

**Minutes of the 779th meeting of Toft Parish Council
on Monday 1 February 2021 at 7.00 pm
Held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic**

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), E Miles, K Popat, A Tall and J Wrycroft.

In attendance: 1 member of the public plus William Harrold and David Revell (Cambridge Approaches), County Cllr Lina Nieto, and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Public participation on agenda items and matters of mutual interest (includes reports from County and District Councillors and representation by members of the public)

A resident asked the Parish Council's views on the verges outside the Church and highlighted the advantages of having some parking.

William Harrold and David Revell spoke on behalf of the Cambridge Approaches campaign group. A new consultation on the detailed route alignments within the Option E corridor was expected in the first quarter of the year. Whether the proposed new station was to the north or south of Cambourne, the rail route would significantly impact Toft and the surrounding area, and continue to do so for many years. The group regarded the northern approach to Cambridge to be preferable due to the lesser environmental impact and strong economic case for the northern route. The group was focusing on raising awareness through publicity in the media and engaging politicians including Anthony Browne MP. It had also discussed with solicitors the option of a legal challenge if there were any grounds to consider the consultation unfair. They believed any consultation should present information on a realistic alternative. The group had written to EWR to notify them of the issues. The aim of a legal challenge would be to put pressure on EWR to change their view on the scope of the consultation and consult fairly on the northern and southern routes. A petition with some 6000 signatures has been drawn up.

The fundraising target of £80,000 would be split between parish councils (£50,000) and the public (£30,000). The pledges already made by other villages were outlined, but the group stressed that if the target was exceeded, the full amount pledged by councils would not be drawn but split between parishes in proportion to their population. In addition the funds pledged would not be drawn down if the legal option did not proceed. The funding could be required in the short term. Pledges would be made to Cambridge Approaches Ltd, a company limited by guarantee.

The Parish Council expressed caution based on the need for assurance that any expenditure would be spent wisely and the need for proper governance. The group replied that invoices and paperwork would be available for transparency.

The Chairman indicated his intention to bring item 3.3 forward.

1. Apologies for absence, declaration of interests and application for co-option

1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ellis-Evans (unwell).

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

None.

1.3 To receive written requests for dispensations and to grant any dispensations

None.

2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 11 January

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a true record after changing "will" to "may" in bullet point 1 of item 7.2. (Prop MY, 2nd KP, unanimous)

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

On a proposition by the Chairman the order of business was varied to take item 3.3 next.

3.3 (5.5 and 7.7) To consider whether the Parish Council should commit to working with the Eversdens or others on the costs of the EWR proposed Judicial Review fund and how this can be funded and how to raise public awareness of EWR actions

RESOLVED in principle to note the provision of up to £5000 in the budget to support a judicial review. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

RESOLVED, having given consideration to what level of commitment should come from the current financial year, given that any funding would be from the S137 budget. And noting that continued support could be given in the next financial year if necessary, to support Cambridge Approaches with the sum of up to £4000 during the current financial year if needed. (Prop MY, 2nd AT, unanimous)

The Cambridge Approaches representatives suggested that Toft Parish Council's overall pledge should be regarded as £5000, given that any expenditure would be divided up between the contributing parishes pro rata, to enable accurate pro rata division of the costs.

RESOLVED to make a total overall maximum pledge of £5000 and calculate exactly how much the Parish Council is able to donate this financial year. (Prop MY, 2nd AT, unanimous)

The Cambridge Approaches representatives added that the public fundraising campaign was yet to be launched but there was a great deal of sympathy for the campaign. There will be another meeting of the group on 11 February, with a view to asking parish councils to sign a letter to the Department of Transport seeking a fair consultation between the northern and southern routes.

