

**Minutes of the 793rd meeting of Toft Parish Council
Held on Monday 4 April 2022 at 7.00 pm in The People's Hall, Toft**

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

In attendance: 5 members of the public, Craig Carter (County Broadband), District Councillor Grenville Chamberlain 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)

Craig Carter, on behalf of County Broadband, provided an update on progress with the project and the main build is due to be completed at the end of this month with connection due at the end of June, whereupon the service for customers who have pre-ordered will commence. Mr Carter confirmed that enough people had signed up to enable the project to proceed.

There was an opportunity for questions.

The Parish Council reported that contractors trimming trees in the High Street to accommodate overhead cabling had left the branches behind on the verge, causing an obstruction, and asked if they could be removed. Mr Carter apologised for the fact that these had not been removed at the time and undertook to raise the matter with the project manager and let the Parish Council know the outcome.

Mr Carter was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

A resident asked about the differing speed limits along the road from Comberton to Barton and expressed concerns on grounds of safety. Cllr Tall suggested asking CCC as to whether a request for a speed limit reduction to 40 mph for the whole road would now meet the criteria for an application. The funding options available to the Council were outlined, along with the operations of the LHI and PFHI schemes. Cllr Tall described the actions that the Parish Council had been pursuing to bring about safety improvements and deter speeding in the village over the last few years. The Council was currently waiting to hear the outcome of its application for speed reducing measures, including a 20 mph limit. Cllr Tall will speak to the Highways Officer on his visit to the village this week. The mobile signs had an impact on speeding in the village but there were many areas where speeding took place and it was becoming more widespread. The importance of collecting data was emphasised.

A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council had received any reports of suspicious behaviour in School Lane and near the pumping station in Brookside. This had not been raised with the Parish Council and the resident was advised to report any suspicious activity to the Police.

A resident reported that the path on the western side of the High Street was becoming clogged with rubbish and overhanging trees.

District Councillor Chamberlain reported:

- Cllr Chamberlain suggested speaking to the local Police sergeant about speeding issues.
- The Active Travel scheme proposals were outlined, whereby St Neots Road could be closed to through traffic at the Hardwick side of Long Road, resulting in additional traffic from Cambridge to Hardwick having to go through Toft. He suggested it would be worth pressing harder for speed reductions in Toft.
- Council Tax bills.
- Cllr Chamberlain announced that he would not be seeking re-election in May and thanked the Parish Council for all its co-operation over the years. The Chairman thanked Cllr Chamberlain for his help and wished him well.

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 Borrell (work commitment).

- 1.2 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda
None. It was noted that a tree works application related to a Parish Council tree.
- 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 March 2022**
RESOLVED that the minutes of 7 March 2022 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after the following amendments: under item 3.3, line 16, add “and to refurbish the red reflective tape” and in line 17, change “pumps” to “pump” and add “to repaint”; on page 963 line 1, change “an” to “a”; and under agenda item 7.6, item, delete the words “Cllr Grenville Chamberlain regarding” to read “liaises with Bennell Farm residents.” (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)
The confidential minutes of 10 January 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **To consider any matters arising from the last or a previous meeting including**
- 3.0.1 (3.4.1) Movement of beacon to Lot Meadow
Cllr Ellis-Evans reported that there had been problems taking the pole down as it was in poor condition and could be moved when pushed. One suggestion was that a low level telegraph pole could be erected with the Millennium plaque on it, with an interpretation board alongside, but this had yet to be discussed with the Historical Society.
4. **To consider correspondence received since the last meeting requiring the Council’s attention**
- 4.1 County Broadband – request to attend meeting
Taken earlier.
- 4.2 SCDC – Bennell Farm appeal – request for update on local projects for S106 contributions
RESOLVED to make the following changes to the list of S106 project requirements and to notify James Fisher of SCDC:
Children’s play space – To read: “£20,000 for new play equipment and refurbishment of play equipment and the area”
Indoor community space – To read: “£8000 for the upgrade of Toft People’s Hall.”
(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 KP, unanimous)
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|--------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Salaries | | £529.25 |
| Toft People’s Hall | Room hire | £45.00 |
| LGS Services | Admin support March | £461.63 |
- 5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required
Cllr Yeadon reported that a tree fallen on the mound at the Recreation Ground and had been cleared.
RESOLVED in response to a resident’s concerns about the platform on the toddler climbing frame equipment as this was not protected on two sides to raise this matter with RoSPA and ask them to give an opinion when they visit in April.
- 5.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety
RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should investigate the door on the telephone kiosk, which a resident had reported was very stiff.
Cllr Ellis-Evans explained that the beacon post was not at risk of falling at present and would be taken down in the next few weeks.
- 5.4 Appointment of Internal Auditor for FY2022
RESOLVED to note that Canalbs had already been appointed.

