

# TOGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Togston Club on Friday 1 September 2023 at 6:00pm.

Present: Cllrs L Blewitt, A Cairns, S Jeffrey (Chairman), A Lisle, F Moore and C Thompson.

## PART 1

38/23 Apologies for Absence – Cllr T Urwin

39/23 Public Participation None.

40/23 Disclosure of Interests

Cllrs Blewitt, Cairns, Jeffrey and Moore declared an interest in Items 13 and 19 (Allotments) as allotment tenants. Cllr Urwin declared an interest in Item 13 and 19 (Allotments) as his wife is an allotment tenant.

**RESOLVED** to grant dispensations to all affected councillors.

41/23 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 7 July 2023 were approved as a true record.

42/23 Report from Northumbria Police

No incidents have taken place which should be of wider community concern.

43/23 Report from County Cllr Terry Clark

- a. Horse warning signs have been fitted at Togston Bends.
- b. County Cllr Clark has put speeding on the Acklington Road as his top priority for the Local Transport Programme Plan 2024-25.
- c. The parish will be affected by the proposed county electoral boundary changes and will move into County Cllr Scott Dickinson's ward for the next election in May 2025.
- d. The NCC electoral team are looking for suitable polling stations and County Cllr Clark has put forward the school and the Club.

44/23 Car Parking

There is a high volume of traffic around East View and the surrounding streets. The Parish Council discussed ways in which the square could be used to increase available parking. Any works carried out should be done to NCC's standards so that new hard surfaces can be adopted by NCC. County Cllrs Clark and/or Dickinson (depending on the timing of the works) can be asked to put in funds from their Members' Small Schemes Budgets. The Parish Council considered the location of the current garages and noted that there used to be three garages at the Gordon Street Car Park. The next step is to obtain a rough price for carrying out surfacing works, to see whether the project is feasible.

45/23 Finance

- a. The financial report to 26 August 2023 was received by the Parish Council.
- b. **RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments:

Payee	Head of Expenditure	Cost	VAT	Total	Ref.
Seed Garden Maintenance	Allotments – Maintenance	£974.75		£974.75	23/24.13
NCC Waste Removal	Allotments – Maintenance	£195.00		£195.00	23/24.14
C Lewis/HMRC	Salary (Jul/Aug)	£317.04		£317.04	23/24.15 & 23/24.16
Roadware – new bin	Allotments – Maintenance	£186.95	£37.39	£224.34	23/24.17

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c. The following receipts were noted:

Date	Source	Reason	Amount
Various	Individuals	Allotment and Garage Rents	£72.80
20/6/23	Wayleave	Wayleave	£249.99
Various	TSB Bank	Interest	£1.87

## 46/23 Public Rights of Way

The Parish Council discussed obstructions to various rights of way and other paths. The Council noted that Mr Derbyshire (NCC Footpaths Officer) has offered to assist with the obstructions to the bridleways reported by Cllr Blewitt.

## 47/23 Christmas Tree and Lights

Cllr Cairns has ordered the tree. Mr Morris will connect the lights again this year. The

**RESOLVED** Cllr Cairns to purchase two sets of new lights for around the neighbouring trees at a cost of £212.50 each, total £425.00. The Clerk will contact Rotary to arrange for the Sleigh to attend the switch on, which will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm. Cllr Jeffrey will contact the School. Cllrs will collect raffle and tombola prizes for the Fair. The Parish Council considered whether to have a bran tub, the Clerk will look at prices for suitable prizes. Glow sticks will be given out to the children again.

## 48/23 Allotments

- a. There are no road planings available at the moment for the entrance way
- b. The exterior fence at the rear of Allotment 7 (Main Site) has been repaired.
- c. The Togston in Bloom competition went well.
- d. The water will be turned off on 1 October.
- e. NCC cannot bring strimmers to cut the narrow sections as they drive the ride on mowers from Amble to carry out the work.

## 49/23 Queen Street Slug Infestation

Cllrs reported a slug infestation outside a property in Queen Street. It is believed this is caused by a resident emptying bird feeders onto the ground at the end of the day and a carpet of slugs then feeds on this waste material. This is clearly an environmental health hazard. The Clerk will report the matter to NCC Environmental Health.

## 50/23 Grass Cutting

Deferred to next meeting, pending quotes.

## Items for the Next Agenda

- Christmas Tree, including grid for around base of tree
- Flower Tubs
- Bus Shelter seat and clean
- Request new bus stop opposite the Persimmon development

## 51/23 Date of Next Meeting

**Friday 3 November 2023** at 6:00pm, Togston Club

# **TOGSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:08pm.