

**Minutes of the 837th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Held on Monday 1 June 2026 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), E Darbyshire and E Miles.

In attendance: 3 members of the public and B Stoehr (Clerk).

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 reported that hedges were overgrowing the footpaths. The Parish Council will place a note in the Calendar asking residents to cut them back.

Cllr Darbyshire reported that CCC had not been forthcoming regarding the maintenance on the Toft to Comberton cycle path. She is to arrange a meeting with the Highways Officer to discuss the options. Some other areas in need of attention will also be reported.

A resident asked about food caddies. These are expected to be delivered in June.

Asked why he had been counting cars in the village, the Chairman explained that he had been checking the accuracy of the MVAS vehicle counting and the speeds recorded against those displayed. It was noted that 11 buses had passed through and none had been speeding.

A resident asked whether the road markings were being reinstated. Cllr Darbyshire confirmed that CCC would be doing this although the date was not known. The outcome of the 20 mph application was expected in October and works were not expected to be carried out for up to 18 months afterwards.

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of interests

1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Coghlan (child care).

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 11 May 2026

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 11 May 2026 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 (6) To co-opt to fill any vacancies resulting from insufficient candidates at election and to make arrangements for any remaining vacancies to be filled

No applications had been received, although one person had expressed an interest.

3.2 (9.1) Disposal of Asset of Community Value – report and to consider next steps

The Chairman reported on the pledges received, and the submission of the loan application for up to £100,000. The working group would decide whether to take matters forward at a meeting on Friday.

The Parish Council had pointed out some errors in the legal pack. The Chairman had sent a final letter to the Methodist Church about the sales process.

The Parish Council had commissioned a condition survey and needs to consider appointing a solicitor.

The Deed of Variation for the S106 money is in progress but will not be completed until after the auction.

The spreadsheet of costs was noted.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council authorise the payment of various legal and sale fees of up to £10,570.63 in accordance with the spreadsheet provided. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

A 10% deposit of £16,500 would be required ahead of the auction. This would be refundable in the event of an unsuccessful bid.

Insurance cover would be required from the outset.

It had been agreed not to undertake solicitors' pre-checks.

The Chairman will attend the auction and bid.

Cllr Yeadon read out a letter from a resident to which he had responded.

3.3 (9.2) Finding Fitness – update and to consider the way forward

Cllr Miles reported on site visits to Steeple Morden and Litlington to see the equipment installed there and reported that it looked solid. She has contacted Sarah Tebbit to ask about consultation responses and has written to the company for an update on the current status of the proposal.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should place an article in the Calendar stating that the Parish Council will be considering this item at the next meeting.

3.4 (3.5) Speeding in the High Street and to consider the purchase of 20 mph and 30 mph speed limit wheelie bin stickers and how they should be made available

RESOLVED to await the outcome of the 20 mph application, which has been submitted.

3.4 (10.2) East West Rail consultation (deadline 9 June) – to consider response

RESOLVED having considered and approved Cllr Yeadon's report, to respond as follows:

"At its meeting on 1 June 2026, Toft Parish Council unanimously agreed the following as its response to the current consultation.

1. *Since the previous consultation the depth of the railway as it passes Comberton Road has been significantly reduced. This will result in greater visibility and a considerably greater noise issue from the railway which will have a serious impact on Comberton Village College and the houses on the Birdlings Estate. The Parish Council wants to see the deeper cutting reinstated to minimise the impact.*
2. *The railway runs close to the Village College and the Birdlings Estate. Moving the route slightly west would reduce the impact on both of these areas. The Parish Council wants to see the route running slightly to the west.*
3. *The Parish Council would like to see a cycleway along all the route but particularly between Hardwick Road and Comberton Road to enable students to cycle safely between Hardwick and Comberton Village College.*
4. *The Parish Council wants to see strong signage and construction traffic instructions banning construction traffic through Toft."*

3.5 (11.4) To consider the RoSPA report and any necessary works

RESOLVED to note that Cllr Yeadon had repaired the gate.

RESOLVED, noting that only minor work was required, to obtain quotations. Stratagem will be spreading the play bark in June.

3.6 (11.5) To make arrangements for the Assets Walk

RESOLVED that Councillors should meet for the Assets Walk on 13 June.

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

4.1 Toft People's Hall – request that the application for planning permission be made in the Parish Council's name

RESOLVED that the application for planning permission be made in the Parish Council's name. (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 T Ellis-Evans (Letter drop) approximately £31.00.

Salaries		£336.50
LGS Services	Admin support	£509.12
LGS Services	Admin support	£542.67

5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required

None.

- 5.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety and relates to Council property
Cllr Miles reported that the benches in Lot Meadow were damaged and that she would obtain prices for new ones.
- 5.4 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 2025 and 31 March 2026)
RESOLVED that the Parish Council considers that the system of internal control is sufficient.
- 5.5 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."
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 To consider the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return)
The Accounting Statements were considered.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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 the council declared exemption from External Audit and signed and dated by the Chairman.
- 5.10 To consider the Internal Auditor's report and appointment of Internal Auditor for FY26
The report had not yet been received.
- 6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received**
- 6.1 Planning applications received – to be considered
- 6.1.1 26/01919/CONDF – Land rear of 6 Hardwick Road – Submission of details required by condition 8 (verification report) of planning permission 21/01919/FUL
RESOLVED to make no comments.
- 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
None.
- 6.4 Tree works applications
None.
- 7. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**
- 7.1 Village Maintenance
Nothing to report.
- 7.2 Highways
Cllr Darbyshire reported on CCC's response that they had ordered works to alleviate flooding outside Beldam's Close, along with a few other works to pavements which were due for repair.
Cllr Darbyshire had reported a considerable amount of inadequate signage and requested signage to alert drivers to the play area.
- 7.3 Toft People's Hall
Nothing to report.

- 7.4 Footpaths
Nothing to report.
- 7.5 Defibrillator report
Nothing to report. Delivery of the battery and pads is awaited and has been chased.
- 7.6 Birdlings liaison
Nothing to report.
- 7.7 Request to obtain land ownership details in Toft and Surrounding areas as part of the wildlife project
RESOLVED to note the request and the data protection requirements.
Cllr Miles outlined the plans for engaging with local landowners for biodiversity purposes.
RESOLVED if the Parish Council needs to find out title information, to see whether this is available from Parish Online.
- 7.8 Responding to aggressive confrontations outside Council meetings
A discussion took place about incidents that had taken place.
RESOLVED that Cllrs Miles and Darbyshire should draft a poster and a Calendar article.
- 7.0.9 Toft Social Club
RESOLVED to note that Toft Social Club had won the CAMRA Club of the Year award for Cambridgeshire, and had also been put forward for the regional award.
- 7.0.10 Thank you letters
RESOLVED to send letters of thanks to Sarah Tebbit and Giles Harrison for their hard work and contribution during their time on the Parish Council.
8. Closure of meeting
There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

SignedChairmandate.