

**Minutes of the 838th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Held on Monday 6 July 2026 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public, District Cllr C Hubbard 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 asked about Speed Watch operating in the village. Cllr Yeadon outlined the Parish Council's concerns about speeding and that a new Speed Watch group has been set up, has just begun operating, and will be reporting results to the Police. The Parish Council would like the Police to visit to monitor speeding in Toft, but Cllr Darbyshire explained that the Police require a Speed Watch group to be operating and the Police must receive a significant amount of data before considering a visit to monitor the speed of vehicles through Toft. Speed Watch data may help to support another application for a 20 mph limit throughout the village, and it was hoped that Toft would eventually be successful with this.

Another resident raised the condition of the Snicket, which was overgrown with weeds and difficult to walk. The grass cutting contractors will be asked to clear it.

It was noted that there would be a road closure between 11 and 13 August. Potholes were repaired last week and there was still some work to be done near Pinfold Well Lane. Surveyors had also been looking at the drainage.

District Cllr Hubbard reported on:

- The SCDC CEO, Liz Watts, had issued a two-monthly report from SCDC. She will be undertaking a walk around Toft in the near future.
- The Environmental Report for Hardwick and Toft had shown that tree cover was lower than it should be.
- The shared use path between Toft and Comberton. The Parish Council described its ongoing efforts to get action on the condition of the path, which was impassable in places due to the encroachment of brambles and overhanging hedges, and was extremely hazardous for pedestrians, cyclists and those with pushchairs. The CCC officer had offered a meeting and a potential date of 20 July will be suggested for Cllrs Miles and Darbyshire to attend. The Parish Council had written to the landowner.

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of interests

1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence

None.

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 1 June 2026

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 1 June 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 (3.1) To co-opt to fill any vacancies resulting from insufficient candidates at election and to make arrangements for any remaining vacancies to be filled

RESOLVED, having considered his application, to co-opt William Howling as a member of the Parish Council. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

Cllr Howling signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before taking his seat.

3.2 (Open) Update on meeting with CCC regarding Toft to Comberton cycle path

The meeting had not yet taken place.

3.3 (3.2) Disposal of Asset of Community Value – report on outcome

Cllr Yeadon reported on the auction. The building had been purchased by the Plymouth Brethren and would remain as a chapel. The auction deposit of £16,500 had been returned.

3.4 (3.3) Finding Fitness – update and next steps

Cllr Miles reported on the expressions of support for the climbing wall, with enough received to go ahead with the application, and only one objection. In addition, residents had been encouraged to come and express any objections at the Parish Council meeting if they had them but no-one had done so. The Parish Council agreed its responses to the questionnaire which will be submitted by Cllr Miles.

3.5 (3.5) To consider the RoSPA report and quotations received

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should study the quotations received and bring a proposal to the next meeting.

3.6 (3.6) To consider the Assets Walk

The report on the Assets Walk was considered.

RESOLVED to obtain quotations for the refurbishment of:

- The bench on the Green, the bench beside the Green, the bench at the end of the allotments and the bench by the village sign in Comberton Road.
- The map signs near the Green, near the entrance to Toft Wood, and near the stone steps over the bridge in Brookside. It was noted that the latter had been pulled out of the ground and would need to be reinstated. Cllr Yeadon will take a look.

RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £150.00 from Dean Missen to treat the fence at the rear of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area.

RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should report the hedge opposite the Green to Highways.

RESOLVED, subject to a report from Cllr Miles as to feasibility and a possible location, that the Parish Council would in principle support the purchase of a new bench for the Drift from Cyan at a cost up to £300.00, and to consider this further at the next meeting.
(Prop EM, MY, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the purchase of additional "Please pick up after your dog" signs similar to the existing signs should be considered at the next meeting once details of the design and cost have been established.

Cllr Yeadon had purchased and installed the replacement "Dogs on leads" signs at the allotments.

RESOLVED to defer consideration of the benches on the allotment and creation of steps at the end of the allotments to a future meeting.

Cllr Yeadon had secured the nets at the Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED that Tricia Ellis-Evans had indicated she would deal with the broken bench and the information sign at Lot Meadow.

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon's out of pocket expenses of £116.84 be approved.

3.7 (5.3) To consider prices for replacement picnic benches

RESOLVED to purchase two replacement picnic benches for Lot Meadow from Kedel Plastic Products at a cost of £523.61 plus VAT each, and that the old ones should be chopped up and placed in the wood.
(Prop EM, 2nd ED, unanimous)

3.7 (9.3 of 11.9.26) Website and emails update

RESOLVED, noting that the website and emails were almost ready and that information was being transferred over from the old site, to consider this item again at the next meeting.

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

- 4.1 Greater Cambridge Urban Development Corporation (UDC)
RESOLVED to note the correspondence and that there would be another announcement in 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
RESOLVED to receive the financial report and check the invoices and bank statements before the payments were approved, plus Silverton (Second bag of bark) £118.01 and M Yeadon (Assets walk expenses) £116.84. (Prop MY, 2nd ED, unanimous)

Toft People's Hall	Room hire	£40.00
Silverton	Play bark	£122.00
Parish Online	Website	£300.00
Toft People's Hall	Room hire	£20.00
MD Landscapes	Grass cutting	£577.50
J Tebbit Carpentry	Bus shelter repair	£100.00
Croyland Building Surveyor	Survey Methodist Chapel	£900.00
LGS Services	Admin support June	£529.16

Reimbursement of the auction deposit was noted.

- 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 on Footpath T2 at the junction with Footpath T19, brambles had encroached on the path and made it very narrow, while there was a steep drop on the other side. Cllr Yeadon offered to trim back the brambles.
Cllr Miles also reported that in Footpath K6 in Kingston Parish, on the other side of the bridge where horses are kept, was almost completely overgrown.
RESOLVED to write to Kingston Parish Council to draw this to their attention and ask them to arrange for the footpath to be cleared.

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

- 6.1 Planning applications received – to be considered
- 6.1.1 26/01600/HFUL – 5 Cannors Close – Single storey side extension including alterations to fenestration
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
26/01919/CONDF – Land rear of 6 Hardwick Road – Submission of details required by condition 8 (verification report) of planning permission 21/01919/FUL - Withdrawn.
- 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 that the CCC website showed that works had been ordered to alleviate flooding outside Beldam's Close.
Pavement repairs on the western side of the High Street will be addressed in due course.
The cyclist sign at the junction of Hardwick Road and Toft Road had been repaired.

Cycle path markings had been painted.

A discussion took place about a potentially appropriate location for a zebra crossing. It would not be possible to install a crossing in the High Street due to the parked cars or a bend, and it was not felt viable to take forward.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

Nothing to report.

7.4 Footpaths

Nothing to report.

7.5 Defibrillator report

Nothing to report. Cllr Miles will pass details of the checks required to Cllr Darbyshire.

7.6 Birdlings liaison

Nothing to report.

7.0.7 Cllr Yeadon will forward a link to a Zoom training session on Planning for new Councillors.

7.0.8 It was noted that it was no longer necessary for Councillors to declare their addresses.

7.0.9 Police Liaison meeting. The Police do not send out individual invitations to meetings but a link has been provided to enable members to join the meetings.

7.0.10 Cllr Miles reported on a Zoom meeting about verges and hedgehogs with information on managing verges to provide more food for wildlife after cutting. Cllr Miles indicated that all the hedgehogs seemed to have disappeared and there was a need for another Hedgehog Day.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

SignedChairmandate.