

**Minutes of the 824th meeting of Toft Parish Council  
Held on Monday 7 April 2025 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

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

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)**

None.

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

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

None. Cllr Tebbit was not present.

RESOLVED to note the resignation of Christine Watson from the Parish Council as she had left the village.

RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to her for all her hard work during her time as a member.

**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.

**1.4 To note the resignation of Cllr Watson**

Taken earlier.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 3 March 2025**

RESOLVED that the minutes of 3 March 2025 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 (4.3) Finding Fitness Ltd – update on response from residents**

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting. The Chairman will ask former Cllr Watson to pass on the information on this project and other matters.

**3.2 (5.4) Request for support for youth football team - update**

The Chairman reported on his discussion with the young resident.

RESOLVED to leave this matter in abeyance for the time being.

**3.3 (6.4) Tree survey - to consider quotations received**

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Oakes and Watson Tree Surgery for a survey of the Recreation Ground trees only, at a cost of £290.00 plus VAT. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

**3.4 (8.8) Replacement bins - to consider report and recommendation**

RESOLVED having considered Cllr Harrison's report and map of the bins in the village, to seek confirmation from SCDC that it would be willing to replace four existing bins and remove two bins, one opposite the Recreation Ground and one opposite the bus stop on Comberton Road, which were in close proximity to other bins.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council's preference for the replacement bins was for Topsy 2000 bins.

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting for further consideration.

**3.5 (8.9) VE day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – update**

The Chairman provided an update on the preparations.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should speak to the cafe organisers again to clarify the arrangements for opening. Volunteers from the Parish Council may be required for the Parish Council event on 8 May.

**3.6 (December meeting) Street light survey – to consider quotations received**

RESOLVED, having considered the quotation received from Balfour Beatty, that members should arrange a walk around the village to identify the areas where extra lights might be needed. RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

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

**4.1 CAPALC – to consider renewal options**

RESOLVED to renew the membership of CAPALC at an annual affiliation fee of £356.88. excluding the Data Protection Officer option. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

**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 CAPALC (Affiliation fee) £356.88. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

Salaries		£186.53
Toft People's Hall	Room hire	£15.00
Toft People's Hall	Room hire	£15.00
Suffolk County Council	Street light energy	£102.71
LGS Services	Admin support	£534.74

**5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required**

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should carry out the play inspection this month.

Cllr Harris reported on a resident's concerns about the noise from the musical play equipment which was being played loudly early in the morning.

RESOLVED, having explored a number of options for mitigating/solving the problem, that the Chairman should discuss the matter with the resident in the first instance and report back to the next meeting.

**5.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety and relates to Council property**

RESOLVED having noted that the Clerk had used delegated powers to cancel the original contract for the works to the Recreation Ground hedge and behind the bus shelter, as it could not be carried out before the bird nesting season, and had contracted a tree surgeon to carry out the work sooner for the sum of £490.00 plus VAT, to ask the tree surgeon to leave the work until after the end of the bird nesting season.

**5.4 To consider the date of the May meeting**

RESOLVED that due to the forthcoming Bank Holiday, the May meeting should be held on Monday 12 May, following the Annual Parish Meeting and the William Eversden's Charity (Allotments) Annual General Meeting.

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

**6.1 Planning applications received – to be considered**

None.

**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 25/00087/S73 – Land adjacent to Hardwick Road – S73 to vary conditions 2 (Approved plans), 13 (External materials) and 16 (External lighting) of planning permission 20/03757/FUL (Erection of a detached dwelling house and associated works) alterations to the internal and external design of the proposed dwelling – Permission granted by SCDC.**

**6.4 Tree works applications**

None.

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

7.1 Village Maintenance

Cllr Yeadon reported that he had cleared the moss at the Snicket and swept and raked the area around the bus stop in the High Street. A number of working parties had carried out work in Lot Meadow. The bus shelter was looking good.

7.2 Highways

Cllr Darbyshire reported that she would chase CCC about the re-painting of the white lines, and a road sign on the corner of Hardwick Road which had not yet been fixed, and take a look at some collapsed gratings.

7.1 Village Maintenance (Continued)

Cllr Harris reported that she and Tricia Ellis-Evans had met the new grass cutting contractor and walked around Lot Meadow. He had been made aware that Lot Meadow should be cut by 4 May and had been given access and contact information. It was noted that the grass cutting would be carried out when necessary but the Recreation Ground would be done regularly.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

Nothing to report.

7.4 Footpaths

Cllr Miles reported that the fallen tree and the overhanging tree in Toft Wood had been dealt with.

7.5 Defibrillator report

Nothing to report.

7.6 Birdlings liaison

Nothing to report.

7.7 Lot Meadow

Several successful working parties had taken place.

7.8 Welcome packs

Cllr Miles asked members to review the updates to the information in the Welcome packs.

Cllr Miles reported that the Facebook page had been dormant since April 2022 and suggested that it should be closed and that the website should be updated.

RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should discuss with Martin Sebborn what could be done to update the website and whether a new website might be required, and seek information from other local Parish Councils, and report back to the next meeting.

7.0.9 Dogs running loose in sheep field

Cllr Darbyshire reported on a resident's concerns about a number of dogs running around off their leads in a field, which whilst no livestock were present at the time, was felt to be intimidating by walkers.

RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should ask the District Council whether the existing signage needed to be updated.

9. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

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