

Toft Parish Council

**I hereby give notice that the 827th meeting of Toft Parish Council will be held
on Monday 7 July 2025 in the People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

The Public and Press are invited to be present. Members of the Public are welcome to attend and may speak under the Open Public Session only

All members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the business to be transacted at the Meeting as set out hereunder

Ben Stoehr

Mr Ben Stoehr
Clerk, 30/06/25

AGENDA

Comments and observations from members of the public on items on this agenda only and reports from the District and County Councillors

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of interests

- 1.1 To receive written apologies and reasons for absence
- 1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda
- 1.3 To receive written requests for dispensations and to grant any dispensations

2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting

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

- 3.1 (4.2) Finding Fitness – update on responses received from residents ^(ST)
- 3.2 (4.3) Replacement bins – to consider quotation from SCDC if received and to consider arrangements for removal of two bins
- 3.3 (4.4) Street light survey – to consider maps/locations ^(MY)
- 3.4 (4.7) Tree survey – to consider quotations for the required works if received
- 3.5 (5.1) Request for second bin at the Birdlings – to note response from management company
- 3.6 (9.0.11) Dogs running loose in sheep field – to consider wording for signage
- 3.7 (7.4 of 12.5.25) Musical play equipment – to consider residents' comments and the way forward

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

- 4.1 CAPALC – Introduction of the IT policy requirement as part of the Annual Governance Statement requirements – Assertion 10
- 4.2 SCDC – Launch of public engagement for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (deadline 20 July)

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
- 5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required ^(BH)
- 5.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety

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

- 6.1 Planning applications received – to be considered
 - 6.1.1 25/02047/CLUED – Bennell Farm, West Street, Comberton – Certificate of lawfulness under S191 to confirm the implementation of the planning permission granted by Appeal Decision ref APP/W0530/W/21/3286850 (LPA ref 20/01992/FUL)
- 6.2 Planning applications for which a response has been made between meetings using delegated powers – to be noted
- 6.3 SCDC planning decision notices and appeal notifications and applications for information only
- 6.4 Tree works applications

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

- 7.1 Village Maintenance ^(MY)
- 7.2 Highways ^(ED)
- 7.3 Toft People's Hall ^(ST)
- 7.4 Footpaths ^(EM)
- 7.5 Defibrillator report ^(ST)
- 7.6 Birdlings liaison ^(AC)
- 7.7 Lot Meadow ^(MY)
- 7.8 Hedgehog Awareness Day report - to consider how to spend the money made ^(EM)
- 7.9 VJ Day Celebration ^(MY)
- 7.10 Improving communication with the Birdlings Volunteer work from Stratagem. ^(MY)

Toft Parish Council

8. Closure of meeting

Clerk report to Toft Parish Council meeting on 7 July 2025

2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 9 June – attached
3. Matters Arising
 - 3.1 (4.2) Finding Fitness – update on responses received from residents

To consider responses received showing support for the new equipment following article in the Calendar
 - 3.2 (4.3) Replacement bins – to consider quotation from SDCDC if received and to consider arrangements for removal of two bins

The quotation will be brought to the meeting if received.
 - 3.3 (4.4) Street light survey – to consider maps/locations

Deferred at the last meeting.
 - 3.4 (4.7) Tree survey – to consider quotations for the required works if received

Quotations will be brought to the meeting if received.
 - 3.5 (5.1) Request for second bin at the Birdlings – to note response from management company

The management company have responded “We will contact the grounds maintenance team at The Birdlings and discuss this issue.”
 - 3.7 (7.4 of 12.5.25) Musical play equipment – to consider residents’ comments and the way forward

Anonymised comments attached.
4. Correspondence
 - 4.1 CAPALC – Introduction of the IT policy requirement as part of the Annual Governance Statement requirements – Assertion 10

CAPALC have sent out Webinar slides and a Webinar recording relating to Assertion 10 on the Introduction of the IT policy requirement as part of the Annual Governance Statement next year, together with an example IT policy.

They have stressed that the policy is a guide only and is not to be copied verbatim as it needs to reflect the Council's practices and policies. The example is to help Councils to think about the kind of things that need to be considered for inclusion, and some aspects might need to be added.

CAPALC have also stressed that the contents of the documents must not be shared with any other person, business, organisation, Parish or Town Council.