RESOLVED having considered the costs of four A0 size single-sided all weather foamex signs at £78.79 plus VAT and a two page flyer for all the homes in Toft at £33.65 plus VAT, that Cllr Tall should purchase 4 A0 size signs and 20 A2 size signs for an approximate cost of £200 and submit an expenses claim to the next meeting. The signs are to be erected on Parish Council land, including two on the village green, one at the allotments and one at Lot Meadow, whilst smaller signs with varied wording are to be placed on frontages and verges, for interested residents to display on their land if they wished. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

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

3.1 (3.2) Consideration of the verges by the Church and whether to submit an LHI application

RESOLVED, having considered Cllr Tall's verbal outline of the potential funding options, noting that the LHI route would not be available until 2022-23 even if a bid was successful, that Cllr Tall should research other funding routes and report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that Cllr Tall should make enquiries of CCC as to what the Parish Council would be able to do if it were to fund the project itself, what the CCC requirements for the scheme would be, and to seek their best cost estimate. (Prop AT, 2nd MY, unanimous)

3.2 (7.2) Report on speed data

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Tall's verbal report that traffic movements were now higher than last summer with an average of 620 vehicles per day, and a spike in September when the schools returned. Cllr Tall will place an article in the Calendar.

3.3 (5.5 and 7.7) To consider whether the Parish Council should commit to working with the Eversdens or others on the costs of the EWR proposed Judicial Review fund and how this can be funded and how to raise public awareness of EWR actions

Taken earlier.

4. To consider correspondence received since the last meeting requiring the Council's attention

4.1 NATS London Luton Airport Arrivals flight path consultation

RESOLVED to make no response.

4.2 Greater Cambridge Local Plan – consultation survey on site information

RESOLVED that the Chairman should list the sites and concerns and circulate them to other members for comment before collating them for a response. It was observed that access was the main issue. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

4.3 Cam Valley Forum membership arrangements

RESOLVED to renew membership at a cost of £10.00 for the year. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

5. Finance, Procedure and risk assessment and use of delegated powers

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 EM, unanimous)

Salaries £115.88

RH Landscapes Grass cutting £774.00

Receipt of a VAT reclaim was noted.

5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required

Nothing to report.

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

RESOLVED that Cllr Tall should report a hedge in Church Road which is overhanging the footpath. Another overhanging hedge in School Lane is being dealt with.

RESOLVED that a manhole cover in Brookside which is gushing out sewage in times of heavy rain should be reported to Anglian Water.

6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received

6.1.1 20/05184/CTY – Comberton Village College – Proposed ground source heat pump consisting of heat pumps and buffers/storage to be accommodated within a proposed energy centre, borehole array and connecting pipework

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is neutral and to make no comments.

6.2 SCDC decisions for information

6.2.1 20/04802/HFUL – 34 High Street – Single storey rear extension following the demolition of the existing conservatory – Permission granted.

6.2.2 20/04699/HFUL – 1 Warboys Close – Proposed single storey front extension, single storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory, new crossover from highway with dropped kerb and re-roofing existing garage. Re-submission of planning application 20/03505/HFUL – Permission granted.

6.2.3 20/04605/HFUL – 7 Brookside – Extension of existing side dormer – Permission granted.

6.2.4 20/04294/FUL – Land to the 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 works – Permission refused.

6.2.5 S/2162/99/PNA – Bennell Farm, West Street – Agricultural storage building – Closed.

6.3 Tree works applications

None.

6.3.1 SCDC – New look letters for S211 conservation area tree work notices and TPO tree work

Noted.

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

7.1 Village Maintenance

Nothing to report.

7.2 Highways

Some potholes had enlarged due to flooding.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

Nothing to report.

7.4 Footpaths

RESOLVED to receive the verbal report form Cllr Miles that there was still a problem with horses churning up the footpaths and verges. Information on who to write to had been sought.

7.5 Defibrillator report
None.

7.6 Climate Change Working Group report
Cllr Popat reported on an E-parish bulletin regarding extending the green homes grant, forthcoming webinars and an article placed in the February issue of Calendar.

7.7 Charity Donation proposal
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

7.8 Garden bonfires
RESOLVED, following recent complaints about bonfires between School Lane and High Street to monitor the situation. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

7.9 County Broadband status report and request for Parish Council support
RESOLVED that the Chairman will put something in his report in Calendar and that Cllr Popat will mention the scheme online.

7.10 Drain on Church Road
Cllr Tall reported that he had taken a look and would take the matter up with CCC and update the resident.

8. Closure of meeting
There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.41 pm.

SignedChairmandate.

Approved