

**Minutes of the 829th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Held on Monday 6 October 2025 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

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

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 Tebbit (unwell) and from County Cllr Christopher Morris (at another meeting).

1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda

Cllr Yeadon declared an interest in item 6.3.1 as it related to his property.

1.3 To receive written requests for dispensations and to grant any dispensations

None.

2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 1 September 2025

RESOLVED that the minutes of 1 September 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after an amendment under item 3.2, paragraph 2, line 1, to change "Miles" to "Tebbit". (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

Cllr Harris arrived at 7.07 pm.

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

3.1 (3.1) Overgrown cycleway – to consider response from County Councillor if received

No response had been received.

3.2 (3.2) Finding Fitness – update on responses received from residents and next steps

RESOLVED, given that Cllr Tebbit was not present, to defer this item to the next meeting.

3.3 (3.3) Street light survey – to consider maps/locations

Cllr Yeadon reported on the map showing the areas where the lighting was poor, and his recommendations for possible solutions.

RESOLVED to allow Councillors a few days to study and comment on the suggestions, and then to write to SCDC, CCC or Balfour Beatty as appropriate to pursue the relevant solutions.

3.4 (3.5) Dogs in field notices – update

Cllr Miles reported that she had asked the landowner for permission for signage to be erected, and was awaiting a response.

RESOLVED, subject to permission being granted, to install three laminated signs on posts initially, using the design and wording circulated by Cllr Miles, but noting that more permanent signage might be needed in the longer term.

RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should look into the costs of printing and laminating the signs and that Cllr Miles should investigate whether there are any local bye laws restricting the number of dogs allowed per individual dog walker.

3.5 (3.6) Musical equipment action - update

Cllr Yeadon reported that he and Cllr Harrison had placed thick foam in all the pieces of equipment to deaden the sound, and that he had written to the residents to inform them of the action taken.

3.6 (3.8) Youths on motorcycles – report on meeting with Comberton Parish Council

RESOLVED to note that Comberton Parish Council had been in touch with Cllrs Darbyshire and Tebbit, and that a meeting was being arranged. A report will be made to the next meeting.

- 3.7 (3.11) New public notice board for the Birdlings – to consider response from Management company if received

RESOLVED, as no reply had yet been received, to chase for a response.

- 3.8 (3.11) To consider the grassing of the QPJ area

Cllr Yeadon reported that it had not been possible for the grassing to be arranged in time for this year.

RESOLVED to defer this item to the February meeting.

- 3.9 (7.0.10) To consider request for the reimbursement of repair expenses for communal barbecue

Cllr Harrison declared an interest in this item and left the room at 7.25 pm.

RESOLVED to approve the reimbursement of expenses of approximately £200.00 for the repair of the communal barbecue.

Cllr Harrison returned at 7.27 pm.

RESOLVED to note that Parish Council approval must be obtained in advance for any expenditure.

- 3.10 (3.2 of 7.7.25) To consider quotation from SCDC for the removal of two open bins

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from SCDC for the removal of two old open bins, near St Andrew's Cottages and in the High Street respectively, for the sum of £66.60 plus VAT per bin, as they were no longer required.

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

- 4.1 MAGPAS – application for financial support

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is unable to make a donation. (Prop MY, 2nd ED, 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 PKF Littlejohn (Audit) £252.00. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

Salaries

£186.53

Zurich

Insurance

£396.00

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

Cllr Harris reported that all was in order. Cllr Harrison will make a temporary repair to the wobbly xylophone as it may need to be moved if the climbing wall is installed.

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

RESOLVED to note that the tree surgeon had omitted one of the Priority A trees from the total cost of the quote. The Clerk used delegated powers to accept the quotation for the remaining Priority A tree (T20) at an additional cost of £175.00, taking the total cost of the Priority A works to £950.00 plus VAT which was still the cheapest price received.

Cllr Miles reported that the new bench at the Drift was not sufficiently secure. Cllr Yeadon will attend to this and Cllr Harrison will look into the possibility of using ground fixing screws and report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Harris raised residents' concerns about the speed of traffic, including lorries and buses, and asked whether a 20 mph limit could be introduced in the High Street. Other suggestions included another MVAS unit for the High Street to catch speeding traffic coming into Toft, additional signage or a pedestrian crossing.

RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should contact CCC to check the current status of the 20 mph application, and ask for their suggestions about a solution if the application is

unsuccessful and whether the Parish Council could apply under the LHI scheme for an additional MVAS unit.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should place an article in the Calendar asking children to design posters encouraging drivers to slow down and that Cllr Harris should laminate them and put them up.

