

**Minutes of the 727th meeting of Toft Parish Council  
Meeting held on Monday 4 July 2016 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

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

In attendance: 4 members of the public and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

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

A resident reported hedges overhanging the pavements. A notice will be put in the Calendar asking residents to cut back overhanging vegetation.

Overgrown hedges were also reported along the passage bordering the car park, with weeds encroaching on both sides. District Cllr Hawkins had informed the Parish Council that the matter was in hand. It was understood that the grass cutters were dealing with the weeds on the path when the verges were being cut. Cllr Ellis-Evans offered to take a look.

A question was asked about the status of the Bennell Farm application. The process to date was clarified. The Parish Council will have the opportunity to consider the detailed plans when submitted.

It was observed that Stoney Lane was much improved after works had been carried out.

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

**1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies had been received from District Cllr Hawkins.

**1.2 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda**

Cllr Tall declared an interest in item 6.1.2 as the applicant.

Cllr McCarten declared an interest in item 4.1 as a friend of the allotment holder.

**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 meetings of 6 June and 13 June 2016**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings on 6 June and 13 June be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop MY, 2nd PG, unanimous)

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

**3.1 (3.1) To consider a Toft Recreational Strategy**

RESOLVED having considered the draft "Capital Investment Plan" document listing suggested projects, estimated costs and timescales over the next 1-10 years, to add the following items: tennis courts (estimated cost £30,000, 8 years), boules pitch (estimated cost £5,000, 2 years), and outdoor gym equipment (estimated cost £7,000, 2 years). RESOLVED to submit the document to SCDC having clarified the eligibility of the items for funding under any future S106 agreement.

**3.2 (3.4) Small gate at play area – to consider the report from RPM**

RESOLVED to note that RPM had corrected the closure of the small gate free of charge.

**3.3 (7.1) Overgrowing vegetation and commercial activity in the car park**

District Cllr Hawkins had reported that the vegetation was being attended to with overgrown grass to be cut in the next few weeks. However, commercial activity continued to take place in the car park. Photographs will be passed to Cllr Hawkins.

**3.4 Yellow lines consultation**

RESOLVED to approve the draft consultation letter after an addition to the wording to clarify the problem, namely that larger vehicles are forced to mount the village green due to parked vehicles on the north side, and to express the Council's concerns about access for emergency vehicles.

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should arrange for the delivery of the letter to approximately 20 households in the vicinity.

#### **4. Consideration of correspondence**

##### **4.1 Allotment holder request for retrospective permission for fruit trees and concerns about adjoining ditch**

RESOLVED to respond confirming retrospective permission for the fruit trees already on the allotment.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should take responsibility for maintenance of the perimeter ditch and allotment holders should take responsibility for their individual plot(s).

RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council will clear the boundary areas of brambles. This matter will be considered further under item 5.3.

##### **4.2 Comberton Parish Council – suggestion for a litter bin in the lay-by**

RESOLVED to ask SCDC to provide a litter bin in the lay-by.

#### **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 LGS Services (Admin support) £469.53. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

Buchans	Grass cutting	£689.21
Buchans	Grass cutting	£427.61
T Ellis-Evans	Expenses	£198.24
Salary		£159.39

Credits, including allotment rents and the CCC verges grant, were noted.

##### **5.2 Play inspection reports**

RESOLVED to note that the play bark had been replenished.

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

RESOLVED given Cllr McCarten's verbal report that the grass areas between the allotments were very overgrown and uneven to contact Buchans for a general assessment, recommendation and quotation in particular for cutting the grass on the arterial path to the bottom of the allotments, which is difficult to walk. Cllr McCarten is to liaise with Buchans to ascertain the scope of the work and will inform the Clerk. RESOLVED that the Parish Council agrees to expenditure of up to £300 to tidy up the site. (Prop MY, 2nd JM, unanimous)

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

##### **6.1 Planning Applications**

##### **6.1.1 S/1303/16/FL – 46 High Street – Renovation, extension and incorporation of outbuilding**

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

##### **6.1.2 S/1460/16/FL – 44 School Lane – two storey side extension**

Cllr Tall, having previously declared an interest in this item, left the room at 8.01 pm.

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

Cllr Tall re-joined the meeting at 8.06 pm.

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

None.

##### **6.3 Tree works applications**

None.

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

##### **7.1 Village Maintenance**

RESOLVED that Cllr Tall will ask SCDC to repair or replace the Social Services sign which has been damaged by graffiti.

RESOLVED to note that potholes have been repaired and that work lasting 18 months is due to commence on Millers Road.

##### **7.2 Highways**

RESOLVED to note that the project manager for the Local Highways Initiative had been in touch regarding the first stage of the process, namely undertaking a consultation with residents and businesses within the deregulated area seeking their views on the reduction of the speed limit to 40 mph.

7.3 Toft People's Hall update

RESOLVED in response to Cllr Ellis-Evans enquiry as to whether the SCDC Environmental Award for Lot Meadow could be hung in the People's Hall that Cllr Pugh should raise this at the committee's next meeting, and also ask for the lock to be repaired.

7.4 Footpaths

RESOLVED given Peter Gaskin's response to Cllr Miles that bark and stepping stones would not be effective at Pinfold Well Lane, that Cllr Miles should consult Colin Place for advice and report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED to note that:

- The arrow on the waymarker post had been reinstated.
- Grass cutting by CCC had been carried out at the end of May and the next cut would be in August/September.
- Signs indicating the Greenwich Meridian Trail, which runs through Toft, will be placed on fingerposts and in the area of the People's Hall/School Lane. Cllr Miles will place an item in the Calendar.

7.5 SPEP – to consider whether there is support for a repair café

Cllr Pugh reported on the repair cafes initiative for recycling within the community. RESOLVED, given that the Parish Council felt this was a good idea in principle, that a working group of Cllrs Pugh and Miles with assistance from Cllr Tall should investigate the scheme and its operation further and report to a future meeting.

7.6 Anglian Water response regarding pumping station

RESOLVED as the planning application for 30 houses west of Hardwick Road had implied work had been done to improve the pumping station, but in response to an enquiry, Anglian Water had replied that only some maintenance of the pumping station and the installation of a flow meter had been carried out, that Cllr Yeadon should investigate the further.

7.7 Street party event

Cllr Ellis-Evans reported that the event had been very successful, having been attended by 130-150 people, and many people had helped with the organisation, bringing the community together. The Parish Council expressed its congratulations to Cllr Ellis-Evans and the working group for the success of the event.

8. Closure of meeting

A report on the defibrillator proposal will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr McCarten gave her apologies for the September meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

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