

**Minutes of the 730th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday 7 November 2016 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

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

In attendance: District Cllr T Hawkins, Martin Render (Chairman, Community Heartbeat Trust), 15 members of the public including Ian Hunter and Cynan Ellis-Evans, and Mrs C Newton (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

Martin Render, Chairman of the Community Heartbeat Trust, gave a presentation on community defibrillators, covering training and a checking system. It was recommended that the equipment be sited in a central location in the village, where it would be easy to access 24 hours a day, such as a BT telephone box. Questions were asked about vandalism, insurance and whether the cabinets should be locked. Various sources of funding were available, such as the National Lottery. The cost would be £1400 to £2000.

The Community Heartbeat Trust would help with choosing the most appropriate model, and carry out registration with the Ambulance Service, provide training, and offer an online service, after installation of the equipment by the Parish Council. Weekly checks should be carried out. The equipment should last 10-12 years with a battery change every four years at £100 per year.

A show of hands indicated that all present were in favour of progressing the project.

District Cllr Hawkins arrived during this item at 7.06 pm.

Mr Render left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

A resident highlighted that the boardwalk had become very slippery.

A handrail was suggested on the lane towards the Chapel to prevent people slipping on a nasty step.

A resident asked that the trees on the verge outside 22 School Lane on the path side be pruned to allow the light from the street light to reach further down the street.

A petition with 38 signatures strongly objecting to the planning application for 2 High Street was handed in by a resident who stated that the proposals would block light to his house.

Another resident objected to the application due to:

- the ground level being 3 metres higher than her house
- the potential for flooding due to very poor drainage on that side.
- the proposed windows being fixed, with obscure glass, indicating that they overlooked the neighbouring property.
- the application was not in keeping with the area
- the height of the building which would block the morning sunlight.
- there were 11 parking spaces for the pub. It was felt the photograph had been deliberately cropped

District Cllr Hawkins asked whether the pub was registered as an Asset of Community Value and outlined the features. She will raise this aspect with the Planning Officer.

It was observed that the main electricity supply ran down the border of the property.

District Cllr Hawkins reported, and circulated papers concerning the Bourn Airfield Development and the new proposed busway. The report covered:

- The Local Plan and the Supplementary Planning Document.
- The proposed busway. Cllr Hawkins spoke to the papers and map circulated at the meeting and explained the options.

- The Comberton Greenway, proposing a route leading south of Coton, along Long Road Comberton, and westward towards Caldecote. It was felt this would be beneficial for Toft.
- The road through the village will be gritted.
- An update was provided about a nuisance dog. The owner had been spoken to and was apologetic, indicating that the dog would now live indoors. It was suggested that a log be kept of instances such as howling through the night, etc. The officer had considered that a fence should be sufficient. However some residents were reluctant to pass the house as the dog has previously escaped. Cllr Hawkins will revisit this.
- Car park – the people involved had been visited and told not to continue the activities. An update is to follow.
- Cllr Miles had provided information on three outstanding issues regarding bins. A new bin had also been requested.

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

None.

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

None.

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

6.1.1 S/2716/16/FL – Land rear of 2 High Street – Proposed private detached dwelling and demolition of existing outbuildings/extensions

RESOLVED that the Parish Council recommends refusal of the application on the following grounds:

- The impact on adjacent dwellings. Given the proximity of the proposed dwelling to a number of bungalows, a two storey five bedroom house would be inappropriate as it would overlook and overshadow them
- The highest least attractive end of the building would be just over one metre from the boundary with the closest adjacent bungalow, causing a loss of light and overlooking/overshadowing
- The Parish Council is concerned about past flooding to adjacent properties and would want to ensure any proposal reduced the current flooding issue.
- The proposed dwelling is not in keeping with a conservation area
- The loss of car park space for the restaurant
- The blocking of sunlight onto residents' solar panels
- If the Planning Officer is minded to approve the application it recommends it is referred to the full Planning Committee. (Prop MY, 2nd AT, unanimous)

Residents were urged to write to SCDC.