The Webinar slides, Webinar recording and link as well as the example policy have been circulated to members direct.
 - 4.2 SDCDC – Launch of public engagement for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (deadline 20 July)

“I am writing to let you know that today we, along with all the other councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, have [launched a public engagement exercise](#) to gather opinions on the future of local government locally. As requested during our first briefing call with Parish and Town Councils on Monday evening, you are also able to view the [paper-based version of the form online](#) in case it is helpful for your discussions with your Councillors. We very much encourage Parish and Town Councils to complete the survey before the closing date of Sunday 20 July.

This follows an announcement by the Government in December, setting out plans to move towards a new system of local government, removing the two-tier system of district, city and county councils. Existing unitary councils including Peterborough are also included.

Since then, all seven existing county, district and city councils have been working collaboratively to identify viable options for new single-tier councils across the region.

No decisions have yet been made on what these new arrangements could look like, but the Government has made it clear that it wants these councils to be unitaries (providing all services and covering all current county and district functions).

The [survey being launched today](#) asks people what is important in terms of services, what they would like to see delivered by their new unitary authority, and where in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough they visit to socialise, work or access health services. A series of focus groups are also being arranged. This comes after three options for local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were shared publicly last week.

Views from the survey will inform the business cases being developed for each of these proposals. Those business cases will then be submitted to the Government in November. The final decisions on which new local government structures are put into place in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will ultimately be made by national Government.

As well as alerting you to the survey for your own completion, we are also asking if you could share information with your residents and any other interested groups, such as businesses and community organisations. There is both a public survey and one which is tailored for stakeholders and these are available to access via the survey links on [our local government reorganisation website page](#).

We have included some social media messages that you can cut and paste onto your own platforms below, and an image you can use, or if it's easier you can share the social media posts that we will be sharing on this subject.

Any support you can offer in raising awareness of the engagement service would be very much appreciated as we want as many people as possible to share their opinions and help inform the proposals that will be presented to Government later in the year.

The survey is live on each council's website and will close at the end of the day on 20 July 2025.

Hard copies are also available at Council offices and libraries and – as mentioned above – [the paper based version can be viewed online](#).

Social media posts

1. Launch Post

Local government is changing – have your say

The national Government is considering a new system of local government for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This will mean replacing multiple layers of councils with one or more larger councils

Local councils are working together to explore options – and want to hear from you
Share your views before Sunday 20 July:

http://pubads.g.doubleclick.net/gampad/clk?id=7015574836&iu=/31781941/can_ccs

2. Informational Post

What could the future of local government look like?

Following a Government announcement last year, councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are exploring new ways of working together.

This could mean fewer councils, more streamlined services, and a different way of

making decisions.
Your input matters.

Take part in the consultation before 20 July:

http://pubads.g.doubleclick.net/gampad/clk?id=7015574836&iu=/31781941/can_ccs

3. One Week to Go Reminder

One week left to have your say

Time is running out to share your views on the future of local government in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Council leaders are listening – make sure your voice is heard before proposals are submitted to Government.

Respond by 20 July:

http://pubads.g.doubleclick.net/gampad/clk?id=7015574836&iu=/31781941/can_ccs

4. One Day to Go Reminder (Saturday 19 July)

Last chance to shape the future of local government

The consultation on local government reform in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough closes tomorrow.

Don't miss your opportunity to influence how services are delivered in your area.

Submit your views now:

http://pubads.g.doubleclick.net/gampad/clk?id=7015574836&iu=/31781941/can_ccs

5. Final Day Post (Sunday 20 July)

Closes today – have your say now

Today is the final day to take part in the consultation on local government reform in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

This is your chance to help shape how local services are run in the future.

Make your voice count before midnight:

http://pubads.g.doubleclick.net/gampad/clk?id=7015574836&iu=/31781941/can_ccs “

Paper-based version of the survey for stakeholders attached – please note that there is a separate survey for the public.

“This is intended to support you in gathering the views of your councillors, and to help with your agendas – before you then [submit your final response to the survey online](#). To create this document, I have gone through the stakeholder version of the survey and pulled out only the questions relevant to parish and town councils.

I would ask that – if at all possible – you [submit your final response to the survey online](#) as this will be a far smoother user experience for you, and less fiddly. However, if you do wish to print out the attached and send it back to us as your response, please send it to South Cambridgeshire Hall marked for the attention of myself (Tom Horn), ensuring we receive it before the survey closes on Sunday 20 July.”

