

**Minutes of the 769th meeting of Toft Parish Council
on Monday 4 May 2020 at 7.00 pm
Held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic**

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

In attendance: 9 members of the public, District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain, County Cllr Lina Nieto and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

County Cllr Lina Nieto reported.

- She thanked the village volunteers for their work and for co-ordinating the hub.
- CCC had opened the Community Capital Fund. £5M in grants was available and if anyone wished to apply they should let Cllr Nieto know.
- The recycling centre was re-opening on 11 May.
- Highways officers had been redeployed so residents were asked to be patient.
- Cllr Nieto offered help with climate change working groups. The CCC strategy is to be released shortly.
- Cllr Nieto is sharing information via social media. She gave her apologies for leaving early as she had another meeting.

District Cllr Chamberlain reported on:

- Data controller for Hardwick and Toft shielded volunteers. He thanked the volunteers for all their hard work.
- The green bin collection was being reinstated from Wednesday 6 May.
- All businesses have been contacted and may have received grants. SCDC had paid out over £20M.
- Changes to the SCDC system of paying the precept in instalments.

Cllr Chamberlain was asked about the numbers for self build dwellings in an application and the process for appeal. He offered to take the planning application to the Planning Committee.

Cllr Nieto left the meeting.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to bring forward items 7.8 and 6.1.1.

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of interests

1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Tall (another commitment).

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.

7.8 Coronavirus update including a proposal to make S137 funds available

The Chairman gave an update on coronavirus. Toft had no confirmed cases but some residents thought they might have had it. There had been none in Home Meadow. Linda Hollow and the Chairman had set up a volunteer group, making calls to potentially vulnerable residents, distributing sanitiser and food parcels and making calls. Cllr Yeadon had a list of vulnerable residents. The play areas had been closed. Cllr Yeadon expressed thanks to all residents who had eased the life of others during this time.

6.1.1 20/01172/FUL – Land west of Hardwick Road – Development for 12 no. self build and custom dwellings, together with associate garaging, parking, public open space.

landscaping, access, highways drainage and infrastructure work and to consider S106 requirements as requested by James Fisher of SCDC

RESOLVED to object to the application, making the following comments: (Prop MY, 2nd PEE, unanimous)

“Toft Parish Council have reviewed planning application 20/01172/FUL.

The Council strongly recommends that the proposal is refused on the following grounds.

1. The site is outside of the village development boundary.
2. Toft is designated an “infill village.” This is, in no way an infill development. These two points alone should deem this unacceptable.
3. The location is a pleasant meadow, a small wildlife haven to the north of the village which gives a pleasing break between the village and the harsh agricultural land to the north. Developing this area would result in a loss of this amenity.
4. Pedestrian access to the village is not suitable. There is no room for a footpath on Hardwick Road; although the plans show that one will be created, it is not possible. The proposed footpath looping around to the north of the village will end at a rough track that is entirely unsuitable for buggies, wheelchairs, etc, it then leads onto a road with no footpath via a blind crossroads. No details of that route is included with the plans so it would be difficult to assess the suitability from the application. It is not suitable.
5. The Highways objected to the previous application due to concerns about access to the development. This situation remains the case on this proposal.
6. The proposal is for 12 very large houses and gives no consideration to local housing needs. The accuracy of the drawings of the proposed houses is questionable as floor layouts don't match the exterior of the buildings.
7. The Parish Council supports the Landscape Consultant's response saying that the development is inappropriate for this location.
8. The Council is also very concerned about the significant issues raised by the Lead Local Flooding Authority response in their report recommending refusal.
9. The reports included in this application are generally for a different application for 30 houses from 2016 and so the credibility of the information is questionable. Of particular concern is that some of the properties adjacent to the plot are not shown on the site plans.
10. The main argument in the planning statement as to why this application should be approved following the refusal of an earlier application relates to the alleged fact that the District Council has not approved enough developments for self build houses. The Parish Council's objection is to the location and size of the development not to the nature of the build. If the allegation is correct this is not the location to increase the numbers of self build houses.
In line with the District Council's previous decision and in line with the majority of the consultees, the Parish Council strongly recommends refusal of this application.”

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 2 March 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 2 March be approved and signed by the Chairman as soon as practically possible given the current pandemic. (Prop MY, 2nd PEE, unanimous)

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

6.1.1 (Continued)

RESOLVED to make the following amendments to the previously sent future projects in response to James Fisher's enquiry; all others to remain unchanged:-

- To delete the entries “Signage for Lot Meadow”, “Allotments”, and “Footpath amendments”;
- to increase the timescale for “Outdoor gym” to 4 years; and

- to add “Purchase of recreational land £20,000 – 5 years” and “Boules pitch – 5 years.” (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

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

3.1 (3.1) Purchase of Speedwatch equipment – to reconsider how the speed camera is to be funded

RESOLVED, given that Hardwick Parish Council had withdrawn its offer, that Cllr Yeadon should speak to Toft Speedwatch and ask him to speak to Hardwick Speedwatch.

