Togston Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Togston Terrace Social Club, on Friday,3rd July 2026

Present	Cllr Lauren Blewitt (Chair)	Cllr Anne Cairns	Cllr Fiona Moore
	Cllr Jennifer Robison	Cllr Joe Smith	
			Barry Flux (Clerk)
In Attendance	No members of the public		
Absent	Cllr Carolynn Thomson (Vice Chair)	Cllr David Milburn	

Agenda Item

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2026 were approved as a true record.

4. CLERK'S REPORT

Allotment Rent Collection update

The Clerk circulated a list indicating outstanding rent payments. It was agreed that formal reminder letters are being sent out immediately to outstanding tenants along with letters to tenants who have been undercharged. Following updates from the waiting list, it was confirmed that the first two applicants are no longer interested, and the third has failed to respond. It was agreed to contact other people on the waiting list to offer vacant plots.

Financial Report

The Clerk provided the following account balance updates: The main Club Current Account holds £12,276.44. Upcoming payments included payments to John Hood for grass cutting, Northumberland County Council (NCC) for clerical wages, and Gordon Fletcher for the internal audit. The secondary account holds a balance of £1,524.66. A full copy of the detailed financial statement will be emailed to all members.

Policies update

The internal audit conducted was noted as being highly thorough. The auditor has recommended that the Council need to adopt new policies. The Clerk will prepare draft policies over the summer recess for formal presentation and adoption at the September meeting.

5. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Consultation on Boundary Changes – Togston Parish

The Council considered an official correspondence received from Northumberland County Council regarding the ongoing Community Governance Review boundary consultation.

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It was reported that while Togston Parish Council did not propose any changes during the initial pre-consultation survey, a formal stakeholder representation was submitted by Acklington Parish Council. Acklington Parish Council has proposed moving the houses along Acklington Road out of their boundary and into the jurisdiction of Togston Parish Council.

Members debated the administrative, physical, and financial implications of the proposal. It was resolved: That Togston Parish Council strongly opposes the proposed boundary changes and wishes to maintain its current geographical borders. The clerk was instructed to submit a representation reflecting this decision to the Northumberland County Council cross-party working group before the consultation deadline.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Dickinson had stated he will provide a written update; the clerk will forward to members on receiving it.

7. PLANNING

Application 26/00741/FUL — Land North West Of Togston East Farm, Radcliffe: Proposed change of use of agricultural land to a holiday park development comprising 120 static caravans, 40 touring caravan/motor-home pitches, an administration block, and associated infrastructure.

The Clerk reported that this application continues to progress through the planning system. Formal objections have recently been lodged from more stakeholders. The application is anticipated to be referred to a County Council planning committee for determination in due course.

8. GENERAL ITEMS

- **Bus stop**
  The Clerk reported that a replacement part is required to fix the panel on the bus shelter. The Clerk will double-check the precise site measurements against the supplier quote to ensure the correct square/rectangular section is ordered.

- **Events**
  The Leek Show is scheduled for Saturday, 5th September 2026. Judging for the 'Best Allotments, Gardens, and Front Yards' has been coordinated for Saturday, 11th July 2026. RESOLVED: That the Council authorise the procurement of two bottles of wine, with receipts submitted to the Clerk, as a token of appreciation for the volunteer judges along with engraving costs for the trophies.

- **Bin move**
  Discussion returned to the litter bin located near the Persimmon housing estate entrance. Members agreed that it should be shifted to the opposite side of the access road onto the grass verge. The Clerk will request an on-site walk-around with an Northumberland County Council officer to agree on a mutually acceptable permanent location.

- AOB

Gate / fence at allotment

It was confirmed that John Hood has been given the formal go-ahead to replace the deteriorated main gate post and boundary rails at the allotment entrance. The Clerk agreed to chase up when this would be replaced.

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Public Signage (Blue Parking Board)
The large legacy blue parking information board was described as a significant visual eyesore. RESOLVED: That the old board be completely dismantled and taken to the local waste recycling center. The Clerk was authorised to purchase a smaller, standard 'P' parking sign.

Abandoned Vehicle
Concerns were raised regarding a vehicle that has sat unmoved for several weeks. The Parish Council advised to log the vehicle as abandoned on the County Council 'Fix My Street' application to trigger a formal investigation and clearance.

9. ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

- Christmas lights arrangements & outreach to local businesses for prizes.
- Draft policies for approval.
- Remembrance Sunday arrangements & Poppy Wreath procurement.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 4th September 2026 starting at 6.30pm to be held at Togston Terrace Club

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Signed …… Date: ……..