

Minutes of the 707th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday 3 November 2014 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), E Dolman, J McCarten, G Pugh, P Gouldstone, P Ellis-Evans, and A Tall.

In attendance: 1 member of the public, District Cllr T Hawkins, County Cllr S Frost, and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

A resident reported a bollard knocked over on the small village green, a blocked drain on the High Street, and potholes on Eversden Close. The resident also expressed concerns that following the street light review, there was now no light in front of the shop.

1. To approve apologies and reasons for absence and declarations of interest

None.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take Item 3 at this point.

3. Co-option to fill casual vacancy – Patricia Gouldstone, 11 School Lane

RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Patricia Gouldstone as a member of the Parish Council. ^(Prop MY, 2nd TEE) Cllr Gouldstone signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before taking her seat.

Concerns were expressed at the lack of applications and it was suggested that consideration be given to encouraging residents to get more involved, perhaps by way of committees.

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

Cllr Ellis-Evans declared an interest in Item 7.1.1 (Planning application 55 High Street) as a neighbour backing on to the property.

Cllr Yeadon declared an interest in Item 7.3.1 (Tree works, 69 High Street) as a neighbour.

1.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

None.

1.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None.

2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 6 October 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 6 October be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. ^(Prop MY, 2nd GP)

4. Matters Arising

4.1 (3.5) Concrete outside Firs Farm – to consider report and recommendations

Cllr Tall reported that he had spoken to the Highways Supervisor who had inspected the site and had asked the enforcement officer to take a look.

4.2 (3.7) To consider quotations from Clive Blower for various works

RESOLVED to accept Clive Blowers quotation to reinstall the bench at the Recreation Ground and place it by the existing bench, and to trim low hanging branches from the tree above the bench on the Village Green.

RESOLVED to accept Mr Blower's quotation for works to benches in the summer, namely to re-treat the benches at the Church, by the Village sign, and on the centre of the Green; to paint the bench at Mill Drift; and to treat, or paint if previously painted, the two benches in the Millennium Wood. The bench on the East side of the path belongs to the Parish Council and is to be added to the Assets List. Mr Blower is also to be asked if he will take a look at the Beacon.

RESOLVED with regard to the hedge overhanging the narrow footpath on Church Road to write to the resident expressing the Council's concerns and asking him if he would consider trimming it back. ^(Prop MY, 2nd JM)

County Cllr Frost arrived at 7.23 pm.

Village Maintenance is to be included as a standing item on future agendas.

4.3 (5.5) To consider an earmarked fund for various works

RESOLVED that the balance remaining from the Community Fund, together with further funds since received, need not be transferred into an earmarked fund for creative activities, but should remain open. The Chairman will write an item for Calendar to let residents know.

4.4 (7.3) Update report on items reported to CCC Highways

Cllr Tall reported that the designation "Closed" on CCC's website signified that an item had been entered into the system but had not necessarily been completed. Work on the drain in High Street had not yet been carried out. CCC had no funds available for the repairs at the bottom of Miller's Road, which might cost £13-15,000 to complete. The Parish Council resolved to monitor the position. Cllr Tall undertook to report the potholes in Eversden Close.

County Cllr Frost reported that cuts of £38M needed to be made to CCC's budget for next year. Savings under discussion included the switching off of street lights at night, and the need to prioritise essential items such as hazardous pavements, was emphasised.

4.5 (7.5) Allotments transfer update to consider any actions required to progress the registration of the land

Cllr Dolman reported that the allotments land had not been registered in the absence of a deed of transfer. RESOLVED to check with the Land Registry as to the correct/easiest procedure, and whether the first registration should be made by the Trustees, after which a transfer into the name of the Parish Council could be made.

4.6 Trees survey to consider quotation received

RESOLVED to defer consideration of this item until the matter could be clarified with the Clerk.

On a proposition by the Chairman, District Cllr Hawkins was invited to report. Her report covered:

- The Local Plan examination commencing 4 November. Cllr Hawkins undertook to provide a weekly update.
- The Cabinet is proceeding with the merger of ICT and legal services with Huntingdon District Council and Cambridge City Council. Waste collections are also to be merged with the City Council, commencing in April 2015. Cllr Hawkins asked residents to let her know if any problems arose.
- The survey of rough sleepers will take place on 12-13 November.
- Superfast Broadband – all Toft residents should now be able to order this, and if the website states otherwise, it was suggested that the Connecting Cambridgeshire team be informed.

5. Consideration of Correspondence

5.1 Bus shelter cleaning

It was noted that the cleaner had moved away from the area.

Cllr Frost added to his report that a bridge at the Trumpington end of Grantchester would result in a road closure for 6 months from 3 December, which was likely to cause traffic problems.

