

**Minutes of the 716th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday 5 October 2015 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

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

In attendance: Greg Shaw (Principal Planner, Pegasus Group), 7 members of the public, District Cllr T Hawkins, and Mrs C Newton (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

A resident reported that Brookside, from the Bourn direction, was still dangerous due to overhanging branches, and that the ditch between the playground and the adjacent field was not being maintained. It was explained that these areas were not the Parish Council's responsibility.

It was observed that a traffic count to see whether the traffic had increased had not been undertaken for a long time. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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 interest from councillors on items on the agenda

Cllr Yeadon declared an interest in item 4.3.

Cllr McCarten declared an interest in item 4.3 and in 6.1.2 as the property was visible from her house.

1.3 To receive written requests for dispensations (if any) and to grant any dispensation as appropriate

None.

District Cllr Hawkins spoke to her written report, which covered:

- The formal suspension of the Local Development Plan Examination in Public.
- Discussions being conducted between SCDC planning officers and Countryside Properties, the developers for Bourn Airfield, regarding progressing the application. A number of District Councillors and Parish Council Chairmen have written to the Planning Portfolio holder asking that these meetings be discontinued until the outcome of the Local Plan Examination is known.
- The Greater Cambridge City Deal. Consultation on 3 possible routes for the proposed Cambourne to Cambridge Guided Busway starts next week. Residents were urged to respond.
- South Cambridgeshire Boundary Review, with a recommended reduction in councillors and a move to all out elections from 2018 for District and Parish Councillors.
- The reduction in Council House rents and the Right to Buy for Housing Association tenants, and the implication for future council house building and availability.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 6.1.1 at this point.

6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications received

6.1 Planning Applications

6.1.1 S/2204/15/OL – Bennell Farm, West Stret – Outline planning application for up to 90 dwellings, car park, football pitch and changing facilities, and associated infrastructure works

RESOLVED unanimously to recommend refusal. (Prop MY, 2nd JM)

The Parish Council considered the proposed draft response. The following amendments and additions were agreed:

- A reference to the number of people who attended the meeting.

- A comment that 3 storey and 2.5 storey buildings were not appropriate to the rural surroundings and the village surroundings at the location on the edge of the village.
- An observation that the traffic survey had been undertaken at a time favouring the application, at the end of the Michaelmas Term, and therefore was not indicative of the actual current traffic flow.
- An amendment to highlight the inaccurate representation of Healthcare provision in the application, emphasising that the Health Centre cannot be extended and that car parking at the surgery presents a major problem.
- To add a comment regarding the need for Anglian Water to improve the sewerage system.

RESOLVED that the Chairman should update the draft response and that the Parish Council submit the revised comments.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 7 September 2015 and the public meeting on 28 September 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 7 September be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after an amendment under the public session to correct the spelling of "Tebbit" and under item 3.2 to remove the word "dog." (Prop JM, 2nd GP unanimous)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the public meeting on 28 September be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after an amendment under paragraph 3 to change "undermanned" to "understaffed." (Prop MY, 2nd JM unanimous)

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

3.1 (Open) To consider an application for a Minor Improvement Scheme bid and speed reduction measures

The Parish Council considered options for projects to form the basis of a bid, including:

- A reduction in the speed limit between Toft and Comberton, with 40 mph signs and repeater signs, to create a ribbon of lower speed all the way between the two villages. The possibility of seeking a letter of support from Comberton Parish Council, and the use of Speedwatch, was considered.
- Speed reduction measures within the village, including speed bumps, raised platforms, signage, and road markings, and their respective costs were considered. This would be more expensive and would require supporting evidence from Speedwatch.

The requirement for a 10% contribution from the Parish Council for schemes costing below £10,000 was noted.

RESOLVED unanimously that Cllr Tall should draft and submit the application for a reduction in the speed limit to 40 mph along Comberton Road between Comberton and Toft, at a cost of approximately £2500 to £3000, and that the Parish Council should make a contribution of £1600 with the option of asking Comberton Parish Council to contribute at a later date. (Prop AT, 2nd JM)

3.2 (3.5) To consider the Tree survey report and consider what, if any, actions are required for insurance cover

RESOLVED, given that the Parish Council felt the report did not meet the requirements for a risk assessment and the costs of the long term management plan were in excess of £1000, that the Parish Council should consider other quotations and ask for the survey to be revisited. (Prop MY, 2nd PE)

3.3 (5.4) To consider the arrangements for the annual collection of allotment rents

Deferred to the November meeting.

