

**Minutes of the 820th meeting of Toft Parish Council  
Held on Monday 2 December 2024 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

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

In attendance: Mr Ben Stoehr (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)**

None.

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

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Watson (out of parish).

**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 4 November 2024**

RESOLVED that the minutes of 4 November 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 (3.2) Grass cutting contract – to note changes to specification**

RESOLVED to note the changes made to the specification. Tender requests have been requested for the January meeting.

**3.2 (3.4) To consider proposal and quotation for new bench at The Drift**

RESOLVED, having considered a quotation from CYAN for a bench similar to the one outside the Church, at a price of £240.13 plus VAT and delivery, to purchase the bench at the price quoted, to be located near the allotments site. Delivery is to be made to Cllr Yeadon.

**3.3 (3.5) 20 mph resubmission and LHI application – update**

RESOLVED to note that the application had not yet been submitted but that Cllr Darbyshire planned to submit it over Christmas.

**3.4 (3.7) Community notice board at the Birdlings - update**

Cllr Yeadon reported that he had contacted the developer but had not heard back yet.

**3.5 (7.1.2) To consider quotation and proposal for QPJ area**

Two quotations had been received, one for turfing and one for seeding.

RESOLVED, given that the best time to do the work would be in March, that Cllr Yeadon should discuss this with the contractors and with Tricia and Cynan Ellis-Evans, and report back to a future meeting.

It was noted that clear plastic could be used to carry out work in winter if necessary.

**3.6 (7.0.11) East West Rail – to consider consultation response**

Cllr Yeadon reported that he had attended an East West Rail meeting about significant changes to the proposals, none of which particularly impact Toft although the tunnel under the A428 meant that the height of the track would be lower near Toft. There was a consultation meeting during the coming week.

RESOLVED, noting that if the Parish Council wishes its views to be considered as part of the SCDC decision it would need to be submitted by 5 December, to send the Parish Council's previous response to the SCDC officer.

RESOLVED that the EWR consultation is to be considered at the next meeting.

**3.7 (7.0.12) Report on MVAS speed data for High Street**

RESOLVED to note that Cllr Yeadon had moved the MVAS but had not yet retrieved the data.

- 3.8 (7.0.13) Bird Boxes – update and locations  
Cllr Darbyshire reported that she was still waiting to meet with one person and hoped to meet next week.
4. **To consider correspondence received since the last meeting requiring the Council's attention**
- 4.1 SCDC Six Free Trees Offer  
RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should apply for one larger tree, and that the location should be considered when received.
- 4.0.2 SCDC – renewal of registration of Toft People's Hall as an Asset of Community Value  
RESOLVED to note that the application to renew the registration of Toft People's Hall as an Asset of Community Value had been successful.
- 4.0.3 District Cllr Lina Nieto – drain upgrade on High Street  
RESOLVED to note the email from Cllr Nieto regarding the CCC Capital Programme request for a drain upgrade on the High Street, which frequently floods near Beldams Close, and flooding also occurs near the golf course.  
RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should respond.
- 4.0.4 Resident – speeding in the High Street  
RESOLVED to note the email from a resident reporting that crossing the High Street near the village green is very difficult due to the speed of vehicles. The MVAS data had shown vehicles travelling at over 40 mph.  
RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should respond that the Parish Council is applying for a 20 mph limit.  
RESOLVED to note that Cllr Darbyshire has met with the CCC LHI officers who have ruled out certain options near the Village Green due to visibility.
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 James Tebbit Carpentry (bus shelter repairs 50% deposit) £913.98 and M Yeadon (Calendar Christmas message expenses) £15.00.  
(Prop MY, 2nd ED, unanimous).
- |                          |                        |        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Salaries                 |                        | 334.53 |
| William Eversden Charity | Allotment Rent         | 75.00  |
| RH Landscapes            | Grasscutting           | 524.40 |
| Toft Peoples Hall        | Room Hire              | 15.00  |
| LGS Services             | Admin Support November | 513.62 |
- 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 review the budget FY2025 and consider arrangements for any outstanding projects or spending and also the earmarked reserves  
The current budget to date was reviewed against actual payments to date.
- 5.5 To consider and approve the budget for FY2026  
RESOLVED having considered the draft budget and made amendments to approve the budget for FY2026.
- 5.6 To set the precept for FY2026  
RESOLVED to set and demand the precept for FY2026 at £18,806.00 as being the amount required by the Parish Council to balance its budget. (Prop XX, 2nd XX, unanimous)
6. **To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received**
- 6.1 Planning applications received – to be considered

- 6.1.1 21/01919/CONDE – Land rear of 6 Hardwick Road – Submission of details required by condition 6 (Biodiversity enhancement) of planning permission 21/01909/FUL  
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 6.1.2 20/03757/CONDE – Land adjacent to 6 Hardwick Road – Submission of details required by condition 17 (Biodiversity enhancement) of planning permission 20/03757/FUL  
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 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 S/0351/19/NMA3 – Bennell Farm, West Street – Non-material amendment of planning permission S/0351/19/VC to correct an error in the plans that would have resulted in a substandard highways layout – Permission granted by SCDC.
- 6.3.2 20/01992/NMA3 – Bennell Farm, West Street – Non-material amendment of planning permission 20/01992/FUL to correct an error in the plans that would have resulted in a substandard highways layout – Permission granted by SCDC
- 6.3.3 22/01743/CONDA – Old Farm Business Centre, Church Road – Submission of details required by conditions 3 (Permeable construction details), 4 (Paving details), 6 (Lighting), and 8 (Biodiversity enhancement) of planning permission 22/01743/FUL – Condition discharged in full
- 6.4 Tree works applications  
None.
- 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 numerous potholes. The new Highways Officer is Katriona Moreton. The issues previously reported were being worked on.
- 7.3 Toft People's Hall  
No update.
- 7.4 Footpaths  
The new Footpaths Officer is Ollie Ato.  
CCC have been chasing up the backlog of footpath reports and new issues have been reported.  
Cllr Miles will investigate the footpath past Caldecote which is continually ploughed by the landowner.  
Cllr Miles expressed concerns that the Parish Council and residents could not contact livestock owners in case of emergencies although it was noted there was little the Parish Council could do.
- 7.5 Defibrillator report  
No update available.
- 7.6 Birdlings liaison  
Nothing to report.
- 7.7 Proposal that Lot Meadow becomes a standing item on Parish Council agendas  
RESOLVED that Lot Meadow should become a standing item on future Parish Council agendas.
- 8. Closure of meeting**  
There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.41 pm.

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