

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN TOFT PEOPLES' HALL ON
MONDAY 11th MAY 2009**

PRESENT: Councillors D Bilisland; G Norgett; S Roberts (Chairman); J Betson; & P Hercus. County Councillor F Whelan. There were three electors in attendance: M Coppin, J Howard & P Johnson.

Item	Content	Action
1.	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND ACTIONS OUTSTANDING Copies of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on May 12th 2008 were available for reference and in response to the Chairman's proposal that these were a correct record the meeting RESOLVED to approve the minutes. There were no actions outstanding.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES These were received from Cllrs Sinclair & Jayne, Arpi Johnson, Alan Coppin, District Councillor R Martlew & Governors of Comberton Village College.</p>	
3.	<p>LOCAL PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION There were no representatives from either the Meridian Primary School or the Comberton Village College in attendance and no reports had been lodged with the Clerk. <i>Clerks note: a report of the Meridian County Primary School was received following the meeting and a copy is attached to the original minutes of this meeting.</i></p>	
4.	<p>COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT County Councillor Fiona Whelan presented a report, a copy of which was lodged with the Clerk and is attached to the original minutes of this meeting. In response to a question about lack of consultation in regard to plans for expansion and a sixth form college at Comberton, the County Councillor responded that this had been a result of the funding for the project being provided by Central Government. In conclusion it was RESOLVED to note the report with thanks.</p>	
5.	<p>PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008-9 The Chairman presented a report, a copy of which is bound with the original minutes of this meeting and it was RESOLVED to note this with thanks.</p>	
6.	<p>TOFT PARISH PLAN Cllr Norgett reported on behalf of Chairman, Mr Martin Sebborn. The report had been written up and submitted for professional editing. A copy was to be presented for review to the Parish Council soon. A local Graphic Artist was preparing illustrations for the plan and printing was likely to be arranged very soon. It was therefore RESOLVED to note the report with thanks.</p>	
7.	<p>FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MARCH 2008 The Clerk reported that the Council had received an income of £17,707 and that expenditure was £12,384 for the year, resulting in reserves carried forward in the amount of £20,154. The value of the Council's assets was £27,597.22 and the Council's loan outstanding to the Public Works Loan Board used to improve the People's Hall in the 1990s was £14,812.86. In response to a question, the Clerk told the meeting that the interest rate payable on the loan was 5 5/8%. In conclusion it was RESOLVED to note the report with thanks.</p>	

8.	<p>TOFT CHARITIES Cllr S Roberts gave a report, a copy of which is bound with the original minutes of this meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>TOFT PEOPLE'S HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE The meeting heard from Chairman, Mr Peter Johnson, that the AGM of the Committee would take place the following Monday 17th May at 8.00pm and all were welcome. It was therefore RESOLVED to note the report with thanks.</p>	
10.	<p>CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY A report received from PCSO Trudy Newman-Hart was lodged with the Clerk an is attached to the original minutes of this meeting. The Chairman presented a summary and it was RESOLVED to note this with thanks.</p>	
11.	<p>OPEN SESSION Mr Johnson asked the Council about the Village Car Park, the ownership and status of which had been raised the previous year. He expressed his view that the Car Park should be adopted by the County Council, whose ability to spend on the Guided Bus Project indicated sufficient resource to manage a small village car park. In response, County Cllr Whelan said that adoption by County was unlikely unless the amenity was brought up to a specific standard for adoption. She also advised that since 50% of the revenue from Council Housing was claimed by Central Government, maintenance budgets for the housing authorities were very tight. Mr Johnson expressed support for coordination locally to purchase heating oil as a bulk order in order to benefit from cost savings and reduced carbon footprint by means of reduced delivery trips. County Councillor Whelan urged Councillors to encourage use of local bus services on the grounds that low demand would lead to service cuts. Mrs Coppin referred to work carried out to reduce the risk of slips and falls on the footpath at St Andrews Cottages. Mr Johnson commented that the work carried out was ineffective in his view and that works to improve drainage were required. Finally, the Chairman thanked Mrs Coppin and Mrs Howard for providing refreshments and the meeting was closed at 8.45pm.</p>	