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 Attached

5.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety None at the time of writing.

6. Planning Applications received

* NB Some planning applications may not be specifically listed on this agenda but may still be considered by the Parish Council due to the time constraints of making a recommendation to the District Council.

The planning portal for new applications can now be found at <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/>

The Parish Council may choose its own wording to show whether it agrees with an application or not and can now both support/approve or object/ refuse etc parts of the same application

The Parish Council should include material planning reasons why the Council take this stance via its comments.

The Parish Council *does/does not** request that the application be referred to the District Council Planning Committee *(please delete)

Material planning reasons:

Planning reasons:

- 6.1 Planning applications - to be considered
- 6.1.1 25/02047/CLUED – Bennell Farm, West Street, Comberton – Certificate of lawfulness under S191 to confirm the implementation of the planning permission granted by Appeal Decision ref APP/W0530/W/21/3286850 (LPA ref 20/01992/FUL)
- 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 25/01743/S73 – Land rear of 6 Hardwick Road – S73 to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 21/01919/FUL (Part demolition of industrial building and conversion of remaining into a detached private dwelling and associated works) for changes to fenestration and changes to eaves and ridge heights – Permission granted by SCDC.
- 6.4 Tree works
None at the time of writing.
- 7. **Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**
- 7.8 Hedgehog Awareness Day report - to consider how to spend the money made and how much donation should be made to Shepreth Hospital ^(EM)
- 8. **Closure of meeting**

**Minutes of the 826th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Held on Monday 9 June 2025 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), A Coghlan, E Darbyshire, E Miles and S Tebbit.

In attendance: 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

Apologies were received from Cllr Harris (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 12 May 2025

RESOLVED that the minutes of 12 May 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after an amendment under item 2 to change "Darbyshire" to "Miles."
(Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

Cllr Tebbit arrived at 8.05 pm.

3. Co-option to fill casual vacancy

RESOLVED to co-opt Avril Coghlan as a member of the Parish Council. (Prop MC, 2nd EM, unanimous)

Cllr Coghlan signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office before taking her seat.

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

4.0.1 (7.4) RESOLVED to note that Cllr Miles had placed a notice in the Calendar and on the notice boards regarding the musical equipment. It is also on the website.

4.1 (3) Annual appointments – to consider Parish Council representative on Toft People's Hall

RESOLVED that Cllr Tebbit be appointed as the Parish Council's representative on Toft People's Hall. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

4.2 (7.1) Finding Fitness - update

Cllr Tebbit has now received the Finding Fitness file from former Cllr Watson. RESOLVED that Cllr Tebbit should take this matter forward.

RESOLVED that Cllr Tebbit take over the defibrillator checks and Cllr Harris take over the monthly play inspection reports.

RESOLVED that Cllr Coghlan be responsible for Birdlings liaison and placing items such as the minutes on the notice board at the Birdlings. Cllr Yeadon will pass the key to her.

4.3 (7.2) Replacement bins – update if received

RESOLVED to note the response from SDCD that all the bins in the village are owned by the Parish except for the one next to the bus shelter, just past the Pump (junction of Comberton Road and Mill Lane, which has already been exchanged for a Topsy bin.

RESOLVED that the following bins be replaced with a green Topsy bin:

- Next to the bus shelter on Comberton Road
- Next to the bus stop opposite the bus shelter on Comberton Road (outside Home Meadow)
- Next to the bus stop in the High Street, outside the playground
- Opposite the Church in Church Road.

RESOLVED to seek a quotation from SDDC to supply and install the four new bins. (Prop EM, 2nd MY, unanimous)

