

**Minutes of the 710th meeting of Toft Parish Council  
Meeting held on Monday 2 February 2015 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

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

In attendance: 3 members of the public, District Cllr T Hawkins, County Cllr S Frost, Mrs C Newton (LGS Services) and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

**Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors**

A resident enquired about progress with the refurbishment of the village sign. This is to be pursued again.

It was reported that two posts had been knocked down on the Green.

A resident asked when Balfour Beatty would tidy up the village and remove the security fencing. Some new lights and some old lights were working but quite a lot were not.

In response to an enquiry about flooding, Cllr Hawkins undertook to look into this again.

County Cllr Frost arrived at 7.05 pm.

A resident raised the following matters:

- Surface water accumulation in School Lane, top of Stoney Lane, at times of heavy rain, and in front of 23 School Lane where a silted up ditch prevents water draining away.
- Overgrown hedges at the High Street end of the footpath near the car park and opposite the chapel masking the light.
- Several cars in various stages of disrepair, and trailers in the car park.
- A pothole at the end of School Lane. This is to be reported online.
- A tree is overhanging the footpath near 16 School Lane, causing pedestrians to move off the path to pass it.
- A post on the kissing gate into Home Meadow from School Lane is loose.

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

- The Local Plan examination.
- The application for 2350 houses at West Cambourne. Changes to the threshold for calculating S106 funding.
- Protection for village pubs and the SCDC consultation.
- Business workshops offering free business advice.
- Government funding cuts to the District Council.
- The City Deal transport priorities..
- The planning application for 6 houses in Comberton Road had been refused.

County Cllr Frost gave a verbal report, covering:

- Anglian Water has now identified the problems caused by ingress of water into waste pipes and hopes to finish repairing them by 31 March.
- Street lighting The Parish Council listed the main problems, including the lights not working, the missing signage, and the poor finish of the tarmac, causing a hazard and, the bus shelter light that had been removed. Cllr Frost undertook to find out whether a lamp was to be replaced in that location.
- The County budget and the potential increase in Council Tax.
- The City Deal and its priorities.

**1. Apologies for absence and declaration of interests**

1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence  
Apologies were received from Cllr Tall.

1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda  
Cllrs Gouldstone and Dolman declared an interest in Item 6.3 (Tree works) as adjacent residents.

Cllr Frost left the meeting at 7.42 pm.

- 1.3 To receive written requests for dispensations (if any) and to grant any dispensation as appropriate  
None.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 5 January 2015**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 5 January be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop MY, 2nd GP)

**3. Matters Arising**

- 3.1 (3.2) Allotments transfer – to consider drawing up a plan for the site

The Clerk is to forward model tenancy agreements to Cllr Dolman. It will be necessary to ask current allotment holders to commit to having a plot. Tasks to be carried out include: studying the Wildlife Study and the impact of clearing the land; a meeting with the allotment holders and discussion on forming of a working party as for the Community Land; the possibility of grant funding from Cambridge Water for water butts will be investigated. Other issues to be considered are the need for chicken wire fencing round the hawthorn hedge, and a place for manure.

- 3.2 (3.4) BT kiosk

Deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr Pugh reported that a SPEG meeting was to be held shortly. No requests had yet been received for the thermal camera, but typical houses could be surveyed.

- 3.3 Resident response – horses by the right of way and request that the Parish Council cut back trees and bushes

RESOLVED that Cllr McCarten will speak to the resident who raised the matter. RESOLVED to write to the landowner asking him to trim back the hedges he owns on Brookside, which are overhanging the road and restricting visibility.

RESOLVED to respond to the resident that the Council is communicating the information regarding the horses to the concerned dog walker and has asked for the trees to be cut back. The issue of dog mess has been raised several times in the Calendar.

**4. Consideration of Correspondence**

- 4.1 SCDC consultation on use of Article 4 directions to help retain village pubs

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comments.

- 4.2 Children's Links Community Grants – to consider whether the Parish Council should apply

RESOLVED not to make an application.

