

**Minutes of the 830th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Held on Monday 3 November 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: 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)

A resident raised the overhanging bushes on the School Lane footpath and on Comberton Road, including large conifers. Cllr Darbyshire had been informed by CCC that these were not yet at intervention level, but she would continue reporting them as a reminder.

Another resident expressed concerns about the number of ongoing road works in the area, and her frustration regarding temporary traffic lights and road closures between Toft and Cambridge. Whilst the resident acknowledged that this was not the Parish Council's responsibility, she asked the Council whether it could bring any influence to bear on the situation. The resident also complained that "Road Closed" signage usually gave no indication of the exact location of the closure, which could involve lengthy diversions, and that more information should be provided so that people who did not know the area could find a more convenient alternative route. The Chairman confirmed that this was not the Parish Council's area of responsibility, and suggested that concerned residents could write to the County Councillor or the local MP if they wished. The resident cited further examples of inconvenience caused by road works. It was believed that a number of the road works were related to the Greenways project.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should write to the County Councillor drawing his attention to the views of parishioners that there were too many ongoing road works, about which the village did not appear to have been informed very well, and that diversions were not well thought out.

A resident provided an update about the Methodist Chapel.

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of interests

1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Tebbit (work commitment).

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 6 October 2025

RESOLVED that the minutes of 6 October 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after an amendment under item 3.4, line 1, to change "Miles" to "Darbyshire". (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

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 that the Chairman should speak to Cllr Tebbit for an update.

3.3 (3.4) Dogs in field notices – update

Cllr Darbyshire reported that she had contacted the landowner who wished to discuss the matter. RESOLVED that Cllrs Darbyshire, Yeadon and Miles should meet the landowner at the field on 7 November to look at the signs and proposed wording.

RESOLVED, subject to agreement with the landowner, that Cllr Darbyshire be authorised to purchase the signs from the Sign Shed at a cost of approximately £12.00 per sign.

- 3.5 (3.6) Musical equipment action - update
Cllr Yeadon reported that he had not heard anything further.
RESOLVED to defer this item to the February meeting.
- 3.6 (3.6) Youths on motorcycles – report on meeting with Comberton Parish Council
RESOLVED, as a date for the meeting had not yet been arranged, to defer this item to the next meeting.
- 3.7 (5.3) Bench at the Drift – to consider report and recommendation on fixings
RESOLVED that the bench should remain in its current location but should be concreted into the ground.
RESOLVED that Cllr Harrison be authorised to purchase concrete and brackets to fix the bench in the ground, up to a sum not to exceed £100.00. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
- 3.8 (7.8) Proposal to start a new Speed Watch Group
Cllr Yeadon reported that he had asked the resident to make a proposal and a reply was awaited.
- 3.9 (7.8) Report on enquiries about police speed van/fixed speed camera
Cllr Harrison reported on the procedures involved in obtaining a speed camera.
RESOLVED, given that it would be necessary for a Speed Watch group to be formed first, to allow some time for this to be arranged and to defer this item to the February meeting.
- 3.10 (7.9) Toft Village Hero Award – update and to consider purchase of plaque
The Chairman provided an update on the plans for seeking nominations and purchasing a plaque.
- 4. To consider correspondence received since the last meeting requiring the Council's attention**
- 4.1 Resident – Speeding in School Lane
RESOLVED to note that Cllr Yeadon had responded to let the resident know the actions taken by the Parish Council to date.
RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should place a note in the Calendar asking residents to be mindful that they should all drive carefully down School Lane.
- 4.2 Asset of Community Value - Methodist Church, High Street – Notification of owner's intention to dispose of the asset
RESOLVED, having noted the letter from the County Council regarding the owner's intention to dispose of the Chapel, that the Parish Council should declare an interest.
RESOLVED to look for residents who would be willing to carry out fundraising for a bid.
(Prop MY, 2nd ED, unanimous)
- 4.3 SCDC Street Trading Policy consultation (Deadline 24 November)
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 4.4 CCC winter gritting scheme – request for volunteers
RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should place a note in the Calendar seeking volunteers.
- 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 Toft People's Hall (Room hire) £15.00. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

LGS Services	Admin support	£517.02
Oakes and Watson	Tree works	£588.00
Toft People's Hall	Room hire September	£15.00
Parish Online	Website mapping	64.80
Acacia Tree Surgery Ltd	Tree works	£1140.00
MD Landscapes	Grass cutting	£525.00

Credits, including receipt of the verges grant, were noted.