4.4 (7.3) Street light survey – to consider maps/locations

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

- 4.5 (7.5) Closure of Facebook account and website update – report on meeting
RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should take forward the closure of the Facebook account.
- 4.6 (9.4) To consider the RoSPA report and any actions required
RESOLVED to order two bags of play bark from Madingley Mulch, to be delivered to the play park as before.
RESOLVED not to take any action regarding the musical play equipment for the time being.
RESOLVED that the Chairman should replace the latch and repair the framework on the gate, and attend to the loose netting on the goal posts.
The Chairman will also take a look at the chain link fencing.
- 4.7 (3.3 of 7.4.25) To consider tree survey of the Recreation Ground and any work necessary
RESOLVED, having considered the survey report, to seek quotations for the next meeting, noting that the majority of the work could take place at the same time as the hedge works.
- 4.8 (3.2 of 3.2.25) To consider the grassing of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area
RESOLVED to consider this item in the autumn and to defer it to the September meeting.
5. **To consider any resolutions from the Annual Parish Meeting**
- 5.1 (7) To consider a request for another bin at the Birdlings play area
RESOLVED to ask the management group if they would supply a second bin at the play area and arrange for its emptying, as there is an issue with the existing bin becoming too full. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
6. **To consider correspondence received since the last meeting requiring the Council's attention**
- 6.1 Friends of Bourn Brook – request for financial assistance with purchase of equipment
RESOLVED, noting the good work carried out by Friends of Bourn Brook, to approve expenditure of approximately £110.00. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
- 6.2 Resident – request for review of verges maintenance
RESOLVED to note the resident's comments, and not to make any changes at present but to respond that the Council will be reviewing the contract on an annual basis and will take the comments into consideration at that time. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
- 6.3 Stratagem – offer of volunteer help in the community
RESOLVED having noted the offer from Stratagem for a group of their employees to carry out volunteering work in the village, and having considered various options, that the Chairman should respond asking them if they would be able to clean various road signs and speed signs, and signs on Church Road.
7. **Finance, Procedure and risk assessment and use of delegated powers**
- 7.1 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 ST, unanimous)
- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Salaries | | £326.33 |
| MD Landscapes | Grass cutting | £585.00 |
| RoSPA Playsafety | Play inspection | £124.80 |
| Oakes and Watson | Tree survey | £348.00 |
| LGS Services | Admin support May 25 | £560.74 |
- 7.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required
RESOLVED to purchase a new slide from Broxap to replace the vandalised slide at a cost of £695.00. RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should install the slide. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

- 7.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety and relates to Council property
 The following issues were reported, where overhanging trees/vegetation were causing people to have to step into the road in order to pass:
- An overhanging tree on the left hand side at the corner of Hardwick Road and Comberton Road.
 - Overhanging vegetation on the bend at the Green, opposite the Chinese restaurant.
 - On the High Street, just past the kissing gate next to the playground.
- RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should report these items on the CCC website.
 RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should also report fumes from the burning of plastic waste in a resident's garden to SCDC's Environmental Health department.
- 7.4 To carry out a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control that has been in place during the year under review (between 1st April 2024 and 31 March 2025)
 RESOLVED that the Parish Council considers that the system of internal control is satisfactory. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
- 7.5 To prepare the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return)
 RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement be prepared and that questions 1-10 all be answered "Yes." (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
- 7.6 To approve the Annual Governance Statement by resolution
 RESOLVED that that Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
- 7.7 To consider the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return)
 The Accounting Statements were considered.
- 7.8 To approve the Accounting Statements by resolution
 RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements be approved and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
- 7.9 To ensure that the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting
 The Accounting Statements and supporting papers were signed and dated by the Chairman.
- 7.10 To consider the Internal Auditor's report and appointment of Internal Auditor for FY26
 RESOLVED to defer this item as the report had not yet been received
- 8. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received**
- 8.1 Planning applications received – to be considered
- 8.1.1 25/01743/S73 – Land rear of 6 Hardwick Road – S73 to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 21/01919/FUL (Part demolition of industrial building and conversion of remaining into a detached private dwelling and associated works) for changes to fenestration and changes to eaves and ridge heights
 RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comments.
- 8.2 Planning applications for which a response has been made between meetings using delegated powers – to be noted
 None.
- 8.3 SCDC planning decision notices and appeal notifications and applications for information only
- 8.3.1 23/01080/FUL – Lands adjacent to 33 School Lane – Single detached dwelling – Withdrawn.
- 8.4 Tree works applications
 None.
- 9. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**
- 9.1 Village Maintenance

Nothing to report.

9.2 Highways

Cllr Darbyshire had reported potholes, wires tangled in a hedge on Brookside, and a fallen sign on the corner of Hardwick Road and Comberton Road, to CCC.

Cllr Miles reported that there was a dog bin on Brookside which was inaccessible as it was hidden in the vegetation.

9.3 Toft People's Hall

Nothing to report.

9.4 Footpaths

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should go through the list of footpaths and confirm the hierarchy to CCC by 31 July.

9.5 Defibrillator report

Nothing to report.

9.6 Birdlings liaison

Nothing to report.

9.7 Lot Meadow

Nothing to report.

