

**Minutes of the 781st meeting of Toft Parish Council  
on Monday 12 April 2021 at 7.00 pm  
Held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic**

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public, Becca Neal (Wildlife Trust BCN), District Councillor Grenville Chamberlain and Mrs C Newton (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

A minute's silence was observed in remembrance of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who had sadly died.

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

Residents raised the issue of speeding in School Lane, which had worsened considerably. Concerns were expressed as there were lots of children in the area.

Becca Neal, Communities and Wildlife Officer for the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, introduced herself and outlined her new role of looking after 100 reserves in West Cambridgeshire and woods in the area. She described the Trust's activities, including walks, talks, family sessions and sessions with schools and community groups. Some events were planned in Cambourne and would be posted on the website next week. Ms Neal would be interested to hear information on how people use the reserves, any issues encountered and any events residents would like to take place. The Parish Council highlighted the Climate Change Working Group and the recent S106 money near Bennell Farm for a green route to Hardwick Wood. East West Rail was on the Trust's agenda and blogs were on the website. The wider countryside team would be in touch regarding the rail route.

District Cllr Chamberlain reported on:

- The East West Rail proposed station. It would be a challenge for the route to go north and enter Cambridge North station rather than Cambridge South. It would carry freight from Milton Keynes and Bedford to Harwich, passing very close to the ancient Hardwick Wood.
- The letter from County Broadband. There might be an opportunity to get high speed broadband into Toft.
- The pre-election period and period of national mourning.
- There would be a meeting of the full SCDC Council next week.
- Cllr Chamberlain thanked the Parish Council for the one minute's silence.

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

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Borrell (Family bereavement).

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

Cllr Ellis-Evans declared an interest in the planning application for 58 School Lane as her orchard backs on to it.

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

None.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 1 March**

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a true record after changing "Clearing" to "Cleaning" in item 5.2 and altering "2016-2018" to "2026-2028" in the District Cllr's report.

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.

- 4.1 Resident – speeding in School Lane  
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Tall’s report that lorries, cars, bicycles and delivery drivers were using School Lane as a rat run. No data was available as yet. He recommended moving the mobile speed sign into School Lane to record registration numbers and speeds. Permission would be required from Balfour Beatty or SCDC to fix it to their poles. There were two suitable lamp posts at Home Meadow and opposite No 10, but the others were not suitable as they were set too far back. Planning permission is not required for a post at present. The cost for Balfour Beatty to carry out inspections is £100.00 for 5 locations. The data would provide evidence to support a 20 mph limit and the Parish Council would have to make a contribution towards any LHI application.  
RESOLVED to pay Balfour Beatty or SCDC as appropriate for permission to erect the mobile speed sign on one of the poles at an approximate cost of £100.00 plus VAT, up to a maximum of £150.00. (Prop AT, 2nd EM, unanimous)
3. **To consider any matters arising from the last or a previous meeting including**
- 3.1 **(3.2) East-West Rail – next actions including release of balance of pledge and proposal for a meeting on 26 April**  
RESOLVED, noting that the consultation had not as yet been received through residents’ letterboxes, to hold an Extra-ordinary meeting on 26 April to discuss East West Rail and hold a public session, to give an opportunity for residents to express their views and enable the Parish Council to gather information and conclude its response to the consultation.  
RESOLVED to invite District Cllr Chamberlain, County Cllr Nieto and Anthony Browne MP to the meeting.  
RESOLVED, given the Cambridge Approaches meeting last Thursday had been cancelled, that Cllr Ellis-Evans should organise a letter drop to notify residents of the two meetings to be held via Zoom.  
RESOLVED that the balance of the pledge of £3500 should be paid to Cambridge Approaches. (Prop MY, 2nd PEE, unanimous)
- 3.2 **(7.4) Proposal that a sign be installed by the allotments**  
RESOLVED that a sign be installed by the allotments at a cost of up to £100.00, asking riders not to ride on the footpaths, as they were still doing so. (Prop EM, 2nd AT, unanimous)
- 3.3 **(7.4) Proposal that a sign on the public right of way be reinstated**  
RESOLVED, that a sign on edge where allotments go down similar to Hardwick Woods should be reinstated with a more solid one as it had been torn off its post.
- 3.4 **(7.4) Proposal that the latch on the public right of way gate be repaired**  
RESOLVED to ask the Handyman to replace the missing latch on the gate at the road end of Lot Meadow.
- 3.5 **(7.4) Horses on footpaths – to consider what, if any, action is required**  
RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should write an article on Next Door informing residents that horse riding on public footpaths is illegal. (Prop EM, 2nd MY, unanimous)
- 3.6 **(7.4) Revised welcome pack – to consider quotation for printing**  
Cllr Miles reported that she had made up 150 presentation packs of 18 pages and paid for Rymans presentation packs. Cllr Miles is to send the invoice to the Clerk.
- 3.7 **(7.7) Annual Parish Meeting – to confirm date, who is to be invited, items for the agenda and to identify all the parish charities**  
RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May prior to the Parish Council’s Annual Meeting. (Prop MY, 2nd PE, unanimous)  
RESOLVED to invite the District and County Councillors. District Cllr Chamberlain indicated he would be unable to attend.  
Cllr Tall gave his apologies as he was unable to attend.
- 3.8 **Website review**  
RESOLVED given that the Parish Council would like the Clerk to have access to the Parish Council section of the website and upload documents, to ask the Clerk to let Cllrs