5.2 Village Services and Facilities update

Clarification was provided regarding queries raised by SCDC. RESOLVED to convey to SCDC that the inclusion of the Recreation Ground as Informal Open Space in the Local Plan was correct. However the Community Land was not shown on the map and this

should also be included. In addition, the allotment land should be included, although neither the Council nor the Trustees had been asked about this..
County Cllr Frost left the meeting at 8.07 pm.

6. Finance and risk assessment

6.1 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 cheques were signed.

RESOLVED that the payments as listed in the finance report, plus Clive Blower (Bus shelter woodwork) £103.26, and V McNiven (Sports Day) £230.00 (including engraving relating to last year) be approved for payment. ^(Prop MY, 2nd JM)

CCC	Street lights	£849.62
Toft Peoples Hall	Meeting room	£12.00
LGS Services	Admin Support	£473.07
Bourn Parish Council	Traffic consultant	£153.61
	Salary	£101.30

Consideration was given to items to be provided for in next year's budget. RESOLVED to set aside funding for the Fireworks, Sports Day £200, Allotments £100 twice a year, Footpaths £100, and £50 for SPEP initiatives. Cllr Pugh will attend the SPEP meeting and report back. ^(Prop MY, 2nd JM) The P3 budget is still required. Funds for play equipment could be funded from General Reserves but all other currently earmarked funds should be kept separate.

RESOLVED to add Cllrs Ellis-Evans and Pugh as signatories to the bank mandate and to remove John Betson as a signatory. ^(Prop MY, 2nd ED)

6.2 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety

A quotation had been accepted for repair of the gate in the playground.

6.3 Publication of meeting papers on website

Noted that the website is not the Parish Council's so the Council is not required to publish its meeting papers under the new legislation.

7. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications received

7.1 Planning Applications

7.1.1 S/2239/14/FL – 55 High Street – to raise the ridge of the existing roof by 1m to create a loft conversion, render the whole property and install new windows and doors

Cllr Ellis-Evans, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting at 8.33 pm.

RESOLVED unanimously to recommend approval. ^(Prop MY, 2nd PG)

Cllr Ellis-Evans re-joined the meeting.

7.2 SCDC decisions to note

None.

7.3 Tree works applications

7.3.1 69 High Street

The Chairman, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting at 8.35 pm. Cllr Dolman chaired the meeting for this item. RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no objections. ^(Prop JM, 2nd AT)

The Chairman re-joined the meeting.

7.3.2 Priory Cottage, Church Road

RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no objections. ^(Prop GP, 2nd AT)

7.3.3 4 Farmers End

RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no objections. ^(Prop TEE, 2nd AT)

8. Members items and reports

8.1 Community Land update

Cllr Ellis-Evans reported that an order had been placed for fruit trees which will be put in when the growing season has ended. Cllr Ellis-Evans will be giving instructions for another order this week and asked to be informed when it had been placed as Clive Sinclair wishes to collect. The suppliers are to be informed of this.

It was noted that the plaque for the Ramblers' bench had been received and fixed to the seat.

It was reported that the water connection to the Community Land had not been installed. Cllr Ellis-Evans will bring full details to the next meeting when this will be an agenda item.

Another Community Day is planned to plant the trees. Cllr Ellis-Evans will circulate the date in due course.

Rather than using weedkiller to remove the nettles, quotes are being obtained to dig out the blackthorn and turn over the land to eradicate the roots.

8.2 Toft People's Hall update report

Cllr Pugh reported that a celebration event proposed for the early spring would be discussed next week. Improvements included painting and new racking. Soundproofing would be carried out by Christmas.

8.3 Highways

Cllr Tall reported that heavy vehicles had damaged the pavement outside 46 High Street while trying to manoeuvre round parked cars. This has been reported to Highways and Cllr Tall will also report the potholes in Eversden Close.

Concerns were expressed that a dead tree had collapsed by the kissing gate leading into the Community Land, and that this looked unsightly.

Cllr Ellis-Evans reported that weeds at the Snicket still had not been dealt with.

8.4 Village maintenance

RESOLVED that Village Maintenance should be a standing agenda item for future meetings. It was reported that the telephone box had been vandalised and two windows smashed. Cllr Tall will look into whose responsibility it is to replace the glass.

RESOLVED to ask SCDC or Clive Blower to remove spray painted graffiti on the inside of the bus shelter.

It was noted that following discussions at the last meeting, Mr Peter Barker had removed the map holders, rubbed them down and varnished them, and had arranged for Jake Tebbit to obtain a quotation for the lettering. Any quotations received will be brought to a future meeting.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

SignedChairmandate.