9.8 Welcome packs

Cllr Miles reported that she had a stock of about 6 packs in hand pending any further changes.

9.0.9 East West Rail

The Chairman reported on a meeting with representatives of East West Rail.

- Local villages have been split into groups by EWR. Toft is in the group for the area between Croxton and Toft, and the next group covers the area from Comberton to Haslingfield. Cllr Yeadon has written to Comberton Parish Council with a view to sharing information.
- Following the recent consultation, EWR's currently preferred option is for a tunnel under the A428 rather than a covered cutting, and the location of Cambourne Station is being reviewed, but nothing is definite as yet.
- EWR are introducing a community fund whereby communities can apply for funding, with further information expected in September.
- The next phase will be a statutory consultation next year, but delays could occur if the proposals for Universal Studios impact the Tempsford Station. After the statutory consultation it will take a further 12 months to consider and review the responses.
- Further meetings with EWR will take place every three months.

9.0.10 Website

Cllr Darbyshire reported that she had been seeking a meeting with Martin Sebborn about the website, as permission is needed to change the banner image on the home page.

9.0.11 Dogs running loose in sheep field

Cllr Darbyshire reported that she had spoken to Oliver Ito of CCC regarding a possible sign for dog walkers. He will advise on wording for signage for the Right of Way but if dogs are off the path this is the responsibility of the landowner. Discussion of the proposed wording will be an agenda item for the next meeting

10. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

SignedChairmandate.

Residents' comments regarding musical play equipment

Resident 1

"My 4 children and I really enjoy the musical equipment at the playground. We think that the sound coming from the musical equipment is quite tuneful! There are few playgrounds locally with similar equipment and the children are very proud of it! It is great for their creative development. Surely the noise of music is better than screaming and shouting. Also, Toft park is surrounded by trees making it quite an enclosed area so surely the noise should not travel as much?"

Resident 2

"Following the article in the Toft Village Calendar for June, I am writing to say that we live within earshot of the musical equipment in the Toft Playground, and we love it. It is a beautiful, dreamy sound that wafts on the breeze. Even the drums sound nice. Please ask the council NOT to remove them.

We have to put up with really loud motorbikes driving thru the village. Some are probably deliberately loud. They really are an awful noise problem. There is also the occasional aeroplane that spends too long over the village. There are also leaf-blowers, chain-saws and other power tools, but fortunately the use of these outdoors seems to have declined recently. In comparison to the awful road noise and all these other sources, the musical instruments are wonderful. In fact, there is no comparison. It is really hard to believe that anyone would complain about them.

My granddaughter - aged 3 - loves to play on the musical equipment. Whenever she visits Toft she really enjoys the playground, Many thanks to the council for looking after it. The musical instruments are a key part of that.

I would be very saddened if the village lost the music just because of one complaint. Please do not remove them. The first time we heard them we wondered where on earth the beautiful sounds were coming from. They were an inspired addition to the village. Well done indeed to whoever had the idea!! Utterly brilliant.

And many thanks to the Parish Council for providing and looking after the equipment."

Resident 3

"I think it's really important that any decision is made with as much feedback from the village as possible. I am strongly in favour of the instruments staying for the following reasons:

1. The Parish Council identified that installing the instruments would be of benefit to the village residents.
2. They are a resource for the village children and I think they are enjoyed (I can hear the sounds drifting towards School Lane occasionally)
3. It is a pleasant sound
4. The playground has been established for many years and any resident moving into the village near to the play ground should expect a certain level of noise from children playing.

My understanding is that there has been an offer by a resident to pay for the instruments to be moved. It sets a very dangerous precedent for a single resident to effectively pay to have village infrastructure tweaked to their satisfaction and to the detriment of others.

Resident 4

"Concerning the musical equipment in the playground.

I live in [redacted] opposite the playground.

It is such a pleasure to hearing the little children playing on the equipment, but it's not a disturbance and at times hardly hear it.

BUT several times late at night it's a nuisance it's obvious teenagers also with their bikes, AND to be honest don't think it's villages, Please do not punish our little children with taking their pleasure away."

Resident 5

"I was saddened and disappointed to read about the complaint against the musical equipment at the park. The upgraded play equipment at the park have been much welcomed and the instruments make such a lovely addition to the park, it was so exciting to see some lovely new items in the park. My toddlers love playing with them, particularly the metal park xylophone that we can both play together and make little tunes with.