Meridian Primary School, Comberton

There have been a few changes at Meridian this year... In September we welcomed our new headteacher Ms Glennis Virgo. Glennis has thrown herself wholeheartedly into the new role and already the school is reaping the benefits. It is 40 years since Meridian first opened its doors and as a school we are looking to commemorate that by creating an 'outside classroom' on the site of the decommissioned swimming pool. The school is also working toward the Bronze level for Eco-school status. A group of 12 pupils and 4 adults are now part of an 'eco-action team' and meet regularly to move this forward.

Education, education, education...it doesn't matter how many times we say it, our children only get one chance...it continues, therefore, to be our aim at Meridian to provide quality education that is accessible to all and our values statement sums this up... Opportunity, challenge, creativity – excellence for all.

Miss Chris Westgarth
Chair of Governors
Meridian Primary School

County Councillor's Report from Cllr Fiona Whelan 11-05-2009

Having had just 5 months in the job this is a rather briefer than usual Councillor's report. My main goal has been to attend Parish Council Meetings and other Village events to find out the main issues that need to be worked on for Toft residents.

- **Sustainable Communities Act**

We've seen this passed by the District Council and it is due to be tabled as a motion at County Council level. Hopefully by the end of the year we should see its implementation for the County.

- **Pavements**

Any defective pavements reported to me have been passed on to the County Council who have a rolling programme of work to repair pavements and pot holes this year. The bad weather in January caused a significant amount of damage to the road surfaces as water froze and then melted, and Highways have allocated extra workers at the moment to address the extra potholes.

- **Gritting**

I have worked with the Parish Council to identify roads that need gritting. Any new slots on the gritting rota have to be applied for in advance. The Council will evaluate the list of roads applied for by Parish Councils later in the year and allocate gritting slots as resources allow.

In addition I have raised the profile of the lack of gritting of cycle paths and I'm pleased to pass on that the County Council will be reviewing its policy of not gritting cycle paths before the next winter.

- **Bus timetables**

This is becoming an ongoing saga as the timetables have changed yet again as of April 12th. The new routes see the Citi 4 now extending as far as St Neots and Whippet providing a service out to Gamlingay. The biggest impact is that there is no 09:00 service from Toft anymore. I've had meetings with Transport Officers at the County about it and I'm waiting to hear back from them with more information about these changes and whether anything can be done to continue the service. Several of the nearby villages – in particular Hardwick and Caldecote are particularly affected and we will be pursuing the possibility of diverting some buses during the day to allow a pick up in these villages.

- **Sure Start**

I have been actively involved with the proposed Sure Start Centre for our area, which is planned to be located in Caldecote but offering services to all neighbouring villages. Sure Start is a Government funded, three-stage initiative to provide facilities for families with pre-school children. They provide a type of drop in centre for advice with a doctor/nurse on site available and extra facilities such as speech and language therapy at different times during the week. Plans are being drawn up at the moment and whilst the site is constructed it is proposed to use Caldecote Village Hall as a temporary base. With a considerable number of children in the area on the Autistic Spectrum it is hoped to be able to develop a parental support group which I will be very happy to work with given my experience of using these support groups in the past.

I have concerns relating to the accessibility of the Centre by bus / bicycle and will be working hard on these issues over the coming months. Currently the proposed Cycle path for Hardwick to Toft – which would join up with the Toft to Comberton path – has hit a glitch and will require more investigation.

- **CVC expansion and Safer Routes to School**

I have worked with both Toft and Comberton Parish Councils since being elected to address the issue of CVC expansion. The Police and the County Council are proposing to help both CVC and Meridian Primary School draw up a Safer Routes To School plan. At present we are waiting for the first meeting to take place between the concerned parties. I hope that this working group will be able to address the traffic issues raised by the expansion of CVC and work towards safer pedestrian access to Meridian.

