

**Minutes of the Toft Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 9th May 2016 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

Present: 11 Parishioners including Councillors M Yeadon, P Ellis-Evans, P Gouldstone, J McCarten, E Miles and A Tall, District Cllr Tumi Hawkins and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Cllr Yeadon presided and opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Gill Pugh, Arpi Johnson and Gail Stoehr.

2. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2015

The minutes of the meeting on 11 May 2015 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop MY, 2nd JM, unanimous)

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Report of the Parish Council for the year¹

Councillor Yeadon presented his report, which is appended in full to these minutes. The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their support and hard work, including Mrs Elizabeth Dolman who had resigned during the year; the District Councillor for her regular attendance and support; and the Clerk. He also expressed appreciation to the residents for the refreshments. The report covered the hard work of Cllr Ellis-Evans with Lot Meadow, which had its official opening last weekend. Cllr Ellis-Evans was thanked for involving the community in working parties, using Lot Meadow in the fete, and making it a lovely spot for the village to use. The Parish Council nominated two individuals and a group in the District Council's Awards, where Nick Nicholson and Ann Mitchell were recognised as Village Heroes and Tricia Ellis-Evans was recognised for an environmental award. Cllr Tall had submitted a successful bid for funding for a reduction in the speed limit between Comberton and Toft. Village maintenance had mainly concerned efforts to protect the Green from damage caused by vehicles. Thanks were expressed to Elizabeth Dolman for her work in transferring the management of the Allotments from the William Eversden Charity (now closed) to the Parish Council. The Beacon was lit on 23 April to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Thanks were expressed to Martin Sebborn for leading this. A street party is being arranged for 12 June. The work of the Council during the year had included play area safety, footpaths, working with the People's Hall, pension arrangements for employees, notice boards and communication with the village via the Calendar and Facebook. The report covered the Council's finances, budget and the reduction in the precept, as well as the management of the community fund which is available for activities in the village. Consideration of planning applications had continued, two of which had been recommended for refusal. Recent changes in the system of handling planning applications at SCDC were outlined. Cllr McCarten added that two difficult stiles at the bottom of the village had been replaced with gates in collaboration with the County Council, who had generously provided the gates.

District Cllr Hawkins arrived during this item at 7.10 pm.

5. Presentation of the Council's audited accounts and financial report²

The report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Gail Stoehr, was read by the Chairman, and the audited accounts for the Financial Year ended 2015 were presented. Changes to the audit process were outlined and inspection of the accounts by the public was invited by arrangement.

6. Other reports

6.1 District Councillor³

District Cllr Tumi Hawkins circulated and presented her report, which covered:

- The composition of the District Council had changed following the recent election but it was still Conservative-led.
- The Draft Local Development Plan 2011 – 2031 had been re-submitted after the Inspection had been suspended on three grounds. The process would resume on 7 June. The District Council had a shortfall under the 5-year housing land supply and speculative applications had resulted.
- The Bennell Farm application for 90 houses would be going to the Planning Committee on 11 May. Although this was in the Local Plan, the District Council was duty bound to consider applications before it, and the recommendation was for approval unless there was evidence to the contrary.
- Work had begun on the new development at Northstowe but affordable housing was only 20% due to an increase in the cost of the infrastructure.
- Details of finance and Council Tax.
- Further reductions in Government Grants which will eventually go to zero, and the District Council will be expected to generate income. One means of doing this is the District Council becoming a landlord under the name of Ermine Street Ltd. It is hoped to achieve income of approximately £600,000 in the next year.
- Housing. Government changes had placed pressure on the system as Councils are required to sell off their high value properties as they become vacant, but rent reductions reduce funding available to build more houses.
- The Greater Cambridge City Deal. This has focused on creating a better transport scheme along the A428/A1303 corridor. Three options have been put out for consultation for two sections, Cambourne to Madingley Mulch, and Madingley Mulch to Cambridge. There will be further consultation in 2017. The target of spending the first tranche of funds within the first year has not been met.
- Proposed boundary changes which will reduce the overall number of councillors. Toft will be included with Hardwick. The District Council is moving to all-out elections in 2018.
- Broadband services. Superfast broadband is now available in Toft.
- Monthly surgeries are held. Residents were asked to contact Cllr Hawkins with any issues.
- In response to a query, Cllr Hawkins confirmed that the Local Plan would not provide enough homes to meet the 5-year plan, but there is an agreement with the City Council that the Inspector should look at both plans together for houses being built close to the city boundary, which may alleviate the situation.

6.2 County Councillor⁴

Cllr Frost's written report was read, covering:

- No one political party is in control at the County Council.
- His service on County Council committees.
- The County Council's 2016-2017 budget. The County Council's portion of the Council Tax had been increased by 2%.
- Shared services with Northampton Borough Council and Norwich City Council whereby sharing legal services and human resources have resulted in savings. Milton Keynes will be joining the scheme for further economies to be made.
- The Greater Cambridge City Deal. The focus has been on routes to and from Cambridge along the A428, the A1307, and on the Western Orbital Route between the M11/Madingley Road junction and the M11/Trumpington junction. Consultation begins in June.

6.3 Toft Friendship Club⁵

Peter Johnson read the report of the Friendship Club on behalf of Mrs Arpi Johnson. This is open to anyone over 50, and there are 30 members with new members welcome. The Club meets monthly in the People's Hall. The meetings and activities have included visiting speakers, special celebrations and events, and outings to places of interest.

7. Any other parish matters including any resolutions which have been received

Cllr McCarten expressed thanks to Cllr Yeadon for chairing the Parish Council meetings efficiently and amicably during the year.

A resident highlighted that the bus stop was in need of resurfacing with tarmac as water would erode the concrete and the patching that had been done was poor.

The issue of double yellow lines was raised. It was observed that on the north side of the Green, the parking was right up to the junction, and there was a hazardous situation where motorists exiting Mill Lane towards Comberton could meet someone wishing to turn right from the Comberton direction.

Cllr Yeadon explained that the Parish Council had considered signage, double yellow lines, and a cobbled edging for the Green, but there was no obvious solution. Concerns were expressed that yellow lines would not be enforced. It was noted that the fish and chip shop had a car park for users, but that lorries had no choice. A comment was made that the turn from Comberton Road into School Lane was dangerous. The Parish Council will continue to discuss the issue and noted the residents' comments.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7.46 pm.

SignedChairmandate.

¹ Chairman's report

² Parish Council's Financial report and accounts for FY 2015

³ Report of the District Councillor - Tumi Hawkins

⁴ Report of the County Councillor - Stephen Frost

⁵ Report of Toft Friendship Club

