered and should be fitted next week.

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

- 4.1 Resident request for speed reduction between Toft and Comberton
RESOLVED to await the decision regarding the 20 mph limit application which is due in September and then consider the request further.

A suggestion was made for a warning sign on that stretch of road as children came rushing along on their way to school.

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should move the speed monitors over the summer and will look at the area.

- 4.2 SCDC – Green Spaces Shared Prosperity Fund Year 2 Applications – invitation to apply
Taken earlier.

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, 2nd EM, unanimous)

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|--------------|---------------------|---------|
| Salaries | | £181.22 |
| S Chandler | Brush cutter | £337.50 |
| LGS Services | Admin support April | £502.52 |
| LGS Services | Payroll services | £79.20 |
| CANALBS | Internal Audit | £99.00 |

RESOLVED that the invoice for installing the notice boards be approved for payment when received.

RESOLVED that the two invoices from Buchans for £455.87 (May) and £113.73 (June) should be placed on hold pending a check on the dates when the cuts took place.

- 5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required
RESOLVED that Cllrs Yeadon and Watson should liaise with the manufacturers regarding an installation date for the new climbing frame.
RESOLVED to note that Cllr Yeadon had received the mallets for the musical play equipment and had installed them.

- 5.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety and relates to Council property
None.

- 5.4 To consider the Internal Auditor's report and appointment of Internal Auditor for FY2025
RESOLVED to note the Internal Auditor's report which contained no items requiring attention.
RESOLVED to re-appoint Canalbs Ltd as Internal Auditors for FY 2025. (Prop CW, 2nd ST, unanimous)

6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received

- 6.1 Planning applications
- 6.1.1 24/02174/HFUL – 66 School Lane – Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension to garage, enlargement to existing side dormer window and associated alterations
RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comments. (Prop EM, 2nd MY, unanimous)
- 6.1.2 20/01992/CONDC – Bennell Farm, West Street – Submission of details required by conditions 20 (Foul water drainage) of planning permission 20/01992/FUL
Noted.
- 6.2 SCDC decisions for information
- 6.2.1 20/01992/CONDB – Bennell Farm, West Street – Submission of details required by conditions 9 (Travel plan), 12 (External materials), 13 (Hard and soft landscaping scheme) 19 (Maintenance arrangements for surface water drainage system) and 23 (Landscape and ecological management plan (LEMP)) of planning permission 20/01992/FUL – Condition discharged in full.
- 6.3 Tree works applications
None.
- 7. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**
- 7.1 Village Maintenance
Cllr Yeadon provided an update on a conversation with the Police regarding the vandalised bus shelter.
RESOLVED to await further information.
Cllr Yeadon will arrange to replace the windows in due course.
- 7.2 Highways
Nothing to report.
- 7.3 Toft People's Hall
Nothing to report.
- 7.4 Footpaths
With regard to the fallen tree, the landowner's permission had been sought to pass their contact details to CCC. CCC will look at the kissing gate, which is at an angle, and the bridge.
- 7.5 Defibrillator report
Cllr Watson reported that the defibrillator was in good working order.
- 7.6 Birdlings liaison
Nothing to report.
- 7.0.7 Path through the allotments – letter of thanks
The path through the allotments had been cut and it was now possible to walk through.
RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to the allotment holder for cutting the path through the allotments.
RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should place an item in the Calendar seeking volunteers to install the steps at the allotments.
- 7.0.8 Improvements to access to Lot Meadow – letter of thanks
RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to Tricia and Cynan Ellis-Evans for the improvements to the footpath leading into Lot Meadow and for putting down slabs and chippings prior to the D-Day 80th anniversary commemorations.
- 7.0.9 D-Day 80th anniversary event
The event had been very successful. The Parish Council recorded its thanks and appreciation to all those who had contributed for all their hard work.
- 7.0.10 Overgrown hedges
RESOLVED to note that this is the County Council's responsibility, not the Parish Council's.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should place an item in the Calendar stating that a number of residents had raised concerns about hedges overhanging the footpaths, especially at road junctions, and that the Parish Council wished to remind residents to be aware of this and take any necessary action.

7.0.11 East West Rail

The Chairman reported that due to the General Election, the petition had been closed down and the consultation had been delayed.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

SignedChairmandate.