

**Minutes of the 799th meeting of Toft Parish Council  
Held on Monday 6 February 2023 at 7.00 pm in The People's Hall, Toft**

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), E Miles, C Watson, S Collinson and E Darbyshire.

In attendance: 2 members of the public 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)**

**Cambridge Nature Network - Natural Cambridgeshire Nature Recovery Toolkit - Natalie Lambert**

Ms Lambert's apologies for absence were received too late for the meeting.

A resident reported that the village green was being churned up by lorries on the restaurant side.

Another resident reported that the white lines in the village were becoming indistinct. Cllr Darbyshire responded that CCC were awaiting confirmation for the renewal of white lines along the whole stretch of the B1046 from Barton to Bourn, but otherwise the markings were scheduled to be renewed later in the spring.

An observation was made that a blue car had been parked in School Lane, facing the wrong way, since before Christmas. Cllr Watson offered to take a look.

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

1.1 To approve written apologies and reasons for absence  
None.

1.2 To receive declarations of interests 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 9 January 2023**

RESOLVED that the minutes of 9 January 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop MY, 2nd SC, unanimous)

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

3.1 (3.1) To consider any applications for co-option or how to fill any vacancies left either by insufficient candidates at election or casual vacancies

Letters had been delivered to residents of the High Street and businesses in the village but no applications had been received. A suggestion was made to have a Parish Council stall at forthcoming events, or to approach the café or school.

RESOLVED to continue with efforts to attract new members. Cllr Watson may approach a resident.

3.2 (7.9) Cambridge Nature Network – to consider any matters arising from the open session

The representative of Cambridge Nature Network was not present.

3.3 (3.2) Climate Change and Green Issues – to consider action points and funding opportunities and also to consider a proposal for a Toft Parish Council Environmental Policy

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Collinson verbal report that the District Council were encouraging Parish Councils to declare an Environmental Emergency.

RESOLVED following a discussion to make the following amendments to the draft policy:

- Under "Reducing Pollutants" remove the bullet point regarding electric chargers, as the Parish Council had not agreed to install them, but to explore the feasibility

of doing so. RESOLVED that Cllr Collinson should check with the Village College and a local business who was permitted to use the chargers on their premises.

- Under “Environmental Clean Up,” remove “Monitoring and actioning exceptional clean up requirements,” and “Annual monitoring of the health of streams and other water sources,” as the Parish Council is unable to carry out these functions, and to replace with “Raising awareness of what residents can do to help.” The order of sections should be changed with this section coming after the Nature section.
- Under “Encouraging Nature,” add information about what people can do to benefit nature, such as installing bird boxes, planting small trees or shrubs to encourage insects and add another bullet point “Encourage people to plant bulbs or look after hedgehogs.” A stall at the forthcoming Spring Feast on 7 May was suggested.
- Under “Raising Awareness,” clarification was sought about signing the Climate Change Charter and any commitments this entailed. Cllr Collinson will circulate the information.

RESOLVED that Cllr Collinson should bring a revised draft for further consideration to the next meeting.

3.4 (3.3) Notice board at the Birdlings – to consider report and recommendation and feedback on the SCDC Community Chest application

RESOLVED, having considered the options available, that the Parish Council would prefer a wall mounted notice board as a cheaper option, and that Cllr Collinson should confirm with the site office that this was acceptable.

RESOLVED given that the Parish Council was not eligible for Community Chest funding, that any notice board would need to be funded from reserves.

RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk and Cllr Collinson to order the wall mounted notice board or if not possible, the post mounted board, dependent on the outcome of Cllr Collinson’s enquiries. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

3.5 (3.7) New multiplay equipment – to consider recommendation for equipment and proposed location and funding update

RESOLVED, having considered the play equipment location plan prepared by Cllrs Watson and Miles, to approve the areas behind the mound for the musical items and the area in front of the mound as the potential location for new climbing equipment.

RESOLVED, given that the Parish Council was not eligible for Community Chest funding, that Cllr Watson should continue to look for sources of funding for the two musical items at approximately £2,000 each and the toddler climbing frame at a cost of approximately £8,000.

RESOLVED that Cllr Watson should circulate a written proposal including details of the cost of the items and installation as soon as possible, for consideration by the Parish Council at the next or a future meeting.

3.6 (7.3) Toft People’s Hall – to consider request for funding for alterations

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Watson’s verbal report that the People’s Hall Committee had revised and expanded the plans to include an extension to the kitchen, using funding from the Jubilee Fund, the Management Committee, S106 money and fundraising in the village. The Committee planned to submit the application for Phase 2 by 9 March and prior to that, put in a planning application.

