

**Minutes of the 687th meeting of Toft Parish Council  
Meeting held on Monday 4 March 2013 in The People's Hall, Toft at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors: M Yeadon (Chairman), J McCarten, E Dolman, J Betson, P Gouldstone and P Ellis-Evans.

In attendance: 6 members of the public including Polly Wilderspin (Neighbourhood Watch) and PCSO Karen Mahoney, District Cllr T Hawkins and Mrs Kathleen Baptie (Minutes Secretary, LGS)

**Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors**

Ingrid van Rooyen from the shop informed the Parish Council that she has decided to sell the shop due to health and family reasons. She was not sure how long this was likely to take in the present climate and particularly as there is no living accommodation with the shop. She put forward the idea of a community run organisation for the Parish Council to consider. She was waiting to hear from Royal Mail. She welcomed any other ideas or suggestions. The Parish Council thanked her for the number of hours she puts into the shop and for the invaluable service and kindness she has shown and agreed to look into possibilities and to put this on the agenda for the next meeting. It was agreed to plan a dedicated open meeting in April to discuss further. Cllr Yeadon will put an article in the Calendar and members are to see if there is any local interest.

Cllr Hawkins reported that:

- SCDC have received all responses on the SCDC Issues and Options 2 consultation which are being collated.
- She has recently attended 2 workshops, 1 on the criteria for new developments and the other on Travellers.
- At full Council Meeting last week a vote was carried to increase Council Tax by 4%.

Polly Wilderspin gave a talk on the role Neighbourhood Watch schemes play in communities. NHW has a working agreement with the Constabulary as a partner. A NHW representative attends morning briefings and can email members in villages that are affected. The email messages are not open to the general public in the way that E-cops is and members are checked (not vetted) to see if they are suitable to receive these emails. The new Crime Commissioner is appreciative of Neighbourhood Watch and has approved its first ever grant.

**1. To approve apologies and reasons for absence and declarations of interest**

Apologies were received from Cllr Whelan.

**1.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda**

None.

**1.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)**

None.

**1.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

None.

The Chairman proposed to vary the order of business to take item 7.1 here.

**7.1 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

It was agreed idea to hold a public meeting. Street co-ordinators would be required. Cllr McCarten is to put an article in Calendar and this is to be an agenda item for the next meeting and also the Annual Parish Meeting. PCSO Karen Mahoney offered to put a message out on E-Cops to see if there was any response.

- 2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 4 February and the extra-ordinary meeting of 12 February 2013**  
 Following an amendment under item 3.6 to amend Dial a Ride to Social Car Scheme the minutes of 4 February were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Following an amendment to strike out confidential minutes in 3 places, the extra-ordinary minutes of the 12 February were approved as a true record to be signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 3.1 (Open session) Parish Plan update  
 Cllr McCarten proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Dolman for the all the time and work she has put into producing the Parish Plan. This was seconded by Cllr Yeadon with all in agreement that it had been a Herculean effort. Cllr Dolman also wished to thank everyone else involved particularly Jake and Jane Tebbit and Martin Sebborn. It was agreed that the Parish Council would send a letter of thanks. This item can be taken off the agenda for next month, but to be put on again in May.
- 3.2 (3.1) Land at 46 High Street/Community Orchard update including quotations for clearing brambles and bushes  
 Before any work goes ahead, confirmation was required as to whether or not the agreement has been signed with the Ecksteins. The Parish Council was keen to put the work in hand by mid March, before the nesting season would seek clarification from Stephen Reid as to whether this was possible. It would also like to know who has the keys; is it the Ecksteins or Bidwells. Having considered the 2 quotes received it was agreed to accept the quote from Buchans of £235.50 inc vat. <sup>(Prop MY, 2nd ED)</sup> Cllr Ellis-Evans is to be notified when the work is taking place to make sure the work is being done as asked. Cllr Ellis-Evans advised that it was up to the owners at 46 to put up a fence.  
 At a recent meeting with allotment holders, interest was expressed in developing possibly five plots in part of the Community Orchard area.  
 It was noted that the Historical Society had recently been given a grant and would like to have an archaeological dig on the site of the new house.
- 3.3 (3.2) Village Maintenance update
- Playground lock – a combination lock has been purchased but cannot be used until the grass cutter is informed of the number.
  - Car Park at School Lane. Dennis Vacher is coming back to take a look.
  - The Parish Council was still waiting for the dog litter bin near the Church. To be chased up.
  - Caravans in the car park – Cllr Hawkins will look into this.
  - Straw lorries – Dennis Vacher confirmed that the maximum height of the straw should be 18ft, i.e. the height of a double decker bus.
- 3.4 (3.4) Recreation Ground update  
 Invoice reminder from Lapsett and sign clips were received from Cllr Gouldstone for the Clerk She reported that the small gate into the playground is very old and out of alignment and asked the Parish Council to consider replacing it. Clive Blower is to be asked to provide a quote to purchase and hang a replacement wooden gate into the playground. The playground sign is buried in the hedge and looks very battered. Cllr Betson will take a look and if it needs replacing will ask Dennis Vacher. Arrangements and a date for the Playground opening is to be discussed at the next meeting and Cllr Gouldstone will speak to Rebecca Howling about this.
- 3.5 (3.4) People's Hall project update  
 It was noted that grant money from Amey Cespa had been received and the SCDC money was due in next week.
- 3.6 (3.6) Cambridge Future Transport update