6.1.2 S/2574/16/FL – 12 Millers Road – Proposed 3 storey side extension and new porch with associated works

RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports the application. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

6.1.3 S/2470/16/VC – 2 Hardwick Road – Removal of condition on Planning application S/0912/14/FL (boundary fence)

RESOLVED that the Parish Council recommends refusal of the application on the following grounds:

- The application is unclear as to what is to be built.
- The removal of hedging and its replacement by fencing will be detrimental to the appearance of the approach to the village

- Due to its concerns about visibility on the corner of Hardwick Road and Comberton Road, the Parish Council considers any proposals should be considered by Highways.
- If the Planning Officer is minded to approve the application it recommends it is referred to the full Planning Committee. (Prop MY, 2nd AT, unanimous)

6.1.4 S/2848/16/FL – 2 High Street – Proposed change of use of the existing ground floor and the demolition of existing outbuildings and remodelling of car parking arrangements

RESOLVED that the Parish Council recommends refusal on the following grounds:

- The loss of the restaurant would be detrimental to the community, as it provides employment and is a valuable asset in the village with a long history.
- The South Cambridgeshire district has the lowest number of places to eat in the county
- Poor public transport
- There is no evidence that this business can not be viable and the Parish Council would like to see every effort made to ensure this restaurant is also successful before approving a change of use.
- If the Planning Officer is minded to approve the application it recommends it is referred to the full Planning Committee. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

6.2 SCDC decisions to note

S/2075/16/FL – 9 School Lane – Demolition of existing garage and erection of single

S/2071/16/DC – 7,15,17,21,23,25,29,37 High Street – Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (Materials) of S/0384/15/FL for installation of external wall insulation to front rear and gable end walls – Permission granted.

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 – Permission granted.

6.2.1 Outcome of the Parish Council's request that 19 High Street, Toft (S/2504/16/FL) be determined at Planning Committee, if officers are minded to approve the application

RESOLVED, having considered the District Council's letter which stated the application would not go to the Planning Committee, but would be approved, that the Parish Council should respond to SCDC stating that the Parish Council felt there were three very good reasons for refusal and felt SCDC were very dismissive of those concerns; and as the Council understands it, if there are material planning considerations raised by the Parish Council, then the planning application would go to the Planning Committee, and this has not happened. The Parish Council would appreciate a considered response and a representative would be happy to attend a site visit with the Planning Officer before a final decision was made.

Other

Bennell Farm – ideas for other uses for the football pitch will be an agenda item for the December meeting.

District Cllr Hawkins gave her apologies for the December meeting.

6.3 Tree Works applications

None.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 3 October 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 3 October be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 5.3 at this point.

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

RESOLVED that Cllr Tall should draft a letter to residents and send it to the Clerk.

District Cllr Hawkins left the meeting at 8.46 pm.

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

3.1 (3.1) Toft Recreational Strategy/Toft Capital Plan – to consider capital investment

The Chairman reported on the working document, covering a number of suggestions. Further consideration will be given to the options, including issues such as the storage of a marquee, at a future meeting.

3.2 (3.4) Highway Improvement Scheme invitation to bid – to consider report on meeting and recommendations and if the Council submits a bid what its contribution will be

Cllr Tall reported on CCC's rejection of the current bid for a speed limit reduction and also the amended suggestion for two buffer zones of 40 mph. The Police had however agreed to a 50 mph speed limit between Toft and Comberton, and that they would look favourably on an enhanced 30 mph sign for the westward entrance to Toft.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council amends the 2015-16 bid to a 50 mph limit without buffer zones speed limit between Toft and Comberton. (Prop AT, 2nd MY, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllr Tall should write to Comberton Parish Council to update it on the proposed change to 50 mph.

RESOLVED for the 2016-2017 scheme that Cllr Tall should submit an application for entry gates with a 30 mph sign above at both ends of the village, at a total cost of £1500/£2000, and that it make a contribution of up to 50% of the cost, capped at £2000. (Prop AT, 2nd MY)

RESOLVED for the 2016-2017 scheme that Cllr Tall should submit an application for double yellow lines on the Green and that the Parish Council fund up to 50% of the approximate cost of £1200/ £1800, or £1200, whichever is the lower, to be funded from General Reserves. (Prop AT, 2nd MY, unanimous)

3.3 (3.5) Boardwalk along Pinfold Well Lane – to consider quotations if received

Nothing to report.