RESOLVED to write to Comberton Village College to ask them to speak to their bus operators to ensure that the school buses adhere to the speed limit in the villages they travel through.

5.4 To consider the insurance renewal

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Zurich Insurance for one year at a premium of £396.00. (Prop MY, 2nd ED, unanimous)

5.5 Review of grass cutting contract

Cllr Harris reported that the grass cutting contract was working well and the village looked very neat and tidy.

RESOLVED to continue the contract as it is. (Prop MY, 2nd BH, unanimous)

5.6 To note SCDC designation of Toft Methodist Chapel as an Asset of Community Value

RESOLVED to note that SCDC had designated Toft Methodist Chapel as an Asset of Community Value for five years from 8 September 2025.

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 25/02047/CLUED – Bennell Farm, West Street – Certificate of Lawfulness under S191 to confirm the implementation of the planning permission granted by Appeal Decision ref: APP/W0530/W/21/328650 (LPA ref 20/01992/FUL) – Certificate granted by SCDC..

6.4 Tree works applications

6.4.1 25/0987/TTCA – 5 Brookside

Cllr Yeadon, having previously declared an interest in this item, left the meeting at 8.05 pm.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.

Cllr Yeadon re-joined the meeting at 8.08 pm.

RESOLVED to write the Trees Officer to ask that when a tree is being removed, the applicant should be encouraged to replace it. (Prop EM, 2nd ED, unanimous)

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

7.1 Village Maintenance

RESOLVED to note that the light in the bus shelter was working.

7.2 Highways

Cllr Darbyshire reported:

- Cllr Darbyshire had emailed CCC to ask if they would support putting extra pressure on the landowner regarding the overhanging bushes and trees encroaching on the cycle path between Toft and Comberton, which needed continued maintenance. The Principal of the Village College had also supported the suggestion.
- Large cracks in the pavement on the cycle path between Toft and Comberton, both before and after the layby, had also been reported to CCC.
- An update had been requested from UK Power Networks regarding the overhead wires tangled in trees on Brookside as nothing had yet been heard from them.
- Bags of waste left on the High Street for two years had been removed.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

Nothing to report.

7.4 Footpaths

Cllr Miles reported that a tree which had come down on the footpath near Hardwick Wood had been reported. Cllr Miles will check on this and a smaller tree which had also come down.

7.5 Defibrillator report

Nothing to report.

7.6 Birdlings liaison

Cllr Coghlan reported that a resident had expressed concerns that a Right of Way from the layby to the entrance of the path through the golf course had been omitted from the East West Rail maps and was not in the plan. It was noted that the original proposal for the railway route had been near the golf course, but it had now been moved nearer the Village College and houses.

RESOLVED to note that the matter could be brought up again at the next consultation, which was the Statutory Consultation, but that much had already been decided. Cllr Yeadon will look at the latest plans to see whether the footpath is now included.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 7.10 next.

7.10 EWR Update

The Chairman reported that Pippa Heylings MP had attended the meeting at Haslingfield. A meeting with East West Rail is to take place next Monday, which will be attended by a finance representative. In November EWR will issue a report setting out changes made as a result of comments received. There had been some 6,000 comments.

The Statutory Consultation will take place in April/May next year. There will be some additional considerations due to the Universal Studios development and the huge number of visitors expected. Pippa Heylings MP is speaking to the Transport Secretary regarding the business case and has invited them to a meeting.

7.7 Lot Meadow

Nothing to report.

7.8 Proposal to start a new Speed Watch Group

The Chairman reported that a resident had expressed an interest in setting up a new Speed Watch group and had asked the Parish Council's view. Cllr Yeadon had asked him to return to the Council with a proposal and the Parish Council would consider it.

RESOLVED that Cllr Harris should contact the Police to enquire about the possibility of a visit from the Police speed van and ask about obtaining a fixed speed camera.

7.9 Proposal to initiate a Village Hero Scheme

RESOLVED, given that the District Council was no longer running a Village Hero scheme, that an item be placed in the Calendar for next month inviting nominations for a Toft Village Hero. RESOLVED that nominations received should be considered at the December meeting and the winner announced at the Christmas dinner. A small plaque bearing the winner's name would be awarded.

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should take this forward.

7.10 EWR Update

Taken earlier.

8. Closure of meeting

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

SignedChairmandate.