- **Day Care Provision**

In the last few weeks I have been very involved with the proposed closure of the Day Care Centre in Toft. Together with those who attend the centre and some of their carers, I have been very public about the lack of consultation re the closure and the lack of provision of such a service throughout the County – and in particular the nine villages of the Hardwick Division. I'm delighted that at the 11th hour, the Home has had a change of heart and that the Centre will remain open for another 12 – 18 months. In coming months I hope to work with local groups who have highlighted the lack of provision for elderly in our villages, and to see if we can set up facilities for more people to attend such a facility in our village halls which are often unused during the day.

- **Council Work**

In addition to representing the nine villages of the Hardwick Division (Barton, Caldecote + Childerley, Comberton, Coton, Grantchester, Hardwick, Kingston, Madingley and Toft) I sit on the Health, Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee of the County Council. As it says on the tin, our job is to scrutinise the provision of these services throughout the County. As a priority for the new Council, to be elected on June 4th, this Committee will be looking at the provision of Day Care facilities throughout the County amongst other things.

I feel very privileged to have been your representative and advocate at the County Council for the last 5 months, and hope to be able to continue to work for you after the coming election on June 4th.

Fiona Whelan
County Councillor
Hardwick Division

Toft Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2008-2009

At the start of the year I was re-elected as Chairman with Cllr Hercus as Vice Chairman. Cllr Sinclair has been the officer involved with footpaths, stiles and tree matters. Cllr Bilsland took responsibility for the Council's asset register, Cllr Hercus for financial matters. Cllr Jayne agreed to represent the Council on community safety. The Parish Plan has been guided by Cllr Norgett and Cllr Betson has been involved with local road safety issues. I have continued as representative for Toft People's Hall and as Chairman held the post of Trustee to the Warboys and Eversden Charities, and been involved, together with Cllr Norgett on the working party for Toft Fireworks. The Cllrs have all been very supportive in their roles.

The Council welcomed comments from Members of the public at our meetings during the Open Session. Some highway concerns were brought to our attention, and the Clerk passed on the information where it was relevant to do so. One area of concern involved the changes to the Village College at Comberton with the advent of a 6th Form. As a Parish, we had not been formally consulted, and representations were made to Mr Munday, Principal at Comberton College and Cambridgeshire County Council. A Traffic Plan has now been drawn up, and we hope to be kept informed directly.

As part of keeping all parishioners informed, the Agenda is published on the Village Notice Board at least 3 days before each meeting, and is also on the village website, where Minutes of the most recent meeting can be found, as well as on the Noticeboard. The website can be viewed at www.toft.org. The Council also has a page in the Village Newsletter every month with the date of the forthcoming meeting and other information.

We were pleased to welcome County Councillor Fiona Whelan this year, elected after the resignation of Councillor Baldwin. District Councillor Robin Martlew is a regular attendee at our monthly meetings, and both Councillors keep us well informed and are always ready to answer our questions.

The council considered various planning applications during the year and provided comments to the planning authority on proposals for a boundary change between the Cambridge City and the District.

As the High St in Toft has been identified – together with areas in the surrounding villages – as having problems with speeding vehicles, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership has instigated their 'Speedwatch' initiative. Details of this scheme were published in the Calendar, and a positive response has been received.

The Parish Plan is nearing completion, and the Council is looking forward to receiving the final draft before publication. Our thanks go to all those whose hard work has made this possible.

We carried out our annual village inspection in September, and created a list of items for repair and improvement, some of which were undertaken locally and others reported to either the County or District Councils for action. An ongoing concern on maintenance around the village is the problem of privately owned hedges encroaching on the footpaths. The Parish Council continues to arrange for verges cutting locally on behalf of the County Council.

The Village Playground inspection took place last April and recommendations made have been followed up. New nets and supports have been purchased for the goal posts.

The litter pick took place shortly after the last Annual Meeting with the help of Toft Brownies. We are grateful to Brown Owl for arranging their help, and do appreciate it.