3.4 (4.1) CCC Consolidated Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way in Cambridgeshire

RESOLVED to defer to the next meeting.

3.5 (7.4) Proposal for defibrillator

RESOLVED to take matters forward through the Community Heartbeat Trust, given the comprehensive service, training and back-up provided, and that Cllr Ellis-Evans should make enquiries with them about the most appropriate type of defibrillator and investigate the cost and the process and sources of funding, and report back to the next meeting. It was understood that the Toft People's Hall was in principle in favour of the proposal.

3.6 (3.4 of 5.9.16) To consider response from Anglian Water

Deferred to the next meeting.

4. Consideration of correspondence

4.1 CCC Winter gritting routes

RESOLVED to note the revised routes, including that the route from Toft to Hardwick would not be gritted..

4.2 CCC Flood questionnaire

RESOLVED that the form as completed at the meeting be returned to CCC.

4.3 CCC Minerals and Waste consultation

RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no comments.

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.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 7.7 at this point.

7.7 Parish Council contribution to the Toft Fireworks

RESOLVED to contribute the sum of £150.00 towards the cost of the Toft Fireworks. (S145). The event had been attended by a record 520 adults. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

5.1 (Continued)

RESOLVED that the payments as listed in the finance report be approved for payment, plus Vanessa McNiven (Toft Sports expenses) £144.15 and Toft Fireworks (contribution) £150.00. (Prop MY, 2nd JM, unanimous).

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------|
| LCPAS | Training | £25.00 |
| Toft People's Hall | Room hire | £15.00 |
| Buchans | Grass cutting | £428.30 |
| Salary | | £56.35 |
| NEST | Pension (DD) | £56.37 |
| LGS Services | Admin support | £406.96 |

Credits, including receipt of the precept, were noted.

5.2 Play inspection reports

Nothing to report.

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

Taken earlier

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should look into the suggestion that a handrail should be installed on one side of the slope on the corner of the Snicket between School Lane and High Street, opposite the Methodist Church.

RESOLVED that Cllr Tall should look at the overhanging tree at 22 School Lane and report back.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should look into the overhanging vegetation obscuring the street light at Millers Road.

6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications received

6.1 Planning Applications

Taken earlier.

6.2 SCDC decisions to note

Taken earlier.

6.3 Tree works applications

None.

7. Members items and reports

7.1 Village Maintenance

RESOLVED that Cllr Tall will report the bin by the bull field at Church Road which had accidentally been knocked over.

7.2 Highways

RESOLVED to note Cllr Tall's verbal report following a walkabout with Sharon Maloney of CCC -

- Flooding in the High Street – this has been jettied half way. CCC will look into funding to do the rest.
- Plan to clean village signs.
- The shared footpath/cyclepath has one or two feet of the surfacing obscured by encroaching turf. The Parish Council could cut bushes back and leave on owners' land having first asked the owners.

RESOLVED to write to residents about an overgrown hedge, and the encroachment of gravel on the pavement, after which the County Council may re-surface. Cllr Tall to provide the information to the Clerk

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon will cut back the vegetation overhanging the notice board.

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon will look at the bridge from Toft to Eversden which is overgrown.

RESOLVED Sharon Maloney having looked at the bus stop, Cllr Tall will re-open.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

Cllr Pugh reported that the AGM had been held on 17 October, the bookings were stable, and the minutes were read out. The Parish Council was thanked for the grant for the oil tank.

7.4 Footpaths

Cllr Miles reported that she had reported the flooding pipe on the CCC website RESOLVED, as the gate to Kingston had been chained, to write to Kingston Parish Council about the gate. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

A water leak in the ditch at Millers Road lasting 3-5 days had been reported to Anglian Water and had now been fixed.

A letter had been sent to the District Council regarding the dog bins.

7.5 Proposal for defibrillator

Taken earlier.

7.6 SPEP

Cllr Pugh will place notices in the Calendar regarding festivals, etc.

7.7 Parish Council contribution to the Toft Fireworks

Taken earlier.

7.0.1 SCDC Community Awards and Village Hero Awards

RESOLVED that Cllr McCarten should write the nomination form and inform the nominee beforehand.

8. Closure of meeting

The failure of the County Councillor to attend Parish Council meetings is to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

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

SignedChairmandate.
