

**Minutes of the 768th meeting of Toft Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday 2 March 2020 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), P Ellis-Evans, A Tall, K Popat, J Wrycroft, E Miles and L Borrell.

In attendance: 9 members of the public, District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

Residents raised concerns about the preferred route of the new East-West Rail line and the potential for major impact on the village, given that there was very limited scope for the route within a narrow corridor. He enquired about local groups and asked whether there was any opportunity for joint action to mitigate the impact on Toft and surrounding affected villages. Concerns were expressed that the line could follow the route of the old railway.

A blocked drain was reported outside Cannors Close.

A resident expressed appreciation for the cutting of the hedge adjoining the cycleway between Toft and Comberton but was concerned that the proposal for upgrading the cycleway was being looked at against "cost/benefit" criteria. He was concerned that, as the cycleway was narrow and hazardous, and was the only route for children from Toft to get to Comberton Village College, a cost/benefit analysis of the proposal was too limited a criterion to be using when considering the health and safety issues associated with a narrow cycle path.

District Cllr Chamberlain suggested that residents should make their views known if they wished the railway to take a different route from the proposed southern route. Many people would prefer to see the line go north of the A428. There could be implications for land values.

Cllr Chamberlain reported on efforts to have Toft added to the list of villages for mobile signal improvements. The village could benefit if the Hardwick signal was improved.

The Combined Authority Mayor had taken over responsibility for the Cambourne to Cambridge busway from the Greater Cambridge Partnership and alternative ideas might emerge.

The Chairman indicated his intention to vary the order of business to bring forward items 3.2 and 6.1.2.

The Chairman expressed condolences to the Clerk and her family following their recent bereavement, and wished them well.

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
Cllr Yeadon declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4.2 as a member of the Squash Club.

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 meeting on 3 February 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 3 February be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop PEE, 2nd EM, unanimous)

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied.

3.2 (Open) East West Rail – Preferred route

Local consultation events had been publicised. RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon and one other member should attend forthcoming meetings for Parish Councils being arranged by East West Rail. Cllr Yeadon will circulate details to members when received.

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should look into any local groups opposing the preferred route, and place an article in the Calendar to keep residents informed and enable them to respond with their views.

RESOLVED that a working party be set up with Cllr Yeadon as Convenor, to consider the aims and strategy for a concerted approach to the issue, so that the Parish Council's response can be taken forward at the next meeting when it will be an agenda item.

6.1.2 20/01225/FUL – Old Farm Business Centre, Church Road – Installation of a portakabin modular building to be used as an office and light laboratory space for a period of 2 years

RESOLVED noting that the new location had addressed the Parish Council's concerns, to support the application. (Prop MY, 2nd PEE, unanimous)

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

3.1 (4.4) Hardwick Parish Council offer to sell speedwatch equipment

RESOLVED having consulted the Speedwatch group to accept the offer to purchase the Speedwatch equipment from Hardwick Parish Council, for the sum of £300.00, using S106 money. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

3.2 (Open) East West Rail – Preferred route

Taken previously.

3.3 (7.6.1) To receive an update on the mobile phone signal

Nothing further to report. RESOLVED to remove this item from the agenda.

3.4 (4.1) SCDC – offer of three free trees

RESOLVED to accept the offer of three trees to be planted at the allotments.

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should collect the trees, preferably cherry trees, and that Cllr Wrycroft should assist him with the planting.

4. Consideration of correspondence

4.1 Cambs Metro Consultation

RESOLVED that members may respond individually should they so wish.

4.2 Comberton Squash Club – Request for support

RESOLVED to provide a letter of support for the upgrading work. (Prop AT, 2nd JW, unanimous)

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 payments were approved. (Prop MY, 2nd PEE, unanimous)

Salaries		£115.88
LGS Services	Admin support	£463.87
Toft People's Hall	Room hire	£15.00

5.2 Play inspection reports

Nothing to report.

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

RESOLVED to convey to the County Councillor the comment made in the public session expressing concerns that a cost/benefit analysis was too narrow a criterion for considering improvements to the cycleway, which were a matter of health and safety. (Prop MY, 2nd LB, unanimous)

A fallen tree across a footpath is to be reported to CCC.

5.4 Assets Walk – to consider when this should take place

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications received

6.1 Planning Applications

6.1.1 20/01177/HFUL – The Farmhouse, Wood Barn Farm, Millers Road – Removal of thatched roof, two storey rear and side extensions, conversion of associated outbuilding and erection of car port

RESOLVED to make no recommendation. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, carried with 6 in favour and 1 abstention)

- 6.1.2 20/01225/FUL – Old Farm Business Centre, Church Road – Installation of a portakabin modular building to be used as an office and light laboratory space for a period of two years
Taken earlier.

- 6.2 SCDC decisions to note
None.

- 6.3 Tree works applications

- 6.3.1 20/1093/TTCA – 43 High Street
RESOLVED not to comment.

7. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated

7.1 Village Maintenance

The blocked drain in Cannors Close is to be reported to CCC.

RESOLVED that Cllr Ellis-Evans should raise with the landowner the matter of a fallen branch obstructing access to Lot Meadow.

The closure of the High Street next Sunday and the following Sunday was noted.

7.2 Highways including update on LHI application

Cllr Tall reported that the LHI outcome should be known by the next meeting.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

Cllr Borrill reported that no meeting had taken place but details of the improvements to be undertaken using S106 funding were being considered and prepared and will be passed on to the Parish Council. These may include painting and alterations to create a single room upstairs. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

7.4 Footpaths

Nothing to report.

7.5 Defibrillator report

Cllr Ellis-Evans reported that all was well and a training update would be held in April.

7.6 Village Plan review report

Cllr Miles reported that the Village Plan review had appeared in the Calendar and was now on the website. This item is to be removed from the agenda.

7.7 Climate Change Working Group report and recommendations

Cllr Popat reported that a notice had been placed in the Calendar and a resident was interested in joining.

7.8 Operation London Bridge Working Group report and recommendation

Cllr Miles reported on the views of the IW group. RESOLVED that a meeting of the Working Group should be held and a report made to the next meeting.

7.9 CVC Community Governors meeting and to consider future attendance

Cllr Yeadon reported on a meeting at CVC. RESOLVED that Cllr Wrycroft should attend future meetings as the Parish Council's representative.

8. Closure of meeting

The electrical work on the telephone kiosk was expected to be carried out this week.

Workshops on Zero Carbon Communities will be held on Saturday. Cllr Popat will attend if he is able but if not will inform other members.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

SignedChairmandate.