Yeadon and Ellis-Evans know the file sizes, what additional capacity was required and what the system should be able to do.

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

4.1 Resident – speeding in School Lane

Taken earlier.

4.2 The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants – community engagement

Taken earlier.

4.3 Shared Intelligence Ltd – Independent Audit of the Cambourne to Cambridge Better Public Transport Project

RESOLVED to make no response. (Prop MY, 2nd AT, unanimous)

4.4 Letter from Government regarding arrangements for Council meetings after 6 May – to set the date for the Annual Parish Council meeting in May

Noted.

**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, plus RH Landscapes (Grass cutting) £27.00 and Cambridge Approaches (East West Rail pledge) £3500.00. (Prop MY, 2nd PE, unanimous)

Salaries		£116.08
LGS Services	Admin support (February)	£536.21
LGS Services	Admin support (March)	£424.20

The initial payment of £1500 to Cambridge Approaches made between meetings was noted.

Credits, including allotment rents, were noted.

5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required

Nothing to report. The RoSPA report had not yet been received.

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

A lamp in School Lane with wires hanging from it had been reported to SCDC. RESOLVED that Cllr Tall should report a dead branch on a tree to CCC.

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

6.1.1 21/00632/HFUL – 72 West Street, Comberton – Single storey rear extension

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.

6.1.2 21/00555/HFUL – 58 School Lane – Partial removal of roof construction to front elevation and addition of first floor extension over the ground floor (re-submission of 20/02919/HFUL)

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.

6.2 SCDC decisions for information

None.

6.3 Tree works applications

6.3.1 21/0292/TTCA – Tyne Cottage, School Lane

Noted.

6.3.2 21/0470/TTCA - 3 High Street

Noted.

**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 potholes in Church Lane had been repaired. The drainage problems were still ongoing.

7.3 Toft People's Hall  
Nothing to report.

7.4 Footpaths  
Nothing to report.

7.5 Defibrillator report  
Nothing to report.

7.6 Climate Change Working Group report  
Cllr Popat reported that an article would be in the Calendar regarding air source heat pumps.  
The Greener Homes Grant scheme had ended.

7.7 The Parish Council and Coronavirus – to review the Council's performance during the pandemic and consider options for the future  
The Chairman reported that regrettably the Parish Council did not have any powers for the welfare of residents.  
RESOLVED that further consideration should be given to drawing up an Emergency Plan as held by some other Parish Councils.

7.8 Proposal that the Parish Council attends to the poor condition of the notice boards  
RESOLVED to ask the Handyman to look at the Parish Council notice board which is in a poor condition, with deteriorating hardboard, and the notice board by the Recreation Ground, and refurbish the glass doors and remove the board by the Recreation Ground.  
Cllr Miles is to be the contact. (Prop MY, 2nd PEE, unanimous)

7.9 Proposal that the Council considers Lot Meadow access  
Cllr Ellis-Evans reported that new residents had moved in and were in contact with the grass cutters regarding access.

8. **Closure of meeting**  
The dumping of rubbish on an allotment and a report on the suggested borehole are to be agenda items for the next meeting.  
There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.54 pm.

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