

TOGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Togston Club on Friday 3 November 2023 at 6:00pm.

Present: Cllrs L Blewitt, A Cairns, S Jeffrey (Chairman), A Lisle and T Urwin.

52/23 Apologies for Absence – Cllrs F Moore, C Thompson

53/23 Public Participation

- a. The Parish Council discussed the pathways around the new Persimmon development. Cllr Jeffrey has been informed that a new bus stop by the entrance to the new estate will be installed. It is not clear what traffic calming measures will be put in place. The Clerk will ask NCC Highways.
- b. A resident advised that the hedge along the Persimmon boundary and Guyzance Avenue belongs to the Parish Council. The A resident commented that the strip should be cleared, and that the trees are encouraging drug users. The Parish Council noted that trees and hedges along the road are overgrown.
- c. The new sign at Togston Bends is in the wrong place. This will be moved by NCC.
- d. A resident commented on the tree works carried out near the Club. This work is in progress.
- e. A resident asked whether the Parish Council had obtained two quotes for the Christmas lights connection and queried why a professional electrician was needed to plug in the lights. The Parish Council confirmed that two quotes had been obtained last year and that a professional was required to connect the lights for health and safety and for insurance reasons.
- f. The next Parish Council elections will take place in May 2025.
- g. A resident reported that roofs which may contain asbestos have been damaged on a farm within the parish. The resident was directed to NCC Fix My Street or to telephone NCC to report this.
- h. A resident asked about grass cutting on the allotments. This will be discussed later in the meeting under the relevant agenda item.
- i. A resident asked for an update on the right of way query which arose earlier in the year, regarding the pathway through to East Chevington. The Parish Council understands that East Chevington Parish Council is taking legal action.

54/23 Disclosure of Interests – None

55/23 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 1 September 2023 were approved as a true record.

56/23 Report from Northumbria Police

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

57/23 Report from County Cllr Terry Clark – None received.

58/23 Finance

- a. The financial report to 30 October 2023 was received by the Parish Council.
- b. **RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments:

Payee	Head of Expenditure	Cost	VAT	Total	Ref.
Christmas Lights Direct	Christmas Lights	£425.00		£425.00	
S Jeffrey – reimbursement for prizes	Togston in Bloom	£90.00		£90.00	
S Jeffrey – reimbursement for skip hire	Allotments – maintenance	£100.00		£100.00	
A.M. Electrics	Christmas Lights	£230.00		£230.00	
A Cairns – reimbursement	Togston in Bloom	£27.00		£27.00	

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for plants			
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c. The following receipts were noted:

Date	Source	Reason	Amount
Various	Individuals	Allotment and Garage Rents	£134.20
8/9/23	NCC	Precept	£3,250.00
10/9/23	TSB Bank	Interest	£0.64
10/10/23	TSB Bank	Interest	£0.62

59/23 Public Rights of Way

The Parish Council noted that a public right of way (bridleway) has been obstructed by paving slabs which have been dug into the path surface. Unfortunately this has created a dip which is dangerous to horses. The Clerk will report this to NCC.

60/23 Christmas Tree and Lights

The Christmas Lights will be put up on 18 November. The school competition is being judged on 17 November and selection boxes will be given as prizes. The Switch On will take place at 6:00pm on 26 November, with the Christmas Fair open from 4:45pm. There will be a tombola, raffle and cake stall. Glow sticks will be given out to the children. The School Choir will be asked to sing at 5:15pm. Cllr Urwin will wear a hi-viz vest and will monitor the road area around the tree.

RESOLVED to donate £50 to Rotary Club (Amble & Warkworth) towards refurbishment costs for the sleigh.

61/23 Grass Cutting and Waste Area at Allotments

- a. **RESOLVED** to accept the quote provided by J H Landscaping to cut the hedge around the car park (£180 plus VAT including removal of waste) and to take on the grass cutting contract from next year fortnightly at a charge of £80 per cut (plus VAT).
- b. Cllr Jeffrey will inform the next Allotment Holders Meeting that the area cleared by Persimmons is not to be used to dump waste. A sign is needed for this area prohibiting the dumping of waste.
- c. Cllr Jeffrey will suggest the installation of communal compost bins at the Allotment Holders Meeting.

62/23 Car Parking

[Cllr Blewitt declared an interest as she is employed by Blewitts who undertake work of this type].

Cllr Blewitt will use her expertise to prepare a specification which can be sent out for quotes. The works must be carried out to the NCC standard so that the car park can be adopted by NCC once completed.

63/23 Salt Bins

All salt bins need to be refilled: 1 Togston Crescent, 14 Togston Crescent, Togston Court, Guyzance Avenue, and East View. New salt bins should be considered for North End Close and behind the Club. The Clerk will find out whether NCC will install these.

64/23 Flower Tubs

Cllr Thompson has obtained a catalogue of the flower tubs which can be purchased from the HMP Acklington workshop. Cllr Cairns will look at these to see whether any will be suitable.

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65/23 Bus Shelters

The Clerk will obtain quotes for cleaning the bus shelter interiors. The Parish Council discussed installing a seat in the bus shelter and whether this would increase anti-social behaviour in and around the bus shelter.

66/23 Allotments

- a. Allotments which are not manageable for the current tenant may be able to seek help from fellow allotment holders via the Allotment Facebook page. Posts have been provided for the new fence at Allotment 27 and help is now needed to install the fence, again, this may be able to be arranged via the Facebook Page.
- b. Mud at the entrance – deferred to the next meeting.

Items for the Next Agenda

RESOLVED to hold a short meeting in January to deal with the Precept and urgent matters only.

67/23 Date of Next Meeting

Friday 5 January 2024 at 6:00pm, Togston Club

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:44pm.