

TOGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/togston>

Chairman
June Watson

Clerk: Clair Lewis
65 Main Street, Felton
Northumberland, NE65 9PT
Tel: 07809 205548

To the Members of Togston Parish Council:

6 July 2021

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Togston Parish Council on Tuesday 13 July at 6:00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

The Meeting will be held in Christ Church hall. Please note the following safety precautions which must be adhered to by councillors and attendees, due to the Covid-19 pandemic:

1. You **must not attend** if you or anyone in your household, or social or childcare bubble has Covid-19 symptoms.
2. **Social distancing** must be adhered to at all times. Please take particular care to keep your distance from others while waiting to enter and exit the Hall and in the entry and exit vestibules. You may need to queue. Should you need to use the toilet facilities while at the Hall, you must wait until the suite of toilets is empty before entering. You must **wear a mask** at all times while in the Hall unless you are exempt.
3. On Arrival, you must **provide your track and trace details**. A sign in sheet will be provided for this purpose by the Parish Clerk, just inside the Main Hall. The completed sheet will be held by the Parish Clerk in accordance with regulations and then permanently deleted.
4. After signing in, please **make your way directly to your seat and remain seated** unless you are leaving the Hall or you are accessing the toilet facilities. Your chair must remain at the required 2m distance from all other users, except those in your own household, or social or childcare bubble.

Please note that restrictions on numbers may be necessary in compliance with Covid-19 restrictions and the need for attendees to be socially distanced. The Parish Council will admit public and press on a first come first serve basis.

C Lewis

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

To approve any apologies for absence

2. Disclosure of Interests

To disclose any interests in items on the Agenda and the granting of any dispensations

3. Minutes of previous meetings

- a. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held 18 May 2021 (Pages 3-4)
- b. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 28 June 2021 (Page 5)

4. Co-option to Vacancy

To consider the applications received for the vacancy in the office of councillor and to co-opt the candidate who receives an absolute majority of votes to the Council. Voting on this item may take place by secret ballot if the Council decides. The public and press may be excluded from the Meeting for this item if discussions become confidential.

5. Chairman's Report

To receive a report from the Chairman

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6. Report from Northumbria Police

To receive a report from Northumbria Police

7. Report from County Councillor Terry Clarke

To receive a report from County Councillor Terry Clarke (Pages 6 and 7)

8. Policies and Procedure

- a. To adopt Standing Orders (see separate document)
- b. To adopt Code of Conduct (see separate document)
- c. To adopt Co-option Policy (see separate document)

9. Finance

- a. To receive financial report to 10 June 2021 (date of most recent bank statements) (Pages 8 and 9)
- b. To authorise payments

Supplier	Head of Expenditure	Cost	VAT	Total
NALC	Training	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00

The Clerk's salary is due but will be submitted for approval at the next meeting due to issues with HMRC PAYE Basic Tools.

- c. To note receipts

Date	Source	Reason	Amount
10/5/21	Bank	Interest	£0.04

- d. To receive update on changes to the bank mandate and correspondence address
- e. To ratify addition of Cllr Watson to list of bank signatories

10. North End Close – Issue with Rats

To discuss the issue with rats at North End Close reported by Cllr Urwin and to agree any actions

11. Best Allotment and Garden Contest

- a. To confirm judging and prize-giving (Covid safe) arrangements for the Best Allotment and Garden Contest
- b. To agree categories and prizes
- c. To agree engraving of trophy

12. Christmas Lights

- a. To confirm arrangements for the Christmas Lights including any requirements from the Church
- b. To agree expenditure/budget for Christmas Tree
- c. To review and confirm arrangements for the Christmas Fair

13. Planning

To receive update on planning breach - cars obstructing Queen Street Public right of Way (Footpath) and to agree any actions

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14 September 2021 at 6:00pm in Christ Church Hall

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ITEM 3a – DRAFT MINUTES

Togston Parish Council
18th May 2021

TOGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

All newly elected councillors signed their declaration forms and were given the Code of Conduct and Members Interests Forms

Councillor Cairns welcomed everyone to the meeting

The clerk will end her employment on 31st May 2021

Present:	Councillors:		
	A.Cairns	M Farwell	F Moore
	K Farwell	T Urwin	J Watson
	J Robison - clerk		

1/21 **Apologies:** None

2/21 **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**
The minutes of the meeting held on 19th August 2020 were agreed as a true record

3/21 **Disclosures:** None

4/21 **Election of Chair and Vice Chair:**
J Watson was nominated to be the Chairperson by F Moore and seconded by K Farwell
A Cairns was nominated to be Vice Chairperson by T Urwin and seconded by J Watson
The Chairperson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form
It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 13th July 2021 at 6pm

5/21 The Christmas Lights Switch on will be Sunday 28/11/21

6/21 **Allotments:**
The clerk gave an update on matters related to the allotments.
All rents have been collected