RESOLVED that it was not possible for the Parish Council to consider the revised request without a reasoned written funding proposal and updated schedule of costs for the project, and that Cllr Watson should inform the People’s Hall Committee accordingly.

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

None.

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 ED, unanimous)

|                    |                   |         |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Salaries           |                   | £169.93 |
| Toft People's Hall | Room Hire         | £15.00  |
| Toft People's Hall | Room Hire         | £15.00  |
| Toft People's Hall | Calendar          | £146.60 |
| LGS Services       | Admin support Jan | £469.46 |

Clarification is to be sought regarding an invoice from Morelock for approximately £98 for a new PCB board, which did not appear to have been received.

- 5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required  
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Watson's verbal report that all was in order.
- 5.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety and relates to Council property  
RESOLVED with regard to the damage reported to the Village Green from delivery vehicles, that Cllr Yeadon should investigate the idea of putting boulders in, and that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- 5.4 To consider the date of the May meeting and the date of the Annual Parish Meeting  
RESOLVED that the Parish Council should hold the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the May meeting on 15 May, commencing at 7.00 pm, but not to issue specific invitations.  
RESOLVED to accept with gratitude a resident's kind offer to provide refreshments. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, carried with 1 abstention)
- 6. To consider any Planning or Tree works applications or related items received**
- 6.1 Planning applications  
None.
- 6.2 SCDC decisions for information  
None.
- 6.3 Tree works applications  
RESOLVED to note the previously circulated information regarding the SCDC planning system.
- 6.3.1 23/0053/TTCA – 56 Comberton Road  
RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council has no comments as insufficient information had been provided.
- 6.3.2 23/0061/TTCA – Home Meadow, Comberton Road  
RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comments.
- 6.3.3 23/0020/TTCA – 9 Comberton Road – to note response made using delegated powers between meetings – The Parish Council made no comments  
Noted.
- 7. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**
- 7.1 Village Maintenance  
RESOLVED to note that Cllr Yeadon had made a temporary repair to the waymarker post in School Lane. CCC had said that replacement was unlikely until the autumn.  
RESOLVED, having noted that that the window sill on the bus shelter was rotting, the interior light was not working, and the notice board inside was also in poor condition that Cllr Yeadon should take a look and check whether the bulb needs replacing and remove the notice board.  
RESOLVED that Cllr Darbyshire should publicise the apps showing the bus times. Residents should report any issues to Whippet.  
RESOLVED that Cllr Yeadon should take a look at the Parish Council notice board as the doors do not close properly and a new backing is needed.
- 7.2 Highways

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Darbyshire's verbal update on potholes and overhanging hedging at the bottom of School Lane, which had been reported to CCC.

It was reported that vegetation was also overhanging the entrance and obscuring the sign for the public bridleway at Pinfold Well Lane.

The Parish Council asked that the organisers of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations ensure CCC were willing to allow the Jubilee tree to be planted on their land, and that CCC were informed before the planting took place.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

Taken earlier.

7.4 Footpaths

Cllr Miles reported that all was in order.

A proposal <sup>(EM)</sup> that a footpath/multi-user path be created to the north of the Birdlings and parallel to the road, leading along the field edge from the new development to Hardwick Road, and continuing opposite towards the Drift, in order to connect the two communities is to be an agenda item for the next meeting Cllr Miles should draft a letter to the landowner for consideration by the Parish Council at the meeting.

7.5 Defibrillator report

RESOLVED to note all is in working order. A date for training is awaited.

7.6 Birdlings liaison

Nothing to report.

7.7 Proposal that the Parish Council considers alternative requests for financial assistance with Operation Orb if a marquee can be borrowed

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Miles's report circulated at the meeting outlining the celebration arrangements for the King's Coronation weekend.

RESOLVED, noting that the use of a marquee had been secured free of charge, to agree that the £2,000 funding previously approved by the Parish Council for the marquee, could be used for the other items of expenditure as listed, including insurances, amounting to £1,911. (Prop EM, 2nd ED, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles will convey the Parish Council's request that any surplus income from the event be returned to the Parish Council.

7.8 Proposal that the Parish Council considers the suggestion of a "Toft Community Chest Fund"

RESOLVED to note that the Parish Council was unable to provide funding support for individuals undertaking personal ventures.

RESOLVED that a proposal by Cllr Milesto seek suggestions from residents as to what they would like to see provided in the village from anticipated S106 monies, should be deferred to later in the year when the budget was being considered.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

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