- 5.5 To agree the date and time of the Annual Parish Meeting and the First and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting and the First and Annual Meeting should take place on Tuesday 10 May in the People's Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting is to commence at 7.00 pm, followed by the Parish Council meeting. Only the County and District Councillors are to be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to give reports. District Cllr Chamberlain gave his apologies for both meetings but will send a report. Setting the date for the Annual Meeting for the William Eversden's Charity will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- 6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received**
- 6.1 Planning applications
- 6.1.1 21/05233/CONDA – 12 Comberton Road – Submission of details required by Condition 3 (Arboricultural method statement (AMS) and Tree Protection Plan (TPP) of planning permission 21/05233/HFUL
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 6.1.2 21/05234/CONDA – 12 Comberton Road – Submission of details required by Condition 5 (Sample panel) of listed building consent 21/05234/LBC
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 6.1.3 21/05234/CONDB – 12 Comberton Road – Submission of details required by Condition 3 (Chimney stacks) of listed building consent 21/05234/LBC
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 6.2 SCDC decisions for information
- 6.2.1 22/00596/PRIOR – Land north of Comberton Road – Erection of an agricultural grain drying and conditioning storage site – Prior approval not required
- 6.3 Tree works applications
- 6.3.1 22/0316/TTCA – 10 High Street
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 6.3.2 22/0380/TTCA – Mill Lane, Toft
RESOLVED to make no response.
- 7. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**
- 7.1 Village Maintenance
Cllr Tall reported that Clive Blower had been informed about the post on the Green.
- 7.2 Highways
Cllr Tall reported:
- Cllr Tall was due to meet with Highways and a representative of the Church to discuss the PHFI application for the layby near the Church.
 - Raw data from the speed camera showed instances of speeding of over 60 mph in the High Street and the average speed for all vehicles, including bicycles on one day as 30 mph. Cllr Tall proposed keeping the camera on the High Street and moving it around on the High Street, and will report the speeding to the Police. Cllr Yeadon will contact the Speedwatch organiser.
- 7.3 Toft People's Hall
Nothing to report.
- 7.4 Footpaths
Cllr Miles has reported a fallen tree on the footbridge near Frogs Farm to CCC.
- 7.5 Defibrillator report including update on training session
Cllr Ellis-Evans reported that she was seeking clarification on an invoice for £60.00 from the Community Heartbeat Trust as she believed the original funding had not yet all been spent. RESOLVED to keep the invoice on hold pending clarification. Cllr Ellis-Evans has also enquired about a set of replacement set of pads to keep for when they are needed.
- 7.6 Climate Change Working Group report

Articles for the Calendar have been arranged for the next two issues. The group is trying to arrange talks with other parishes.

Cllr Chamberlain advised that a visit from an SCDC officer could be arranged to talk to the group about possible activities. He also provided the contact details for the Hardwick Climate Change group.

7.7 Notice board – offer from resident to carry out maintenance work

Cllr Miles outlined the maintenance work she had carried out.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles on the Council’s behalf should accept the kind offer from a resident to paint the hardboard on the notice board, and to supply materials.

8. Closure of meeting

Cllr Ellis-Evans stressed the importance of applying for permission for the Jubilee road closure as soon as possible. The music has also been organised.

Cllr Ellis-Evans reported that the oak frame for the interpretation board put up in Lot Meadow in 2018 was cracking and deteriorating. Cllr Ellis-Evans had contacted the manufacturers and will report back to a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Council members for all their hard work over the last four years. Cllr Chamberlain also expressed his good wishes.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

SignedChairmandate.