On the village green, righting of posts intended to prevent parking on the grass is an ongoing activity for the County Council as these are continuously knocked by vehicles moving around the green.

The external audit was concluded satisfactorily by Moore Stephens, thanks to the hard work put in by our Financial Officer.

My thanks go to my fellow Councillors and especially our Clerk. Thank you everyone.

That concludes the Chairman's Report.

Sally Roberts
11 May 2009

Toft Charities Report – May 2009

There are three Trustees for the two charities, myself, as Chairman of the Parish Council and the other two are Koran Collett and Pat Gouldstone. Elections for the position of Trustees will take place in 2010.

The William Eversden Charity, the plot of land that comprises the 12 allotments, dates back to 1730. This land of $\frac{3}{4}$ acre on Mill Field was for the 'use and benefit of the residents of Toft'. The Trustees, after some consideration, agreed to raise the rent this year, with five allotments paying rent at £7.50 per plot, and this account stands at £344.32. The Wildlife Trust have continued to take an interest in the allotments, and we are very grateful to the conservation volunteers, who come once in the spring and again in the autumn. The Parish Council has again agreed to pay their fee of £100 per visit.

Joseph Warboys left £100 to Toft in his will in 1933, to be invested to provide an income. This account currently stands at £422.36 Both accounts are held at Lloyds TSB, Sidney Street, Cambridge.

Originally, the charities were to provide bread and coal for the poor, to be distributed in the first week of December. The Charity Commission decided that a more modern approach could be taken, and the income can be spent on tools or books for apprentices or students, fees for examinations or traveling expenses, and similar purposes. There has been no application for aid this year.

I would be pleased to answer any questions about the Charities.

Sally Roberts

On behalf of the Trustees
Pat Gouldstone
Koran Collett
Sally Roberts (Chairman of the Parish Council)

**POLICE REPORT
TOFT
April 2008-April 2009**

PCSO Trudy Newman-Hart

This is a crime report for Toft: there have been 18 crimes reported and 8 incidents from April 2008 – April 2009.

10 reports of Burglaries other than in a dwelling which could mean a Shed garage or out buildings. High street, Comberton Road and School Lane.

1 Theft from a motor Vehicle in Church lane.

1 Attempted Burglary in the High Street.

2 Theft's one in the High Street the other Comberton Road.

2 Burglary in a dwelling ,one in Comberton Road the other School Lane.

1 Theft of a Pedal Cycle in Hardwick Road.

1 Theft of a mailbag or postal package from Hardwick Road.

Anti Social behaviour incidents remain low in and around Toft. I will continue to patrol both on foot and in a police vehicle.

I have carried out Speed checks along the High Street and will monitor this area as part of my community role.

PCSO POLICE PROFILE

2009

As your PCSO-Police Community Support Officer my main role is to work closely with the community, policing of neighbourhoods through high visible patrols with a purpose of reassuring the public, increasing orderliness in public places, working together with partner agencies.

I am working to gain people's confidence and become an approachable face in your community. I have forged great links with many locals and continue to strive to build confidence with my role in the community.

I work shifts which vary between 8.30am –Midnight on a rolling pattern that covers seven days of the week, however I am flexible and have changed days/hours to accommodate meetings, sometimes even at short notice.

The role of a pcso involves many different tasks one minute you may be dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour the next supporting a road traffic collision monitoring road control to reassurance visits for victims of crime, completing paperwork, giving crime prevention advice, high viz patrols, speed checks ect.. ect...

I regually visit local schools, playgroup, sheltered housing and have built strong links. In schools we aim to help re-educate the youngsters to help them make healthier choices with issues like Vandalism, under age drinking, drug awareness, Graffiti, personal safety, internet safety which has an impact on all our lives.

Along with the neighbourhood team I welcome your thoughts and feelings especially highlighting key problem areas. Working together we can be productive in making your village a safer place to live in.

Thank you PCSO Trudy Newman-Hart