

**Minutes of the 774th meeting of Toft Parish Council  
on Monday 5 October 2020 at 7.00 pm  
Held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic**

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

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

The meeting commenced at 7.06 pm.

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

The Chairman reported that East West Rail had been surveying widely in the area and if they were working in a particular location this did not imply that the route would go that way.

A resident shared a map he had marked up to show the possible route and the areas where surveying had taken place, including near Toft Drift and fairly close to the Church, not far from the old railway line. He expressed concerns that the route could go within 200-300 metres of houses and hoped that it would go east of the golf course. Furthermore, the gradient rose up towards Cambourne and the hill north of Toft became steeper towards Hardwick Wood.

The Chairman responded that surveying for habitats, etc, would also be taking place in various locations. There was no further information from East West Rail on preferred routes. However, an alternative route was being proposed to East West Rail at a forthcoming meeting.

A question was asked about the severance of routes, and whether footpaths and roads would be cut off.

Another resident expressed a preference for the route to follow the A428.

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

1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Borrell for anticipated lateness.

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.

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 3.1 next.

**3. To consider any matters arising from the last or a previous meeting (continued)**

3.1 (3.1) East West Rail – to consider responses and raising awareness of proposals with residents

RESOLVED having considered the verbal report by the Chairman on responses received and circulated from the Mayor and MP, and Sebastian Kindersely of Cambs and Beds Rail and also the Chairman's report on his attendance at a meeting of the Cambridge Approaches group which was proposing a new Route 6 approaching Cambridge on the other side of Barton, that the Chairman should ask Cambridge Approaches to alter their maps so that they show their proposed routes starting from a point closer to the A603.

Cllr Borrell arrived at 7.40 pm.

RESOLVED that the Chairman should respond to Cambridge Approaches confirming the Council's comments that its strongest support would be for a route north of the A428 into Cambridge North station, but failing this that the Parish Council strongly supports the Cambridge Approaches Route 6 proposals subject to amendment of the route maps and that the Parish Council would prefer any route to be as far away from Toft as possible to

minimise impact on the village. Noting that there was potential for public rights of way, particularly footpaths, to be severed or interrupted if the route was crossing rural land.

3.1.1 To consider correspondence from Barton Parish Council re the EWR lobby group Cambridge Approaches

RESOLVED that Cllr Tall should attend a meeting of a second group of other affected parishes led by Barton Parish Council and report back to the next meeting. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

3.2 (3.2) To consider report from the Play Inspection Company if received

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting as the report was still awaited.

3.3 (4.2) Community Gritting volunteers update

RESOLVED to record thanks to John Betson for agreeing to carry out this role for one more year.

On a proposition by the Chairman, item 2 was taken at this point.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 7 September be approved by the Council subject to changing \$ to £ under item 5.4. (Prop MY, 2nd PEE, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the minutes are to be signed by the Chairman as soon as practically possible given the current pandemic.

3.4 (6.3.1.1) To consider SCDC's response to the tree works applications

RESOLVED, noting the response from the SCDC Trees Officer, to continue with the present system of considering tree works applications and wait and see how the new notification system works.

**4. Consideration of correspondence**

4.1 Age UK Community Warden Schemes – request for a meeting

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon will be the point of contact.

4.2 MAGPAS – request for financial support

RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council is unable to make a contribution.

**5. Finance and risk assessment**

5.1 To consider the finance report and approve the payment of any bills and undertake a quarterly check of the bank statement

RESOLVED to receive the financial report and check the invoices and bank statements. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

Salaries		£115.88
LGS Services	Admin support (June)	£450.18
LGS Services	Admin support (July)	£457.21
LGS Services	Admin support (August)	£417.89
LGS Services	Admin support (September)	£442.86
RH Landscapes	Grass cutting	£675.00

RESOLVED to note the following expenditure approved between meetings:

Haslingfield Parish Council	Cambridge Approaches	£10.00
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Receipt of allotment rents was noted.