- 4.3 Seetec – Community work placements programme

The Parish Council considered how information could be disseminated to small businesses in the village. RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon will place an item in Calendar asking anyone who might be interested in receiving information on items of interest to business to contact him.

- 4.4 Balfour Beatty – response to complaint about missing signage

RESOLVED to note that Balfour Beatty undertook to replace the signage. The two bus stop signs in the High Street by the Recreation Ground and on the opposite side of the road, are missing, as is the car park sign which was beside the People's Hall pointing to the car park. In addition two playground signs by Mr Harris's farm were now lying on the ground across the road.

- 4.5 Wiser Recycling proposed date for electrical waste collection

RESOLVED that the proposed date of 13 April was acceptable.

The Parish Council noted with thanks that the map holder signs had been beautifully restored and expressed its gratitude to Mr Peter Barker for taking the initiative to have them refurbished and reinstate them in his own time at no cost to the Parish Council. The Council also recorded its grateful thanks to Mr Jake Tebbit for designing and

specifying the typography at no cost to the Council and for taking the signs to Algar Signcraft.

## **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.  
(Prop MY, 2nd PG).

Cambridgeshire ACRE	Affiliation fee	£54.00
Toft Peoples Hall	Meeting Room	£12.00
Algar Signcraft	Wooden plaques	£100.80
Toft PCC	Calendar	£80.85
	Salary	£162.46

### **5.2 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety**

RESOLVED to receive the play inspection reports.

RESOLVED to note that the pavement had still not been cleared and was still slippery. The signs had not been replaced.

## **6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications received**

### **6.1 Planning Applications**

None.

RESOLVED to reiterate the Council's previous objections to the Cambourne West planning application..

### **6.2 SCDC decisions to note**

None.

### **6.3 Tree works applications**

#### **6.3.1 St Andrew's Parish Church, Church Road**

Cllrs Gouldstone and Dolman, having previously declared an interest in this item, left the meeting at 8.23 pm. RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop MY, 2nd TEE)

Cllrs Gouldstone and Dolman re-joined the meeting at 8.24 pm.

## **7. Members items and reports**

### **7.1 Toft People's Hall update including grant reclaims and changes to works**

The Chairman reported on a meeting with the Clerk and the People's Hall Committee, and reported that everything was going well. The official opening will be on 4 April.

### **7.2 Highways and**

#### **7.3 Village Maintenance**

RESOLVED to note the items raised by residents and to ask Cllr Tall to consider these further.

RESOLVED to ask Clive Blower to fix the posts on the village green and ask whether they can be installed a little deeper to avoid being knocked down.

One member of the public and Cllr Hawkins left the meeting at 8.33 pm.

RESOLVED to write to Michael Tebbit reporting that the gate post on the kissing gate in School Lane is loose, and also asking if he is willing for the Parish Council to put some bark down at both gates, in School Lane and opposite the Church.

RESOLVED to write to the owner of the overgrown hedge on either side of the Snicket asking him to cut this back. Cllr Gouldstone will check and notify the location and address.

RESOLVED that the car park issues will be pursued by the District Cllr.

RESOLVED that a letter is to be sent to the resident at 16 School Lane expressing concerns at the overhanging trees which prevent pedestrians from passing safely, and asking for them to be cut back.

RESOLVED to write to Highways regarding the ditch outside 23 and 25 School Lane, where water comes across the road at times of heavy rain, believed to be due to the drainage ditch being neglected and silted up.

7.4 Community Land report

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Ellis-Evans’s verbal report. A working party to plant the trees had been very successful. It had been decided to follow the recommendation of Stuart Buchan regarding the blackthorn and plant the wild flowers elsewhere.

RESOLVED unanimously to accept a quotation from Buchans to cut the grass in the centre area of the Community Land over the summer, with 12 cuts over the year, at a cost of £72.00 per cut, to weaken the nettles. (Prop TEE, 2nd MY)

7.5 Request to lay bark at footpath at School Lane and Church

Taken earlier.

8. Closure of meeting

Cllr Ellis-Evans gave her apologies for absence for the next meeting (out of parish).

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.48 pm.

Signed .....Chairman .....date.

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APPROVED