- 5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required
Cllr Harris reported that the playground had been inspected today and all was in order..
- 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 consider a draft IT policy
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next 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 24/02174/CONDA – 66 School Lane – Submission of details required by condition 3 (Zinc cladding of planning permission 24/02174/HFUL – Condition discharged in full.
- 6.4 Tree works applications
- 6.4.1 25/1107/TTCA – 3 Hardwick Road
RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.
- 7. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**
- 7.1 Village Maintenance
Cllr Miles reported that she had swept up broken glass in the bus shelter.
- 7.2 Highways
Cllr Darbyshire reported:
- The Parish Council had been unsuccessful with the 20 mph application. Cllr Darbyshire has asked for feedback. RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should prepare another application and circulate the draft so that other members can add points if wished. Cllr Darbyshire will include the survey statistics and add examples of specific feedback from residents who supported the scheme, especially High Street residents, to strengthen the application. Information will also be placed on the website.
 - Cllr Darbyshire will enquire about the possibility of making an LHI application for another MVAS.
 - UKPN had attended to assess the overgrown vegetation in Brookside and had said that the work to cut this back would be done within the next year.
 - The overgrown trees and vegetation between Comberton and Toft were not considered to be at intervention level by CCC.
 - Work had been ordered to cut back the overgrown bushes and trees in the playground and in the High Street outside the playground.
 - Blocked drains on the High Street had been reported on the Highways map.
 - Cllr Darbyshire had written to Comberton Village College about buses speeding through the village and requesting that pressure be placed on the bus companies to reduce their speed.
 - Cllr Coghlan reported that two lots of asbestos had been dumped in the layby and on the footpath. Cllr Yeadon will check and report it if it has not already been removed.
- 7.3 Toft People's Hall
Nothing to report.
- 7.4 Footpaths
Cllr Miles reported that a small tree had been blown over and that she was willing to hack it away.

7.5 Defibrillator report

Nothing to report.

7.6 Birdlings liaison

Cllr Coghlan reported that the bin was still overflowing. RESOLVED, noting that this was the responsibility of the management company, to allow them another month to deal with the problem.

Cllr Coghlan had received queries from residents as to whether the path from the layby to the golf course was a Right of Way or a Permissive Path. It was felt that this should be a Right of Way as it was shown on the Ordnance Survey maps.

A resident had enquired about the land opposite the Leisure Centre, which was very messy due to brambles, and asked whether the Parish Council could tidy it up. It was believed that this was not Parish Council land but belonged to the Village College, and if anyone was concerned about its condition, the best course of action was to contact the College.

7.7 Lot Meadow

Nothing to report.

7.8 East West Rail

The Chairman reported on a Zoom meeting of the Local Representatives Group. The following information was noted:

- Two bridges between Hardwick and Comberton Road will be Green Bridges, where the road will go over the railway. There will be a cycle path and greenery allowing wildlife to cross.
- When the railway emerges from the tunnel there will be a cutting under Hardwick Road and Comberton Road.
- EWR have reduced the amount of construction space needed. Whilst previously this covered the whole area between Hardwick Road and Comberton Road, there would now be a small area off Comberton Road, and none behind the College.
- Cllr Yeadon had raised two items at the meeting:
 - 1) He had reported the footpath which had not been included on the map and had also made a Zoom comment.
 - 2) He had asked if a cycleway between Hardwick Road and Comberton Road could be considered.

He had received an acknowledgement that EWR would come back with answers as soon as they could and they were happy to meet the Parish Council to answer questions.
- There had been a presentation about minority groups. EWR were meeting disabled people every six weeks to ensure their needs are met.
- It is intended that the station at Cambourne will be moved a bit further west.
- Regarding bus services running from Cambourne, they were looking at access from the village.
- There was no news on timelines and EWR are delaying the next consultation because of the Major Infrastructure Bill might affect their plans.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

SignedChairmandate.