RESOLVED that the payments be approved subject to sight of the invoices plus £45.00 to Parish Online for online mapping subject to clarification as to this invoice.

RESOLVED that Cllr Wrycroft be appointed to carry out the quarterly check of the bank statement.

5.2 Play inspection reports

The second bag of bark is still awaited. Madingley Mulch still has no stock.

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

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should cut back the brambles overhanging the footpath near the playground.

RESOLVED that a manhole cover for a drain, near the footbridge in Brookside, which is leaking sewage, should be reported to Anglian Water.

- 5.4 To consider quotations for street light electricity  
RESOLVED to renew the contract with Opus as the cheapest supplier. (Prop MY, 2nd PEE, unanimous)

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

### **6.1 Planning Applications**

- 6.1.1 20/03864/FUL – Land adj to 6 Hardwick Road – Erection of a detached dwelling and associated works following demolition of existing industrial buildings

RESOLVED to object to the application for the larger of the two properties as it is outside the village development boundary and Toft is an infill village. (Prop MY, 2nd AT, carried with 6 in favour ad 1 abstention)

- 6.1.2 20/03757/FUL – Land adj to 6 Hardwick Road – erection of a detached dwelling and associated works

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is neutral on this application which is within the village development boundary, but would like to see a condition imposed that ensures the trees forming the boundary of the plot are retained. (Prop MY, 2nd AT, unanimous)

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

- 6.2.1 20/02919/HFUL – 58 School Lane – Partial removal of roof construction to front elevation and addition of first floor extension over the ground floor – Permission refused
- 6.2.2 20/02444/HFUL – 37 and 39 High Street – Installation of dropped kerb and path crossover – Permission granted

### **6.3 Tree works applications**

- 6.3.1 20/1922/TTCA – The Gig House, Old Horse Yard, Comberton Road  
RESOLVED to make no comment.

### **6.4 SCDC Planning Committee and notifications of applications**

RESOLVED to note the new system for SCDC notifications of new applications via a weekly report.

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

### **7.1 Village Maintenance**

Nothing to report.

### **7.2 Highways**

Cllr Tall reported that blocked drains outside Beldams Close had been reported to CCC again.

### **7.3 Toft People's Hall**

RESOLVED having considered the Chairman's verbal report that the house next door to the People's Hall was for sale and his suggestion that the possibility of its being purchased for the village should be gauged to look into possible sources of funding and look at the previous access agreement and the deeds to establish the position regarding access to the rear of the property.

### **7.4 Footpaths**

RESOLVED to ask Clive Blower if he is willing to assist with the installation of approximately 3-5 wooden posts for the signs asking cyclists not to use the footpaths, and to ask him to meet Cllr Miles on site to decide where these should go.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles will speak to a landowner regarding filling up hollows at the ends of two bridges on his land, to make them more passable as they are filling with water in wet weather.

### **7.5 Defibrillator report**

No problems.

### **7.6 Climate Change Working Group report**

Cllr Popat reported that he had submitted an application for a grant for solar studs on the cycle path between Toft and Comberton. Cllr Tall was thanked for his assistance. RESOLVED that Cllr Popat will place an article in the Calendar regarding a Government scheme for replacing oil fired boilers with low emission boilers. The funds have to be used and the works completed by the end of March. Details are to be sent to the People's Hall committee.

7.7 Operation London Bridge Working Group report – to consider if any further action is required or if this matter can now be closed

RESOLVED to approve the masterplan as circulated by Cllr Miles and to send a copy to the named people in the plan on a need to know basis.

RESOLVED that the plan should be reviewed annually in a year's time.

7.8 Lot Meadow

RESOLVED that Cllr Ellis-Evans should speak to the new owners of a house adjacent to Lot Meadow regarding the water supply connection for Lot Meadow.

Cllr Wrycroft left the meeting at 8.52 pm and returned at 8.55 pm.

8. Closure of meeting

It was noted that there would be no fireworks display this year due to Covid.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

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

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