

**Minutes of the 792nd meeting of Toft Parish Council  
Held on Monday 7 March 2022 at 7.00 pm in The People's Hall, Toft**

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

In attendance: 3 members of the public and Mrs C Newton (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 member of the public referred to the drain in Beldams Close which had flooded, with a car covered in water and a great deal of debris from the trees opposite. The resident had spoken to the County Council three times about this. Cllr Tall confirmed that the Parish Council had also spoken to the County Council and would keep reporting it to Highways. Highways had dug out the drains in 2020 and it had been found that the drains north of the High Street were not connected in one direction, causing the water to flow into the gardens. Funding would be required to carry out the work. The annual inspection of the trees had taken place and there were no problems so far. Cllr Tall undertook to report the situation again and email the County Council directly.

Cllr Tall reported that there is permission to fix the speed camera to put outside Beldams Close and will run it there again soon.

Another resident endorsed the comments about the drains and also reported that the tree on the small green was dying. A fan-shaped style was chosen to deter children from swinging on it. It was reported that the condition of Church Road was appalling. Cllr Tall will report the potholes.

A meeting with the County Council about the parking by the Church will take place this week.

**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 Cllrs Howells (Covid) and Miles (Covid). Apologies were also received from District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain (Covid).

**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 7 February 2022**

RESOLVED that the minutes of 7 February 2022 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop MY, 2nd PE, unanimous)

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

**3.1 (3.1) Grass cutting tenders 2022-2024 – to consider response to queries and to award a contract**

The Clerk's advice was noted.

RESOLVED to proceed with Areas A and B (verges) Specification 1; funding had been re-allocated in the budget.

RESOLVED that the work should be checked by the Council every two months.

RESOLVED to award the contract to Buchans, for a three year contract with a review at the end of the first year, and to include a one-year break clause to address previous concerns. (Prop MY, 2nd PE, unanimous)

**3.2 (3.2) Cambridge Approaches meeting – to consider report from meeting and request for support for a letter to Grant Shapps regarding the publication of a business case for the Bedford to Cambridge section of the EWR proposals**

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Yeadon's report that he had attended two meetings of Cambridge Approaches. He had also attended a meeting with East West Rail. No further information had been provided.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council agrees to support the proposal that a letter be sent to Grant Shapps and suggests it may be worth adding a note regarding the northern route and that Cllr Yeadon should respond to Cambridge Approaches.

3.3 (7.1) To consider report on the Assets Walk

RESOLVED having considered the Assets List, to add the kiosk and plaque to the list and make corrections.

RESOLVED to carry out work on:

Benches

The village sign frame

Re-staining of the well

Cleaning of the bin in Brookside – Cllr Yeadon to action.

Post of Village Plan – RESOLVED to ask Clive Blower to re-install the post.

Sign in School Lane – this has been reported.

Playground equipment – RESOLVED to obtain two quotations.

Shed repainting – RESOLVED to ask Clive Blower to carry out the work.

Trees inspection – Carried out annually.

Playground bark – RESOLVED to order two bags of bark and ask Clive Blower to spread it.

Kiosk – RESOLVED to obtain quotations for paint and re-painting.

Posts – RESOLVED to ask Clive Blower to straighten and to refurbish the red reflective tape.

Victorian hand pumps – RESOLVED to ask Clive Blower.

Remove railings – RESOLVED to ask Clive Blower to attend to this if possible.

Notice board re-staining – RESOLVED to ask Clive Blower to attend to this.

Notice board removal – RESOLVED to ask Clive Blower to attend to this.

RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon is happy to walk around the village with Clive Blower to show the works required.

3.4 (8) Queen's Platinum Jubilee – to consider report and recommendations

3.4.1 To consider whether the beacon should be moved to Lot Meadow

RESOLVED to move the beacon to Lot Meadow and leave it there and to ask Martin Sebborn and Brian Roberts to refurbish it while it is down.

