

Togston Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Togston Terrace Social Club, on Friday, 8th May 2026

Present	Cllr Lauren Blewitt (Chair)	Cllr Carolynn Thomson (Vice Chair)	Cllr Anne Cairns
	Cllr David Milburn	Cllr Fiona Moore	Cllr Jennifer Robison
	Cllr Joe Smith		Barry Flux (Clerk)
In Attendance	No members of the public		
Absent	None		

Agenda Item

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed and resolved that Cllr Blewitt be elected Chairman for the forthcoming year.
The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed and resolved that Cllr Thomson be elected Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the March meeting were approved with the correction that Cllr Jennifer Robison was present at the January 2026 meeting and was absent (with apologies) at the March 2026 meeting.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

Allotment rent collection update

The Clerk reported that several discrepancies had been identified in allotment and garage payments. Some tenants had underpaid in comparison to invoiced amounts. Councillors agreed that these would be followed up directly with the relevant tenants.

Discussion also took place regarding historic inconsistencies in allotment charging structures and water rates. Members noted that current arrangements apply a standardised charging system across sites.

Payments – Full Financial Report

The Clerk presented the latest banking and payment information.

Members discussed:

Signed

Date:

- Transfer of Christmas lights funds
- Outstanding amendments to banking records and reconciliation queries relating to recent payments.
- The Clerk agreed to review and amend the identified entries.

AGAR

The AGAR form was presented with as much information as was possible for approval by the Parish Council

Website / email address

It was noted there was now a new email and website for the parish council. The clerk noted that the website still needed some finer work for it to be fully presentable. It was agreed to advise of the website with a new QR code for the noticeboard.

Insurance renewal

- Insurance renewal arrangements were noted.

7. TIME AND PLACE OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

- 3 July 2026
 - 4 September 2026
 - 6 November 2026
 - 8 January 2027
 - 5 March 2027
 - 7 May 2027
- Meetings to be held at Togston Terrace Club unless otherwise stated.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

It was noted that the Parish Council has received correspondence from County Councillor Scott Dickinson concerning the car park.

9. PLANNING

No formal planning applications were received.

Members discussed a resident concern relating to possible unauthorised development. It was agreed that further information would be required before any formal complaint could be considered.

10. GENERAL ITEMS

- Car park

Concerns were raised regarding grass maintenance around the car park and garage areas.

- Bus stop
It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of a more robust mesh-style panel for the bus stop given constant vandalism of the plastic panels
- Bin move

Signed

Date:

It was agreed to contact Persimmon about movement of the bin and potentially other items relating to non-adoption of the site.

- Gate / fence at allotment

Members discussed vandalism and trespass incidents at allotments, including damage to fencing and reports of youths entering plots.

- AOB

Footpaths and Grass Cutting

Members discussed historic grass cutting arrangements and previous costs charged by the council. Concerns were raised regarding the standard of maintenance and the costs incurred.

It was noted that some footpaths are classified as bridleways and require wider vegetation clearance for horse riders.

Off-Road Vehicles and Anti-Social Behaviour

Concerns were raised regarding illegal off-road motorcycles and quad bikes activity on local lanes and footpaths.

Residents were encouraged to report incidents directly to the police via 101, including times, descriptions and vehicle details.

Members noted ongoing concerns regarding speeding and unsafe behaviour.

Grass Cutting on Council Land

Concerns were raised regarding overgrown grass behind the bungalows and around garage areas.

It was noted that some land is owned by Northumberland County Council and responsibility for maintenance may rest either with NCC or residents.

The Clerk agreed to make further enquiries.

Planters and Floral Displays

Members discussed repairs to damaged planters and arrangements for summer planting. It was agreed that planting would proceed within the coming weeks.

Leek Show / Garden Competition

Members agreed that the annual garden and floral competitions would continue this year. Arrangements for trophies and prizes were discussed.

Defibrillator Checks

A volunteer was requested to assist with weekly defibrillator inspections. Battery replacement delays affecting some units were discussed.

Signed

Date:

11.ITEMS FOR THE JULY MEETING
• Leek Show arrangements • Floral displays • Quotations relating to ongoing works • Allotment cultivation inspections
12.NEXT MEETING It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 3 rd July 2026 starting at 6.30pm to be held at Togston Terrace Club

DRAFT

Signed

Date: