

**Minutes of the (804th) meeting of Toft Parish Council  
Held on Monday 5 June 2023 at 7.00 pm in The People's Hall, Toft**

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public Mr Ben Stoehr (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 5.4 next.

**5.4 Employment matters (confidential)**

RESOLVED that Mr Ben Stoehr would take over as the Clerk and RFO from 1 July 2023 on the same terms and conditions as the current Clerk.

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

It was observed that a truck had recently been clearing out the drains in the village.

A resident queried why the large green had been cut but the small green had not. The Parish Council did not know but would check with the contractors.

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

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Darbyshire and Harris (both out of parish).

**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 15 May 2023**

RESOLVED that the minutes of 15 May 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop MY, 2nd EM, unanimous)

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

**3.1 (Open) Cambridge Nature Network – to consider any matters arising from the open session**

The representative of Cambridge Nature Network was not present.

**3.1 (3.2) Climate Change and Green issues – to consider revised draft Environmental Policy**

RESOLVED to approve the revised draft as circulated by Cllr Collinson, noting that the policy was an aspiration rather than a fixed plan at this stage. (Prop SC, 2nd EM, unanimous)

**3.3 (7.2) Purchase and installation of posts for the Green – to consider report and recommendation**

RESOLVED to order hammer-in posts approximately 18 inches tall costing approximately £65 for six posts, up to a maximum cost of £100.00.

**3.4 (7.3) To consider whether the Parish Council should explore public electric car chargers**

RESOLVED, given that the Parish Council does not have any suitable land at the moment that Cllr Collinson should look into whether the Comberton Village College chargers could be made available to the public, and explore options at the People's Hall and the new Co-op store.

**3.5 (8.2) Donation from resident – proposal that a thank you plate be purchased for the Chair of the organising committee taking the costs from the donation**

RESOLVED to use the donation money to contribute £350.00 towards the Coronation celebration expenses, and to purchase a commemorative Coronation plate at a cost of approximately £50.00 as a thank you to the Committee.

RESOLVED that the remainder of the funds be put towards the new notice board at The Birdlings.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should investigate the costs of a replacement Parish Council notice board, to be funded from the budget, and ask the supplier of the Birdlings notice board whether there would be a discount for ordering two boards at the same time.

3.6 (9.4) To consider costed proposal for replacement toddler climbing equipment and for musical instrument play equipment

Cllr Watson reported that the price of the equipment had increased from £10,000 to £15,000 and that installation costs were not known.

RESOLVED that Cllr Watson should investigate whether alternative equipment is available, with an upper limit of £10,000. To be added to the agenda when the information is received.

3.7 Options for speed reduction measures – to consider suggestions made at last meeting

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

Cllr Collinson reported that the positioning of the MVAS on lamp posts in School Lane did not allow enough time to pick up vehicles reliably, he will continue to test and experiment with the direction and location of the equipment.

3.8 (11.4) Proposed new footpath – to consider response from resident if received

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles would update the letter and map to add an extension of the path to The Birdlings.

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

4.1 Land at the end of Brookside – resident's concerns

RESOLVED having considered and discussed the correspondence that Cllr Miles should publish the short piece written by the Chairman in the village news.

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 Buchans (Grass cutting) £798.01. (Prop MY, 2nd SC, unanimous)

Salaries		£297.13
LGS Services	Admin support May 23	£479.33

A resident's donation towards Coronation expenses and/or notice board was noted.

5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required

Cllr Watson reported she would attempt some minor works and would report back on any work required.

5.3 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety and relates to Council property

None.

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

6.1 Planning applications

6.1.1 20/01992/CONDA – Bennell Farm, West Street – Submission of details required by conditions 3 (future management and maintenance of streets), 8 (traffic management plan), 17 (surface water drainage), 18 (surface water run-off), 20 (foul water drainage), 21 (construction ecological management plan), and 24 (construction environmental management plan) of planning permission 20/01992/FUL  
RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comments.

The application for a retirement home in Comberton was noted. Comberton Parish Council was against the proposal. There was concern that the doctors' surgery in Comberton did not have the capacity but there could be an opportunity to improve the service which could be considered in future.

6.2 SCDC decisions for information

None.

6.3 Tree works applications

None.

7. **Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated**7.1 Village Maintenance

Cllr Yeadon reported that he was still working with Balfour Beatty to fix the light in the bus shelter.

7.2 Highways

The MVAS equipment had been covered earlier.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

Cllr Watson reported that the last meeting had been cancelled and that no meetings were upcoming.

7.4 Footpaths

Cllrs Yeadon and Miles had met with Peter Gaskin, the CCC footpaths officer following a resident's complaint about a tree in Pinfold Well Lane. CCC had stated that it was not CCC's responsibility on this occasion but the neighbouring landowner was responsible for maintenance of the vegetation and trees.

A resident raised the amount of grass growing in the Snicket (also known as the Sand Path). RESOLVED to ask Buchans for it be cut.

7.5 Defibrillator report

The Defibrillator is in good working order. Cllr Watson is waiting for details of the training. RESOLVED that the cost of £175.00 and room hire is to be paid by the Parish Council. (Prop CW, 2nd MY, unanimous)

7.6 Birdlings liaison

Cllr Collinson reported that it was not possible for the notice board to be mounted on the wall. RESOLVED that the notice board with legs should be ordered and installed at reasonable cost as previously agreed.

7.7 Update on East West Rail's (EWG) route announcement and to consider if any action is required

The Chairman reported that the EWR route had been announced but there were no new implications for Toft. The next consultation would be in the middle of next year. The issue of embankments was being looked at. EWR was holding a Zoom meeting at 5 pm on 13 June. RESOLVED that Cllr Collinson should attend as Cllr Yeadon is away.

7.8 Proposal to support nature at Toft Wood and to consider any response received from the Woodland Trust

Cllr Miles outlined the background. The Woodland Trust are open to the idea of owl/bat boxes or insect houses but they have a process for applications. This is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

7.9 Proposal that the Parish Council considers what monies we already have that might be coming close to the date they should be spent by so the Council may do a bit of forward planning

RESOLVED to allocate the S106 money from West Street and the 70 School Lane funding to the climbing frame.

RESOLVED to check whether the S106 money from Bennell Farm could be used for play equipment.

RESOLVED to ask the community for their ideas on how to spend some of the S106 funds.

8. **Closure of meeting**

RESOLVED to ask Martin Sebborn to assist Cllrs Miles and Watson with email problems.

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

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