

Minutes of the 695th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday 4 November 2013 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), E Dolman, P Gouldstone, P Ellis-Evans, and J Betson.

In attendance: Jake Tebbit (People's Hall Committee), 1 member of the public, District Cllr T Hawkins, County Cllr S Frost and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk)

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

Jake Tebbit spoke about Phase 2 of the People's Hall project, and provided a resume of the project and grant applications.

Cllr Ellis-Evans and County Cllr Frost arrived at 7.03 pm.

The proposals were listed as follows:

- a) Improvements to kitchen facilities to upgrade out-of-date storage units, provide additional work surface, provide better floor, wall and ceiling finishes, thereby improving hygiene.
- b) Toilet upgrade, with the disabled facilities being enlarged to give improved wheelchair access, as per the attached diagram.
- c) Heating control improvements to automate the control of timing and temperatures in different zones, including the two upstairs meeting rooms. This will give better temperature control and reduce fuel use.
- d) Hall lighting upgrade to give improved overhead lights and LED wall lights, which can be varied to suit a variety of hall uses, including lighting of exhibition panels.
- e) A suspended ceiling which will serve to improve the current poor acoustics in the main Hall.
- f) Ventilation improvements to overcome problems of excessive temperatures when the hall is full to capacity.
- g) Provision of additional demountable stage sections to allow larger drama productions (eg Arts on Tour)
- h) Installation of a purpose-built hanging system for exhibitions for use by Toft Photo Group, Toft Historical Society, Toft Art Group and others.
- i) Provision of acoustic drapes to further improve acoustics.

Mr Tebbit outlined the possible costs and funding bodies. He verbally reported that these were less than shown in the document received. Money had been raised locally. A possible contribution from the Parish Council via the Precept was requested. Mr Tebbit expressed thanks for the letter giving the Parish Council's support in principle for the works.

A resident thanked everyone involved with the recent successful fireworks event.

District Cllr Hawkins reported on:

- the SCDC Local Plan consultation update
- the Transport Strategy
- the A14 improvement scheme
- public transport
- the Connecting Cambridgeshire broadband initiative
- the SCDC Community Awards
- the appeal for land adjacent to Meridian Court and S106 money due to Toft
- the new planning application by TKA Tallent.

A copy of the Bennell Farm submission is to be sent to Cllr Hawkins.

County Cllr Frost gave his report as circulated at the meeting on county-wide issues. These included:

- transport and the bus link from Cambourne to Cambridge. There were concerns that this was unworkable in its current form.
- the City deal

- the A14 consultation.

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs McCarten (out of parish).

- 1.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda
Cllr Betson declared an interest in items concerning the People's Hall as the Parish Council representative on the People's Hall Committee.
Cllr Gouldstone declared a general interest in items concerning the People's Hall as Church representative on the People's Hall Committee.
- 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 7 October 2013

The minutes of the meeting on 7 October were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop JB, 2nd MY)

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 Clerks report - Nothing to report.
- 3.2 (3.2) Community Land update including ditch clearance
Cllr Ellis-Evans reported that access to the Parish Council's land via 48 High Street was expected in the next few weeks. Cllr Ellis-Evans is to discuss the timing of the works. The ditch quotation is still awaited.
The bench donated by the Ramblers has arrived and will be installed in the Spring. It will be checked whether the plaque has been included in the package.
- 3.3 (3.3) Recreation ground – to consider drainage problem
The bark is soggy and the drainage poor and a response from Kompan is still awaited. Carried forward.
- 3.4 (7.3) People's Hall internal improvements – to consider a Council contribution towards the works
RESOLVED that the Parish Council will contribute £3000 (Prop MY, 2nd JB). A letter is to be sent to Nick Nicholson confirming that the Parish Council has agreed to the contribution, and whilst funding has been tight, the Council has agreed to find it. Cllr Betson is to report on progress. The Clerk is to keep a note of the hours involved in the project. District Cllr Hawkins offered her support for a Community Grant application.

4. Consideration of Correspondence

- 4.0 CCC Minor Highway Improvements Scheme
RESOLVED that the Chairman will prepare the application for gates at the entrances to the village with a painted road surface and roundel.
- 4.1 SCDC – Parish Paths and Rights of Way matters
Noted.
- 4.2 Toft People's Hall – storage cupboard and filing cabinets request for removal
RESOLVED to dispose of the old papers and cabinets and ask in the Calendar if anyone would like them.
- 4.3 Comberton Parish Council request for negotiations with the Parish Council about the Bennell Farm proposed development
RESOLVED that negotiations will be undertaken by Cllrs Yeadon, Ellis-Evans and that the Clerk should also attend the meeting to be held sometime in the New Year.
RESOLVED to obtain information as to how many are on the housing list, and clarification on the need for rented, shared ownership or both, and information on Comberton.
Cllr Hawkins left the meeting.

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. The payments as listed in the finance report were unanimously approved for payment. (Prop MY, 2nd JB).

Buchans	Grass cutting	£296.40
Cambs ACRE	Payroll	£15.48
LGS Services	Admin support	£337.99
Comberton Parish Council	Shared sign inspection	£23.06
Salaries		£121.85
PWLB	Loan (Direct Debit)	£1162.42

Receipt of the donation from the Ramblers for the bench was noted.

5.2 Risk assessment matters

RESOLVED that Cllr Betson would speak to the resident whose fence has blown down and that a letter should also be sent to them.

The Parish Council's trees had all been checked following the recent storm.

The entrance to the meadow was very muddy and bark was required. RESOLVED to accept Cllr Betson's offer to supply and spread the bark free of charge and he was thanked for his kind offer.

5.3 Play inspection annual report – to consider the report and any recommendation

The latch on the gate has snapped off again. RESOLVED that Cllr Betson should purchase a die cast latch from Mackays and receive reimbursement. It was noted that the gate had been propped open. RESOLVED that Cllr Gouldstone should monitor this.

6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications received

6.1 Planning Applications

6.1.1 S/2235/13/FL – 69 High Street – 1.5 storey dwelling following demolition of bungalow

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

6.2 SCDC decisions to note

Appeal for land adjacent to Meridian Court – appeal allowed. Noted.

6.3 Tree works applications – none.

7. Members items and reports

7.1 Highways and Village maintenance report

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Betson's verbal report:

- The grit bins have been filled.
- Liaison with Sharon Moloney regarding drains.
- The School Lane sign is still leaning into the hedge- this to Diane Duncan at SCDC.
- Street lights are obscured by vegetation.
- A quotation for the bus shelter is awaited from Clive Blower. RESOLVED to seek a quotation from James Tebbit.

7.2 Buses - Not required on the agenda.

8. Closure of meeting

Apologies for the next meeting were received from Cllr Dolman.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

SignedChairmandate.