

**Minutes of the 818th meeting of Toft Parish Council  
Held on Monday 7 October 2024 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), E Darbyshire and E Miles.

In attendance: 1 member of the public and Mr B Stoeher (Clerk).

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

It was reported that the Snicket (Sand Path) was in a poor state. This will be taken up with the grass cutting contractors.

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

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Harris, Tebbit and Watson.

**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 September 2024**

RESOLVED that the minutes of 2 September 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after amendments under item 3.2 to change "Members were encouraged" to "We agreed;" under item 7.4 to change "jammed" to "overhanging the brook;" and under item 7.1, paragraph 4, amend second sentence to read "Brambles had been cut back at Mill Lane Drift, near the old railway line and Lot Meadow". (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 quotes for grass and hedging if received**

Cllr Yeadon reported that he was still waiting to hear the outcome of the funding application.

**3.2 (3.2) Grass cutting contract – to consider draft specification**

RESOLVED having discussed Cllr Harris's update and proposals, that the specification should be drafted at the next meeting, to provide more clarity on timings and frequency of cuts.

**3.3 (3.4) CAPALC model Biodiversity policy – to consider adoption**

RESOLVED to adopt the model Biodiversity policy.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should prepare an Action Plan tailored to Toft.

**3.4 (4.2) CCC Active Travel Hierarchy consultation – update**

RESOLVED not to proceed with the consultation.

**3.5 (4.3) Combined Authority Bus Franchising consultation – update**

RESOLVED not to proceed with the consultation.

**3.6 (5.4, 7.7) Update on ACV applications**

Cllr Yeadon reported that the application for the People's Hall had been submitted.

He had written to the lead steward at the Chapel to alert them to the proposed application for the Chapel and to seek information.

**3.7 (7.1) Relocation of bench at The Drift – to note new location and consider the next steps**

Cllr Yeadon reported that he had looked at the bench, which was firmly fixed to the ground and unlikely to be movable, so a new bench would be preferable.

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

**3.8 (7.5) Defibrillator pads – to note costs**

RESOLVED to note that the cost of the pads was £104 for two.

- 3.9 (7.9) Parish Online – to decide whether to take out a subscription  
RESOLVED to take out a subscription for one year.
- 3.10 (Open, July meeting) Review of musical play equipment  
RESOLVED, given that there had been no complaints since the matter was first raised, to take no action at this stage.
- 4. To consider correspondence received since the last meeting requiring the Council's attention**
- 4.1 Resident – request for road markings and mirrors to improve visibility at The Birdlings  
RESOLVED to write to the developers to ask them to install a mirror to improve visibility at the junction.  
RESOLVED to check the trigger point for the cycleway lighting and hedgehog holes in the fence, and the planning reference for Bennell Farm.
- 4.2 CCC LHI 2025-2026 – Expression of Interest survey  
RESOLVED to note that the Council's application for a 20 mph limit had not been successful.  
RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should seek an update from County Cllr Michael Atkins.  
RESOLVED to check for information about the locations which had been approved.  
RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should complete the Expression of Interest form.
- 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, plus Parish Online (subscription) £60.00. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
- |                           |                             |         |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Salaries                  | August & September          | £181.22 |
| LGS Services              | Admin support Sept          | £516.93 |
| SLCC                      | Council Administration Book | £21.35  |
| Zurich                    | Insurance policy            | £396.00 |
| Community Heartbeat Trust | Defibrillator adult pads    | £131.94 |
| RH Landscapes             | Grass cutting               | £328.80 |
- 5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required  
None.
- 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 insurance policy renewal  
RESOLVED to proceed with Zurich at an annual premium of £396.00.
- 6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received**
- 6.1 Planning applications
- 6.1.1 23/01448/OUT Integrated Retirement Community of up to 200 extra care units with ancillary communal and care facilities and green space - Land At Branch Road Comberton  
RESOLVED to object to the application with the following comments:  
"Toft Parish Council considered the proposal for the Integrated Retirement Community in the Parish of Comberton (23/01448/OUT) and unanimously recommended refusal of the application. The Council is in support of all the comments in the comprehensive response from Comberton Parish Council and is particularly concerned about the impact of the health care provision in the area as expressed in the response from the Comberton and Eversden Surgery." (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
- 6.2 SCDC decisions for information
- 6.2.1 24/02903/PRIOR – Cambridgeshire County Council Social Services Building, Comberton Road – Conversion of offices (Class E) to 2 No. 3 bed two storey dwellings,

1 No. 3 bed single storey dwelling, and 1 No. 2 bed single storey dwelling (Class C3) - Prior approval refused by SCDC.

- 6.3 Tree works applications  
None.

**7. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**

7.1 Village Maintenance

Cllr Yeadon reported that apologies had been received from both of the youths that damaged the bus shelter and that no further action would be taken.

Cllr Miles asked about an email regarding the use of vacant buildings for community use. Cllr Miles will attend the online training and report back to the next meeting.

7.2 Highways

Cllr Darbyshire reported that there were still some open tickets on the CCC website, and others were not yet at intervention level. It was becoming more difficult to get issues resolved. Cllr Darbyshire will chase the outstanding items again.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

No report available.

7.4 Footpaths

Cllr Miles reported that she was still chasing the CCC officer regarding the bridge and the ditch. The ditch was full of old branches.

A gate on the footpath leading towards Caldecote had dropped. This had been reported but despite chasing, no reply had been received.

There were blockages in the ditch in Toft Wood. Cllr Miles had spoken to the Wood manager who had said it was not their responsibility.

RESOLVED to send the link to the CCC watercourse information to Cllr Miles.

7.5 Defibrillator report

RESOLVED to note that the new pads had been ordered.

7.6 Birdlings liaison

RESOLVED to note that community notices are being put up on the Parish Council notice board at The Birdlings.

RESOLVED that a proposal for a new community notice board at The Birdlings should be discussed at the next meeting, along with information about prices and designs.

7.7 Website update

Cllr Yeadon reported that he had met with Martin Sebborn and discussed emails and options for website providers, and work was in progress.

7.8 Toft leaflet

RESOLVED, given that some information was starting to become out of date, to check the New Resident folder for information.

**8. Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

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