

**Minutes of the 812nd meeting of Toft Parish Council
Held on Monday 4 March 2024 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

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

In attendance: 7 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)

Concerns were expressed about recent burglaries in School Lane. Two houses and one van had been burgled and residents felt they were being watched. The crimes had been reported to the Police and were believed to be linked to other villages.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should write an article for the Calendar warning residents to be vigilant and that the Parish Council should contact the local Police Officer reporting residents' concerns.

A resident asked about the new tree for the Green. The Chairman had received it and it will be planted on 18 March.

A resident reported that the road sign in School Lane and Brookside was covered with vegetation and that it was not possible to see the double bend sign to the left towards the bridge. Cllr Yeadon explained that CCC was responsible but that he would trim back the foliage.

It was also reported that street lights at the bottom of Pinfold Well lane and Brookside were not working properly due to overgrown vegetation. The resident was asked to report this on the CCC website.

Another resident reported that he had cut back brambles in School Lane.

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 5 February 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes of 5 February 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after adding under item 1.4 that Cllr Miles to be Birdlings liaison and noticeboard.

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

3.1 (3.2) Application for village-wide 20 mph zone – update

Cllr Darbyshire reported that of 98 responses received, 70 had been in favour of the village-wide 20 mph limit, and 28 against. Those against would prefer that the 30 mph limit be retained, with the addition of traffic calming.

Cllr Darbyshire had spoken to Barton Parish Council and would be speaking to a member of Comberton Parish Council this week.

RESOLVED, given that there was no safe space for a zebra crossing, chicanes were very expensive, and good support from surveys and speed camera data supported the scheme (the highest speed recorded was 83 mph), that Cllr Darbyshire should proceed with submitting the application for the 20 mph limit to be implemented throughout the village, with the Parish Council contributing 20% of the cost. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

3.2 (3.4) Wildlife survey – update

Cllr Miles reported that 85 responses had been received and copies of the survey had been left in the shop and People's Hall.

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should place a note in the Calendar to seek more responses.
RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should speak to Tricia Ellis-Evans about placing 5 bat boxes in Lot Meadow.

3.3 (3.6) Community Governance Review

Cllr Yeadon reported on the implications of a boundary change, including that S106 funding allocated to Toft would remain with the Parish Council; the village would still be in the catchment area for the Village College. Some £6,000 would be lost from the precept if the Birdlings was no longer included within the parish boundary. A reply was awaited from the District Councillor about the implications for business rates for the shop. Cllr Yeadon proposed to speak to Comberton Parish Council this was not seconded.

RESOLVED not to pursue the proposal for the time being, having taken into account the views of Councillors which included the risk that the village could be swallowed up by development in other villages, the effect of the new Comberton shop, the setting of a precedent, and the absence of a benefit to Toft.

3.4 (5.4) To consider arrangements for the Assets Walk

RESOLVED that the Assets Walk should be held on 23 March at 11 am.

3.5 (3.1) Proposal for new climbing frame – to consider updated quote

RESOLVED noting that the manufacturers had mis-quoted for the project, that Cllr Watson should contact them to request a discount of £3,150.00. (Prop MY, 2nd CW, unanimous)

Other

(4.1) SCDC – Letter regarding Parish Council engagement

RESOLVED to note the response from the SCDC Council leader thanking the Council for its response and that she was happy to attend a meeting if members wished to discuss any concerns.

(7.8 of January meeting) Toft car park and fence

RESOLVED to note the response from SCDC that they would look at the current condition of the car park and reply in due course regarding any remedial work.

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, plus Dean Missen (play equipment installation) £275.00, Tricia Ellis-Evans (Printing expenses) £33.80, and noting that the payment to LGS Services should be £491.92 and not £491.81 as shown in the finance report.

Salaries		£297.13
Toft People's Hall	Room Hire	£15.00
LGS Services	Admin support Feb	£491.92
Toft People's Hall	Room Hire	£15.00
Toft People's Hall	Room Hire	£45.00

5.2 To receive play inspection reports and consider any work required

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Watson's report that all was in order and that the percussion play equipment had received good reviews.

RESOLVED to check when the grass cutting recommences after the winter and how often the cuts will take place.

RESOLVED to place a note about the new percussion play equipment, along with photographs, in the Calendar and on the website.

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
None.

6.2 SCDC decisions for information
None.

6.3 Tree works applications

6.3.1 24/0243/TTCA – 6 Glebe Close

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comments.

7. Members items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated

7.1 Village Maintenance

Cllr Yeadon reported that he was progressing the replacement of the glass window in the bus shelter with a Perspex window.

7.2 Highways

Cllr Darbyshire reported that she would report the road surface in Church Lane, churned up mud, and a pothole, and would pursue the pruning of the bushes on the bend.

7.3 Toft People's Hall

Cllr Watson reported that there would be a meeting on 21 March to discuss the proposed improvements.

7.4 Footpaths

Nothing to report.

7.5 Defibrillator report

Nothing to report.

7.6 Birdlings liaison

Cllr Miles reported that the new notice boards had still not been delivered. RESOLVED to chase the supplier.

7.0.7 East West Rail

Cllr Yeadon reported that there would be two more consultations this summer, relating to the physical details of the railway and elevations, and roads and footpaths.

7.0.8 Queen's Platinum Jubilee area

Cllr Yeadon reported that the work to remove the stumps from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area would take place on 18 March.

Consideration of a quote for the fence at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee area is to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

RESOLVED to obtain a quotation for cutting the grass at the area for consideration at the next meeting.

7.0.9 Hedgehog Highways

RESOLVED that Cllr Miles should place a note in the Calendar publicising the availability of the "Hedgehog Highways" gates.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

SignedChairmandate.