

# TOFT WITH LOUND & MANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Annual Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 at Witham Parish Hall

Present- Richard Stephenson, Richard Hartley, Jeremy Dawson, Tom McWilliams, Hazel Darley, Audrey Jyssum, Sue Holloway, Keith Busfield, Fr. Edward Martin, James Brown, Alan Whitaker  
Parish Clerk – Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

**001/22 Chairman's opening remarks** – The Chairman of the Parish Council Richard Stephenson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

**002/22 Apologies** – Sue Renner, Cllr Robert Reid, Cllr Penny Robins.

### **003/22 Minutes of the last Meeting & Matters Arising**

It was proposed by Jeremy Dawson & seconded by Richard Stephenson that the minutes of last meeting were a true record and signed off by Mr. Stephenson. There were no outstanding matters from the minutes.

### **004/22 Parish Council's Chairman's Annual Report –Cllr Richard Stephenson**

This term sees the completion of the third year of the current period in office for the all the current councillors with the exception of Cllr Simon Lawton – who was co-opted onto the council in September 2021

Regular council meetings were again disrupted somewhat during this period due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Toft Hotel as a venue for future meetings remained unavailable. Meetings are now held in the Witham Parish Hall. Our thanks to those Witham residents who maintain and make these facilities available.

### **Events**

The bonfire night celebrations and wheelbarrow garden competition were re-established in 2021 following a lessening of the covid restrictions. Both events were well supported.

Planning is underway for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022.

### **Highways**

Various ongoing issues relating to verges, street lights, signage and potholes were considered and dealt with during the year. As in previous reports, the Highways England team has limited funds and this continues to impact their ability to carry out the necessary works as quickly as we

would like. A parish “walkabout” was held with newly appointed Highways England representatives in December 2021. We await results from the list of agreed actions. This issue is ongoing.

Our request for double white lines at the Witham cross roads to slow traffic in this area has finally been actioned.

### **Parish Property**

There have been no significant issues with parish property during the last year. The income generated from these assets continues to contribute to the cost of parish events and maintenance of assets as required.

The defibrillators in both Manthorpe and Toft remain ready for use. Instructions for use have been regularly included in correspondence within the parish (notice boards, monthly magazine). Essential maintenance of Jasmine Cottage has been carried out in the period.

The ongoing use of the old BT has not yet been agreed. Future use remains to be decided. Our thanks to the local resident who has taken “ownership” of the box and recently cleaned it.

Stage 1 of the Jubilee Playing Field regeneration project has been completed. Outdoor gym equipment was installed and commissioned in February 2022. This was made possible by a grant from SKDC Community Fund.

Stage 2 of the project (new children’s playing field equipment) has been delayed by the pandemic. However, the National Lottery accepted our submission for funding in February 2022. We now await the outcome of a review by their Decision Panel at the end of April 2022.

A small team of local residents took the initiative to plant oak trees in the parish during February 2022. Our thanks to them for their input.

### **Planning Applications**

The council has dealt with all planning applications submitted in a timely manner.

Planning items outside our parish (and hence outside our control) but which may impact our residents remain the aggregate extraction in Greatford and the Mallard Pass Solar Farm. We are monitoring these issues and will take any appropriate steps which may be required.

### **Local Public Support**

As ever our continued thanks go out to all who are regularly involved with keeping the parish a pleasant environment in which to reside - that is those involved with grass cutting, union jack flying, litter picking, delivering the parish magazine, managing the bonfire night event safely, circulating village notices by e-mail, checking the defibrillators.

We also extend our thanks to those residents who undertook specific initiatives during this period - such as organising a wheel barrow garden competition and tree planting in the parish.

Cutting of grass verges on the playing field and Toft “triangle” planted area continues to be outsourced.

### **Parish Council Finance**

The Parish Council remains in a cash positive position. The Council will, going forward, actively consider the need for projects within our community which give maximum benefit to all residents. Any reasoned projects that will benefit the whole community are warmly welcomed for review.

### **Extraordinary Items**

During the period the Council has continued to action directions as required by Government with regard to the coronavirus pandemic.

**005/22 Clerk to Parish Council’s Financial Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022-Mrs R Trollope-Bellew**

Rents from all properties/land interests continued to be collected and provide the majority of the councils income, to date = £6850.00.

The Council have received a grant of £3750 (75% paid) from South Kesteven District Councils community fund towards Outdoor Gym Equipment purchased from Caloo for £5,616 + VAT. Another large expenditure for the Council has been new boiler, plumbing and structural survey at Jasmine Cottage = £7056.

Apart from the new gym equipment the council had also purchased a new gate for the entrance of the Playing Field, bench and Salt Box for storage of sand & sand bags provided by SKDC = £2075.93

The Defibrillator at Toft was moved from the Hotel to the outside of the Golf Club with shared costs between the Council and Toft Golf Course.

A number of parish events took place this year with a very successful fireworks event, wheelbarrow competition and preparations already started for the Queens Platinum Jubilee In June, total spent to date £1235.20. The Council gave a donation to NHS Charities together £150.00 which was from money raised from the scarecrow festival and parish council.

To help pay for this large expenditure the council have not only successfully applied for grant funding from SKDC but also transferring £10,000.00 from their Building Society Account which will leave approximately £13,411.42 in the account.

#### **006/22 Reports from County & District Councillors- None**

#### **007/22 Reports from outside bodies:-**

1. The Mallard Pass Action Group – Sue Holloway and Keith Busfield gave a brief report on the size and impact of the proposed solar farm which will be decided by government. They reported that major responses from the first consultation had been objections. If approved it would cover over 2100 acres of land in both South Kesteven and Rutland. The reported on the process to date and in the future.
2. Edenham CofE School thanked the Council for its generous donation which was spent aiding children with their educational experiences but also benefiting the community in some way. Over the last 6 months they have developed an allotment area within our school grounds. The councils donation had helped set this up, tools had been purchased as well as other resources meaning this year the children will be able to plant, grow and harvest their own crops. As well as enjoying these themselves, they will also be given to our residents to thank them for the continuous support they give us a school.
3. Fr. Martin reported on the challengers of the last couple of years due to Covid and the use of livestreaming and using other social media services to keep in touch. He reported that carols on the green at Christmas was successful, plus the introduction of a Sunday school, they were also looking forward to Jubilee celebrations in June. They have replaced the boiler, installed a new winding system for the church clock, the care of the churchyard had been exceptional. Fr. Martin thanked the Council for their continued support and payer go to people of Ukraine.

#### **008/22 To receive concerns & consider resolutions from electors of the parishes of Toft cum Lound & Manthorpe - None**

#### **009/22 Meeting closed – 19.35**