RESOLVED to leave the old pole where it is and erect a new one. (Prop PE, 2nd MY, unanimous)

3.4.2 Proposal that the budget for the Jubilee event be delegated to the Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Ellis-Evans

RESOLVED that a budget of £200 for the Jubilee event be delegated to the Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Ellis-Evans. (Prop PE, 2nd MY, unanimous)

3.5 (8) Silver Jubilee Field Maple in Mill Lane – to consider report and recommendation from tree surgeon

RESOLVED to place an order with Oakes and Watson to remove the existing tree but not to plant a replacement, and to enquire whether this would result in a lower price.

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

4.1 County Cllr Michael Atkins – CCC Flood Resilience Days and location for Floodmobile unit

RESOLVED to respond that the Council regrets that there is not enough space to host the Floodmobile in the village.

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) £640.00 and SCDC (Bins) £1242.00, noting that the payment to Toft PCC should be £139.55, not £130.00 as shown in the finance report. (Prop MY, 2nd PE-E, unanimous)

Salaries		£202.88
LGS Services	Admin support Feb	£460.37

CCC	(PHFI – Church Road parking)	£500.00
Toft PCC	Calendar	£139.55

- 5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required  
None.  
RESOLVED to accept the quotation from RoSPA Play Safety for the annual play inspection at £98.00 for the first five items plus £3.50 for each additional item and that the Parish Council does not require an accompanied visit.
- 5.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety  
None.
- 5.4 Toft shop – Expiry of Asset of Community Value designation – to consider whether to apply for renewal  
RESOLVED to apply for renewal keeping the information the same except for the occupancy, and that Cllr Yeadon should obtain information about this.
- 6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received**
- 6.1 Planning applications
- 6.1.1 22/00596/PRI0R – Land north of Comberton Road – Erection of an agricultural grain drying and conditioning storage silo  
RESOLVED to note that the application had already been decided by Greater Cambridge Planning.
- 6.2 SCDC decisions for information
- 6.2.1 21/05397/HFUL – 19 Mill Lane – Single storey side extension – Permission granted.
- 6.2.2 21/05233/HFUL – 12 Comberton Road – Demolition of a rear single storey lean to, the construction of a new single storey pitched roof rear extension and linking range to Tyne Cottage. Renovation of the existing property and repair and replacement of the existing timber windows. The construction of a 2-bay cart lodge and alteration and conversion of an existing outbuilding. New boundary treatments will be applied to the site. – Permission granted.
- 6.2.3 21/05234/LBC – As above, listed building application – Permission granted.
- 6.2.4 21/04706/HFUL – 18 School Lane – Demolition and replacement of single storey rear extension, veranda and Juliet balcony to rear, air source heat pump and bin store to side, and associated alterations – Permission granted.
- 6.3 Tree works applications  
None.
- 7. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**
- 7.1 Village Maintenance  
Post on the green – covered earlier.
- 7.2 Highways  
Cllr Tall reported:
- There is a possible date for a meeting next week regarding the parking by the Church.
  - A fallen tree in Green Lane has been reported.
  - Fallen tree in Lot Meadow – a working party meeting has been arranged.
- 7.3 Toft People's Hall  
Nothing to report.
- 7.4 Footpaths  
Puddles on footpaths are to be reported to CCC.
- 7.5 Defibrillator report including update on training session  
RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should check the defibrillator. Training has been given. Cllr Ellis-Evans has ordered new pads as they need replacing, and are awaited.
- 7.6 Climate Change Working Group report

An article on sustainable gardens is ready for this month. Cllr Popat has attended an seminar on Electric Charging Points which will be in the SCDC car park, and will enquire when they are to be installed.

7.7 Bennell Farm and proposal that the Parish Council liaises with Bennell Farm residents  
RESOLVED, given that the Council felt it would be a good idea to have someone from Bennell Farm on the Parish Council, that Cllr Miles should write to encourage residents to apply to become councillors.

7.8 Proposal that the Parish Council considers vacant properties in Toft  
RESOLVED that this is not an issue for the Parish Council.

**8. Closure of meeting**

RESOLVED that the offer from County Broadband should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

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

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APPROVED