Having young children, we go to the park during the day, or on the weekend, so the instruments are not played with during unsociable hours, they are also not played with for particularly long, as most young children find new things to play and do at the park quite quickly, so I am very surprised by the noise complaint made."

Resident 6

"Thanks for giving us the opportunity to respond to the complaint about the music equipment in the playground. I live opposite but a little way down the road [redacted] and can hear the music when it is used. I find it very charming and really like to hear that children are using it in the playground rather than sitting at home on a screen. Maybe a small sound barrier around it could be erected? I find it very disappointing that people have complained about it, but maybe it is louder for them?"

Resident 7

"I would like to register my support for the retention of the new, useful musical equipment in Toft Playground. My grandchildren have used this equipment and enjoy it very much and would like to continue to do so. It is important to have a range of equipment and this less physically demanding play opportunity is good."

Resident 8

"I am responding to the notice in the Toft calendar, regarding the noise levels of the musical equipment in the playground.

We live at [redacted] on the opposite side of the road from the playground but pretty close.

Before the equipment was installed I did have some misgivings regarding noise. In fact it isn't noisy. intrusive or disruptive, just a gentle sound on the breeze & we like it."

Resident 9

"I would like to support the residents living close to the village playground, regarding the musical equipment.

As much as it is always lovely to hear children playing and enjoying the lovely facilities in our playground, the introduction of the musical equipment, must be most annoying for those living close by.

I live south of the playground and hear the 'musical' sounds quite often while in the garden, and at times they can be incessant. I have also heard them after dark.

I am not sure what the answer is, they are fun equipment, that are in the wrong place, and too close to homes."

Resident 10

"We live opposite the playground at [redacted]. We noticed the sound from the playground when the musical units were first installed, but it very quickly became just part of the village, and to be perfectly honest it is just very nice to hear the playground being used by all ages.

From my perspective, I would be saddened to find the equipment being removed. It is certainly no worse in terms of noise than music from any house or garden party in the area.

Just for information, my son just noticed that the xylophone-style device has been vandalised (unless this has been done deliberately for maintenance?) I've just had a look and it has been ripped out of the ground (complete with the concrete foundation)."

Resident 11

"I was saddened to learn that a resident has been complaining about the musical equipment in Toft Playground.

Not only do they wish to deprive the younger members of our village of this innovative piece of equipment but also the grandchildren of the older members of our community when they visit. Why would anyone want to deprive children of any of the items in the Playground? After all it is a PLAYGROUND and children learn through play.

No doubt, after much research, the Paris Council decided to invest on behalf of the village in this piece of equipment. The company which sells this equipment would be aware that in many cases there would be residential housing near by and any noise would need to be of an appropriate level.

My team and I spent four Saturday mornings in February and March clearing the ditch on the south side of Lot Meadow. I was working near the entrance to the Meadow and children did come into the Playground while we were there. The musical equipment was used but it was never intrusive. The attention span of young children is limited and so it was not surprising that it never continued for very long.

As a past member of the PC I am aware that items for the Playground are paid for with S106 monies which can only be used in specifically designated areas or for specifically designated items. I query the legitimacy of the PC to be able to remove this equipment even if they wanted to? I, for one, would feel that it would constitute very poor management of our parish funds. Before buying the equipment the PC did ask for residents opinion on this so they have done their due diligence.

Much as this particular resident does not like the sound of musical notes wafting over her patio, there are a number of nearby residents who actually enjoy hearing the notes drifting by on the wind and knowing that a young child, or even an older resident, is having a 'play'.

There are a number of 'things' that will irritate one person but be perfectly acceptable to another. I do hope that the PC will not be guided by those who shout loudest."

Resident 12

"I've just heard that the musical instruments at Toft children's playground may be taken away. That would be so sad and disappointing. My grandchildren love them, asking to go to play with them every time they visit.

I didn't think they were particularly loud so am very surprised there have been complaints."

Resident 13

"I write in response to the notice in the June Toft Village Calendar about a resident's request for the so-called musical equipment to be removed.

I would fully support this. I do not know who the resident concerned is and have no personal interest in this matter. I live some way away. However, having walked past the playground and heard it being used, I have every sympathy with people living near there. I would not want to have to live close to such a piece of equipment myself and therefore I would support its removal."

Resident 14

"Through this email, I wish to support the local resident who has been disturbed by noise emanating from the musical equipment in the children's playground.