Cllr Dolman reported that it had been a very heated meeting as Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambs District Council were not in agreement. She had learned at the meeting that there was yet another survey and these had now been distributed and are to be returned to the shop. She will deliver the responses back to SCDC on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Hawkins offered to scan them before they are returned back.

#### **4. Consideration of Correspondence**

##### 4.1 CCC Community Transport Fund

Noted.

##### 4.2 SCDC Local Plan – Local Green Spaces

It was agreed the Parish Council wished to designate Home Meadow, Village Green, Recreation Ground and the allotments. (Cllr Dolman will enquire who owns the land at the allotments). Cllr Yeadon will respond directly once he has heard back from Cllr Dolman.

#### **5. Finance and risk assessment**

##### 5.1 To consider the finance report and approve the payment of any bills

The financial report was received and considered and invoices and bank statements were checked before the cheques were signed. The payments as listed in the finance report, plus LG Stoehr (salary M11) £97.45 and LGS Services £312.11 (Admin support) were unanimously approved for payment <sup>(Prop MY, 2nd JB),</sup>

Tebbit Design (Parish Plan)	£672.00
Toft People's Hall (Room Hire)	£12.00
LGS Services (Admin support)	£344.55
Landart Landscapes (Peoples Hall works)	£5623.50

It was noted that cheques for the Peoples Hall project were being released between the meetings as previously agreed.

Cllr Hawkins left the meeting.

##### 5.2 Risk assessment matters

None.

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

##### 6.1 Planning Applications

None.

It was noted that Comberton Parish Council had rejected the Bennells Farm application.

##### 6.2 SCDC decisions to note

None

##### 6.3 Tree works applications

It was noted that some tree works had recently taken place without a Tree Works application. Cllr Yeadon will put a note in Calendar about the fact that if you live in a conservation area this also applies to tree works. Cllr Ellis-Evans will also look into doing an article on conservations areas.

#### **7. Members items and reports**

##### 7.1 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Taken earlier.

##### 7.2 Footpaths

If the land owner is agreeable and the weather dries up, the stile replacements can go ahead.

##### 7.3 Play Inspection reports

Confirmation is required as to when the annual inspection is due to take place, and if the cost is suitable using RoSPA is to be considered. Cllr Gouldstone or Rebecca Howling are to be present when the inspection is taking place. The weekly inspections will start from 6/4/13.

It was decided the Parish Council would have another village walkabout, to be arranged at the next meeting.

7.4 Annual Meeting

Cllr Yeadon proposed that it is not held on the same evening as the Parish Council meeting and it was agreed that it would be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Invites are to be sent to Mr Munday (CVC), Glennis Virgo (Meridian School), PCSO Karen Mahoney, Mike Booker (Vicar) and Richard Fletcher (The Peoples Hall Committee and the Social Club).

7.5 Village Sign

Cllr Gouldstone was tasked with organising repainting of the village sign, and the Clerk is to be asked if she can recommend anyone to quote.

Rebecca Howlings members pack and a cheque were received via cllr Yeadon.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.33 pm.

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

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