

Volume start 2013

**Minutes of the Toft Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 13 May 2024 at 7.00 pm in the People's Hall**

Present: 8 Parishioners including Parish Councillors, District Cllr L Nieto, County Cllr M Atkins, and Mr Ben Stoehr (Clerk).

Cllr Yeadon presided.

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2023

The minutes of the meeting on 15 May 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Report of the Parish Council for the year

Councillor Yeadon presented his report, which is appended in full to these minutes. The report covered:

- Parish Council membership. Stephen Collinson had resigned during the year and he was thanked for his efforts during his time as a councillor. It was hoped that a new member would be joining the Council shortly, leaving one vacancy still to be filled.
- The 20mph project. School Lane now has a 20mph limit and Cllr Darbyshire had submitted an application to extend the limit to the whole village, following a consultation. The outcome of the application is expected in July, and if successful, implementation would take place next year.
- Cllr Watson had led the project to upgrade the play equipment at the Recreation Ground. Items of musical equipment had been installed and it was hoped to approve the installation of a replacement climbing frame this evening. The other play equipment had been refurbished. Cllr Watson had also arranged a defibrillator training course which was well attended.
- Other projects during the year included contributing towards the music system at the People's Hall and the creation of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area, including removing trees and installing a fence. Cynan Ellis-Evans had very been involved in this project. A tree on the small green had also been replaced.
- The Parish Council made a grant of £500.00 to the Friends of Bourn Brook to assist with the purchase of water quality monitoring equipment.
- Cllr Darbyshire and Cllr Miles had undertaken reporting and monitoring of highways and footpath issues respectively.
- Cllr Harris had carried out the monitoring of the grass cutting in the village. However, the current contractor was closing the business and a new contractor was being sought.
- Cllr Miles had been carrying out a survey of wildlife provision in gardens with a view to enhancing wildlife and nature in the village, in addition to writing the Council's reports for the Calendar and taking responsibility for the Parish Council notice board.
- There had recently been vandalism to the bus shelter, which had been repaired but vandalised again. The Council believes the offenders have been identified and had reported the incident to the Police. The bus shelter will be repaired again.
- Cllr Yeadon had been monitoring the speed equipment in School Lane and the High Street, and hoped to publish some data shortly.
- The East West Rail proposals. Cllr Yeadon had represented the Council and attended meetings with EWR and the Cambridge Approaches group. EWR had

announced the proposed final route and a statutory consultation will begin in June. The Parish Council continues to oppose the railway and will continue to try to influence MPs and local councils.

- Finances. The Parish Council had been diligent in monitoring the finances and had been able to maintain the same level of precept as last year.
- Cllr Yeadon thanked Tricia Ellis-Evans for her continuing role in the management of Lot Meadow on the Council's behalf.
- The Chairman also thanked the Clerk and the LGS team for all their efforts and support during the year.
- Cllr Yeadon closed by thanking all the Councillors for their efforts during the year.

5. **Presentation of the Council's audited accounts (ending 31 March 2023)**

Ben Stoehr reported and presented the audited accounts for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts for FY24 will also be published on the website once approved by the Parish Council.

6. **Other reports**

6.1 **District Councillor**

District Cllr Lina Nieto introduced herself and her role as District Councillor. Her report included:

- Her support for residents with complaints over the Luton flight path changes and support for local groups with funding applications.
- East West Rail. Cllr Nieto still supported Toft's position on the project.
- Boundary changes. There will be a new MP this year.
- The District Council budget had been approved. There were concerns over a budget shortfall, and increases to affordable housing rents and Councillor pay.
- The 4 day week trial at SCDC. Data was being provided to the Government.
- The Chairman asked about SCDC's stance on EWR and consultations with Parish Councils. Cllr Nieto was unsure about consultations but undertook to find out more.

6.2 **County Councillor**

County Cllr Atkins summarised his written report (appended) and expanded on the following matters:

- The County Council budget. This was becoming more difficult and the amounts of funding from Government were being notified later and later. The costs of Adult and Children's Social Care were increasing substantially. Changes would be needed to the system to prevent many councils from becoming insolvent in the next 5 to 10 years.
- Improvements to highway maintenance. Funding had been doubled over the previous year and more funding would be available to carry out more proactive works rather than just repairs. Some additional funding would come due to the HS2 consultation.
- The CCC Quality of Life Survey. Many 18-24 year olds unexpectedly reported loneliness. Funding and support were being channelled where needed.
- 20mph zones were being introduced via the CCC scheme.
In response to a question about the number of applications, Cllr Atkins replied that the first year had been very busy but numbers would reduce each year.
- Weed treatment. The Council's weed killing regime had been reinstated as the previous process had incurred many complaints. The new scheme should balance control with the use of chemicals.
- Parking enforcement plans had been transferred to CCC from the Police. Officers were doing the rounds but could visit areas where there were specific issues. Dangerous parking is still a Police matter.
- Cambridge 2040-2050. Michael Gove MP had issued a plan to increase growth in Cambridge. The Government were setting up a Cambridge Development Group which would have a separate planning setup from SCDC. Meetings were

taking place to find out the plans and how they will work. Concerns about fresh water supplies needed to be solved but the backlog placed more demands on the area.

- East West Rail. There will be two statutory consultations, in June and September, after which the plans will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. More detailed plans were expected before the first consultation as there had been nothing new since the last consultation. Concerns had been raised about the purpose of having two consultations and the poor timing during the summer holidays. All residents and Parish Councils were able to respond and make representations to the MP. Cllr Atkins had signed a declaration that he does not support the southern approaches route. He was not aware whether the business case had been published.
- Cllr Nieto clarified that the Government had issued funding to investigate water storage solutions. Currently there were no plans from water companies to address anything more than known housing plans.

7. **Any other parish matters including any resolutions which have been received**
None.

8. **Closure of meeting**
There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

SignedChairmandate.