The instruments serve little or no creative purpose and are far too loud."

Local Government Reorganisation Survey for Stakeholders (Questions for parish and town councils only – to help you talk through your proposed responses before you input them onto the online survey)

Thank you for participating in this important survey about the future of local government in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Current county, city, and district councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are being replaced with simpler unitary councils, instead of two tiers of local government.

From April 2028, rather than dealing with separate county, city, and district authorities organisations will access all services—from road maintenance and bin collections to education, planning, social housing, social care, and support with benefits—through a unitary council.

Where areas have parish and town councils, these will not be affected and will continue to operate as they do now. The national Government believes these changes will improve services, making them simpler and more efficient for residents and businesses, as well as supporting economic growth and delivering much needed housing.

Your input is vital to help ensure the new arrangements put in place by national government work effectively for your organisation and the communities you serve.

This survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

We need your help to understand how you think councils should be reorganised in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

What is your job title or role within your organisation?

Please provide the postcode of your primary area of operation or representation

for example business location, parish area, main ward

What are the three most critical areas new unitary councils could focus on to ensure a successful working relationship with your organisation? Select your top 3 choices*

- Access to council officers
 - Better representation of your organisation in council decision-making
 - Easier access to councillors
 - Giving more opportunities for parish and town councils to play a role in local place-shaping as a voice for the local community
 - Improving opportunities to bid for funding
 - Increasing investment in communities
 - Joint working on local projects and initiatives
 - Opportunities for devolution of services or assets, with appropriate funding
 - Opportunities for direct delivery of more council services by your organisation
 - Regular communication and engagement with your organisation with active listening to your feedback
 - Support for neighbourhood planning
 - Other – please state
-

Thinking about the need for local government to be transparent, democratic and accountable, which of the following do you think will be most important for the new unitary councils to implement? Select your top 3 choices*

- Clear mechanisms in place for parish and town councils to engage with the unitary council
- Effective local or community area committees with delegated powers
- Meaningful consultation and engagement processes with residents, parish or town councils, local groups or organisations

- Robust scrutiny functions to ensure decision-making is sound
 - Strong and clearly defined roles for ward councillors
 - Other – please state
-

Which are the most important to help ensure the success of the new unitary councils? Select your top 3 choices*

- Delivering more housing
 - Ensuring the new unitary council is financially sustainable
 - Having local councillors who understand the local area
 - Helping businesses grow and job numbers increase
 - Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of services
 - Increasing accountability and transparency of local government decision-making
 - Keeping services local
 - Protecting local identity and culture
 - Reducing the costs of delivering local government
 - Reducing the complexity of local government, simplifying council structures and processes.
-

Which council services does your organisation currently interact with?

Please tick as many as apply

- adult social care
- benefits
- business support and jobs
- children's social services
- community centres, libraries and other community assets
- Council Tax and business rates

- education, schools, SEND and early years services
 - highways maintenance, parking, traffic management, street lighting
 - housing, temporary housing and homelessness support
 - nature, climate and environmental matters, including flood risk management
 - parks and open spaces
 - planning, building control and planning applications
 - regulatory services such as environmental health, licensing, Trading Standards
 - sports and leisure, parks and open spaces
 - waste and recycling collections and household recycling centres (the tip)
 - None of the above
 - Other – please state
-

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? My organisation...

(Response options for each statement: Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither, Disagree, Strongly Disagree)

1. Feels a strong sense of belonging to its local community
2. Feels that local government decisions reflect the cultural values of the local community
3. Is concerned that some areas might be overlooked when councils are reorganised
4. Is satisfied with the quality of services provided by its local council(s)
5. Relies on council services
6. Trusts its local council(s) to make decisions in the best interests of the community
7. Would support changes to the current council structure if it improved services

Thinking about the new unitary council, what matters most to your organisation? Select your top 3 choices

- Ability to respond quickly to an issue
- Access to appropriate funding
- Access to councillors who know your organisation's local area
- Doing most transactions online and only meeting people face-to-face when necessary
- Having a single council to contact for all services
- Promoting equity and inclusion by supporting underrepresented groups
- Investing more in council services, such as education, social housing, roads and waste collection
- Investing more in organisations to help them become more environmentally sustainable
- Supporting organisations to access new technologies or use AI
- Using digital or AI to improve council services

Thinking about future growth in your area, which three things do you think are the most important to invest in? Select your top 3 choices