3.4 Gifting of a bench

RESOLVED to accept gratefully Mr D McKenzie's kind offer of a bench and to write to thank him. The bench is to be added to the assets register and Clive Blower is to be asked to carry out some refurbishment.

District Cllr Hawkins left the meeting at 8.35 pm.

4. Consideration of correspondence

4.1 South Cambridgeshire Police – solutions to problem parking

Noted.

4.2 Comberton Parish Council – clearance of the ditch behind the school houses on the parish boundary.

RESOLVED unanimously to support in principle the proposal to contribute to the clearance of the ditch as a one-off occasion.

4.3 Request to cover cost of hall booking for music sessions

RESOLVED to donate the sum of £50 to cover the cost of room hire for the first two sessions. (Prop AT, 2nd PE)

4.4 A request from Toft fireworks for a donation of £150 towards this year's event will be an agenda item for the next meeting. RESOLVED, given that the Parish Council had already budgeted for the fireworks, that the request be agreed in principle.

5. Finance and risk assessment

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 cheques were signed.

RESOLVED that the payments as listed in the finance report be approved for payment, plus Toft People's Hall (oil tank) £800.00, to be on hold and released when evidence of the expenditure is provided. (Prop GP, 2nd JM).

PKF Littlejohn	Audit	£240.00
Salary		£106.55
Bourn Parish Council	Traffic consultant	£106.17
Roland Fletcher	Footpath 1 – 3 gates	£163.20

Credits, including receipt of the precept, were noted.

The Parish Council confirmed its agreement to the loan of the Speedwatch equipment to Caldecote Parish Council for three days and noted their intention to make a formal approach in due course for the purchase of a part-share. This will be considered when a formal request is received.

It was noted that the Clerk and Chairman using delegated powers accepted a quote for a three year undertaking from Came and Co for insurance cover with Hiscox. The cost for one year was £411.12 and for a 3 year undertaking £390.66 was less than the current premium of £446.64.

5.2 Play inspection reports

Cllr Yeadon was thanked for raking the area under the play tower. There had been no work carried out on the trees so far. The purchase of more bark will be considered at a future meeting.

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

None.

5.4 Annual Audit completion

RESOLVED to note that the audit was complete and had been advertised on the notice board. There had been a typographical error on a FY14 figure which had now been corrected.

6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications received

6.1 Planning Applications

6.1.1 S/2204/15/OL – Bennell Farm, West Street – Outline planning application for up to 90 dwellings, car park, football pitch and changing facilities, and associated infrastructure works

Taken earlier.

6.1.2 S/2366/15/OL – 14 Mill Lane – Single storey front, side and rear extensions

Cllr McCarten, having previously declared an interest in this item, left the meeting at 8.51 pm.

RESOLVED to recommend approval. (Prop MY, 2nd PE, unanimous)

Cllr McCarten rejoined the meeting.

6.2 SCDC decisions to note

6.2.1 S/1467/15/VC – 2 Hardwick Road – Variation of Condition 2 and 10 of planning approval S/0912/14 – Permission granted by SCDC.

6.2.2 S/1636/14/NM – 54 School Lane – Non-material amendment to Planning Permission S/2244/05/F (extension) to reduce parapet wall and internal gutter with external overhanging eaves gutter – Permission refused by SCDC.

6.3 Tree works applications

None.

7. Members items and reports

7.1 Bennell Farm Working Group report

Nothing to report. The Working Party had completed its brief but might be reconvened in the future.

7.2 Village Maintenance

Flooding at School Lane – The County Council had been to visit but the resident was not in. Cllr Tall is to ask them to visit again.

It was noted that the stones were still spilling on to the pavement from the driveway at Comberton Road. A letter had been sent.

7.3 Highways

Nothing to report.

7.4 Toft People's Hall update

Toft People's Hall had been very grateful for the grant towards the oil tank.

7.5 Footpaths

A complaint about Footpath 1 from Toft to Caldecote being overgrown had been reported to CCC. They had replied that there was no money this year but this would be considered again next year.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

SignedChairmandate.