3.2 (3.2) East West Rail – report from working group and to consider the next steps

RESOLVED that the working group should consider this further and that this item be deferred to a future meeting as consultations on the route are expected to resume after lockdown.

3.3 (5.4) Assets Walk – to consider when this should take place

RESOLVED that this should not take place at present.

3.4 (7.3) Toft People’s Hall – to consider information on proposed improvements if received and the next steps

Deferred to a future meeting.

3.5 SCDC’s three free trees report

RESOLVED to note that a quince and a medlar, two ancient varieties of fruit trees, had been purchased and planted in Lot Meadow.

4. Consideration of correspondence

4.1 Resident suggestion for SOS emergency assistance notices

RESOLVED not to adopt the suggestion. (Prop MY, 2nd KP, unanimous)

4.2 CCC – Local Highways Improvement Scheme 2021/2022 – invitation to bid

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next 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 payments were approved, plus RH Landscapes (Grass cutting) £276.00 and Playsafety (RoSPA report) £94.80. (Prop MY, 2nd PEE, unanimous)

Salaries		£271.57
CAPALC	Affiliation Fee	£285.25
Toft People’s Hall	Room Hire	£15.00
SD Electrical	Phone box renovation	£275.00
Toft People’s Hall	Room Hire	£15.00
LGS Services	Admin support	£432.77
LGS Services	Admin support	£482.45

RESOLVED to cancel the payment of £210.00 to the Community Heartbeat Trust as the seminar had not taken place.

Credits, including bank interest and receipt of the precept, were noted.

5.2 Play inspection reports

Cllr Yeadon reported that the playground had been closed and locked up as required by the Government.

RESOLVED, having considered the RoSPA report:

- To place an additional order for bark when the playground re-opens.
- To ask Clive Blower to attend to the ladybird rocker base and picnic tables.
- Curly slide - to take up instances of people getting stuck with the manufacturer and insurers.

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

None.

5.4 Changes to Parish Council legislation and report on Business Continuity

RESOLVED to hold meetings remotely via Zoom. RESOLVED not to hold an Annual meeting or Annual Parish Meeting this year. The changes to audit arrangements were noted.

- 5.5 To authorise payment for the website by Direct Debit
RESOLVED to note that Mr Sebborn had paid this year and the Parish Council would reimburse him.

RESOLVED in principle to make future payments by Direct Debit but that an evaluation of the website was required before payment was due next year.

6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications received

6.1 Planning Applications

- 6.1.1 20/01172/FUL – Land west of Hardwick Road – Development for 12 no. self build and custom dwellings, together with associate garaging, parking, public open space, landscaping, access, highways drainage and infrastructure work and to consider S106 requirements as requested by James Fisher of SCDC

Taken earlier.

- 6.1.2 20/01622/HFUL – 6 Powell Close – Retrospective installation of patio timber decking to the rear of the house

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is neutral.

6.2 SCDC decisions to note

- 6.2.1 S/0154/20/NM – Bennell Farm, West Street – Non-material amendment of planning permission S/0351/19/VCC for the reorientation of the pumping station – Permission granted.

- 6.2.2 S/0179/20/FL – Land rear of 6 Hardwick Road – Residential development of 3 dwellinghouses and change of use of land from class B8 (skipyard) to Class C3 use – Permission refused.

- 6.2.3 S/3881/19/NM – Bennell Farm, West Street – Non-material amendment of planning permission S/0351/19/VC to amend approved materials schedule and plan – Permission granted.

6.3 Tree works applications

- 6.3.1 20/1229/TTCA – 5 School Lane – to note response made between meetings

The Parish Council was neutral on the application.

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

7.1 Village Maintenance

Nothing to report.

7.2 Highways including update on LHI application

The LHI application had been unsuccessful.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

The District Cllr had written to the Chairman as the People's Hall had not applied for a business grant, following which an application was made and £10,000 awarded. Cllr Chamberlain was thanked for his assistance.

7.4 Footpaths

A gate on a footpath by the bridge towards Millers Road is to be checked by Cllr Miles.

7.5 Defibrillator report

Training is to be rescheduled following the lockdown.

7.6 Climate Change Working Group report

Cllr Popat reported that the group had not met but he had attended at Council workshop on 7 March and he reported on the presentations and projects. He had joined the SLACK group.

7.7 Operation London Bridge Working Group report

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should write a report and recommendation which is to be sent to the Clerk so that it can be considered at the next or a future meeting. The Clerk advised that the CCC guidance was marked confidential.

7.8 Coronavirus update including a proposal to make S137 funds available (continued)

RESOLVED, noting that there was £200 agreed in the budget to allocate funding if required and to delegate a decision on this matter to the Chairman and Clerk. ^(Prop MY, 2nd PEE, unanimous)

7.9 Proposal for an Allotments meeting

RESOLVED that an Allotments meeting should be held next month, along with an Annual Meeting.

8. Closure of meeting

RESOLVED that residents of the village should be encouraged to go out onto their driveways after the Queen’s Speech and sing “We’ll Meet Again” to commemorate VE day on Friday 8th May. Cllr Yeadon is to publicise the information on the website.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

SignedChairmandate.