- Businesses and local economy
- Community centres, libraries and other community assets
- Digital improvements, such as improved connectivity, access to AI
- Green infrastructure like reservoirs or renewable energy projects
- Health such as hospitals, social care, doctor or dentist surgeries
- Housing and new development
- Sports and leisure, parks and open spaces

- Police and community safety
 - Railways, buses, cycling and walking links
 - Roads
 - Schools, early years, education and skills
 - Other – please state
-

Currently district councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (including Cambridge City Council) serve populations of about 90,000 to 180,000. Cambridgeshire County Council serves about 680,000 people and Peterborough City Council serves about 215,000 people. National Government recommends that new unitary councils ideally serve populations of around 500,000 to ensure effective service delivery and efficiency. However, the Government acknowledges that smaller unitary councils might work well for areas with fewer people, depending on what each local area needs.

How big or small you think your new unitary council should be? Choose between 300,00 and 700,000 people.

During the last 12 months, which of the following geographical areas would you consider to be most relevant to your organisation?

Tick as many as apply

- Cambridge City
- East Cambridgeshire District including Bottisham, Ely, Littleport and Soham
- Fenland District including Chatteris, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech
- Huntingdonshire District including Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Ramsey, St Ives and St Neots
- Peterborough
- South Cambridgeshire District including Cambourne, Histon, Sawston and Waterbeach

- None of the above
-

What are the most important factors that you think should be considered when determining the boundaries of the new unitary councils? Select your top 3 choices

- Economic relationships and travel-to-work patterns
 - Existing community identities, culture and connections
 - Existing service delivery partnerships
 - Geographic coherence (natural boundaries, transport links)
 - Population size and distribution
 - Urban/rural balance
 - Other – please state
-

Based on your experience, what are the biggest risks or challenges that need to be addressed during the transition to unitary councils?

maximum 150 words

What opportunities do you see for improving local government services or local governance through this reorganisation?

maximum 150 words

Do you have any further comments, concerns, or specific suggestions regarding the local government reorganisation that you would like to share?

maximum 150 words

Please tick to indicate your consent to be re-contacted for matters related to local government reorganisation, and for us to hold your personal data.

1. Yes I consent to be re-contacted and for you to hold my personal data for this purpose
2. No I do not consent to be re-contacted and for you to hold my personal data for this purpose

If yes:

First name

Last name

Telephone number

email address

Would you like to receive communications about the transition to unitary councils?

- Yes
- No

If yes - how would your organisation prefer to be communicated with during the transition to unitary councils?

Tick as many as apply

- Direct email updates
- Online information portal

- Regular stakeholder forums/meetings
 - Dedicated liaison officer for your sector
 - Consultation on specific service changes
 - Involvement in working groups or transition committees
 - Other – please state
-

Are you interested in sharing your opinions and helping shape future council services?

Yes

No

If yes - Which ways would you like to participate in local government reorganisation? Tick as many as apply

- Direct email updates
 - Online information portal
 - Regular stakeholder forums/meetings
 - Dedicated liaison officer for your sector
 - Consultation on specific service changes
 - Involvement in working groups or transition committees
 - Other – please state
-

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Your input is valuable and will help shape the future of local government in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Your responses will be processed in accordance with data protection legislation. For more information on how your data will be used, please see our Privacy Policy.

TOFT PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Jul-25

Summary of previous month

Balance brought forward	<u><u>115,897.58</u></u>
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Adjustments

Expenditure approved at previous / between meetings

ICO	DPO FEE	-12.00
M SEBBORN	VE80 REFRESHMENTS	-77.87
UNITY TRUST	SERVICE CHARGE	-6.00

Credits

Total Adjustments	-95.87
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Balance revised after adjustments	<u><u>115,801.71</u></u>
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Bank Reconciliation to latest statement

Account	Funds	Statement	Outstanding
Unity Trust Bank	77,597.77	77,597.77	0.00
Nationwide BS	38,203.94	38,203.94	
Total	115,801.71	115,801.71	0.00

Expenditure for approval

£

SALARIES	186.52
B STOEHR	72.20
LGS SERVICES	521.06
MD LANDSCAPES	525.00
TOFT VILLAGE HALL	15.00

1,319.78

Balance C/F

114,481.93

Ben Stoehr

Responsible Financial Officer

Notes:

Late invoices will be brought to the meeting