7/21 **Audit 2020-2021:**
A report was read out from Mr Basnett re: the Internal Audit of Accounts and a Review of Internal Processes for the Accounts
A report of year end balances to 31/3/21 was presented
Councillors agreed to an Exemption Certificate to be sent to the external auditors and to post the required information on the PC's website
Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR were received and accepted

8/21 **Insurance:**
The payment to cover 2021-2022 was agreed. A claim was made to cover the fencing at the car park on this year's policy

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Togston Parish Council
18th May 2021

9/21 **Planning:**

After receiving complaints from residents regarding the working garage behind 3 Togston Road, a letter will be sent to Mr Forester as his tenant, Mr Thomson, is in breach of the agreed planning conditions

10/21 **Kerb Line at Queen Street:**

NCC are to investigate whether this road has been adopted by them or if the PC are responsible for any costs incurred to rectify the problem of large vehicles going over the grassed area

11/21 **Finance:**

A report was read out by the Chair for expenditure in April 2021 and spendings for May 2021. The precept amount of £4000 was agreed in November 2020 by a collective email, with budget reports attached, sent to councillors for approval as no face to face meetings took place because of covid

12/21 **Urgent Business:**

Councillor Urwin brought to the attention of the meeting, dog poo being left on the gateposts in the allotments. Unfortunately this is an ongoing problem

13/21 **The date of the next meeting: 13th July**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Minutes approved by.....

Date.....

Jen Robison
Clerk/RFO

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ITEM 3b – DRAFT MINUTES

At the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Christ Church Hall on 28 June 2021 at 6:00pm.

Present: Cllrs A Cairns, K Farwell, M Farwell, F Moore, A Urwin and J Watson (Chairman)

14/21 Apologies for Absence

None received.

15/21 Disclosure of Interests

Cllrs A Cairns, K Farwell, M Farwell, F Moore and A Urwin declared an interest in Item 3 (New Service Agreement with NCC for Grass Cutting, Weed Killing and Strimming) as they are allotment tenants. All five councillors submitted written requests for dispensation to take part in the meeting which the Council granted.

16/21 New Service Agreement with NCC – Grass Cutting, Weed Killing, Hedge Trimming and Grass Strimming at Togston Main Allotments and Gordon Terrace Car Park

The Parish Council considered the quote provided by NCC. Cllr Moore asked for clarification on the pointed markers on the map indicating the areas to be maintained. Cllr Watson explained each side of the paths on the map within the boundary of the whole allotment site will be included. This will be confirmed in the acceptance by the Parish Clerk.

RESOLVED to accept the written quote provided by NCC for grounds maintenance of all pathways and hedges within the boundaries of the main Togston allotments and Gordon Terrace car park at an annual charge of £986.83.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 6.10pm.

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County Councillor Terry Clarke, Amble Ward
North Broomhill Parish Council report 13.06.21.

Issue raised 5g mast.

- Question from a resident.

Dear Mr Clark,

I'm writing to ask about your stance on the proposed 18 metre 5g mast that the East Chevington Parish council have passed in North Broomhill on land next to the Trap Pub.

I believe your ward covers Broomhill so I would be really interested in your views.

I am objecting to the proposal of the 5G Mast in Broomhill. Not only will it be an eye sore (looming over my residence) but the health implications, and the effect on local wildlife could be potentially dire. The World Health Organisation clearly state that there is not enough evidence to rule out potential health implications, therefore are conducting a current study (results not available until [2022](#)). The British Medical Journal agree with this with an article citing that scientists and top medical professionals are against the role out of 5G masts due to the long term health implications that they could pose. Why therefore are the proposed plans to put it not only in the middle of the village but to place it right next to a primary school?

The local wildlife will also be effected. It is scientifically proven that human-generated electromagnetic fields, for example those from mobile transmissions, have a serious negative effect on insects, causing death, especially to bees. What about the local bee population? Do local bee keepers not need to be consulted on this?

Not only does this have potential health implications it will also be an eye sore to a small rural village. Why choose that spot?

This was passed by the Parish Council with no objections, I believe that none in attendance of that meeting actually live in Broomhill. I have no faith in the local parish council after they opened the park in Broomhill and Hadston during lockdown and therefore were breaking the law. When questioned by local residents we were told they thought they were allowed to and the clerk at the time told me on the phone (and I quote) that she had seen some children in her local park in Blyth and thought that meant it was ok to open them. I therefore am under no illusion that little to no research has been done in regards to the placing of this mast and I would love to know what their reasons for passing it were!

■ Officer response--

Good afternoon Cllr Clark,

Thank you forwarding the resident's query. Unfortunately, I could not see their email to copy them in. I believe they are referring to the recently refused telecommunications mast Prior Notification that was validated by the Planning team on the 04.03.2021. Prior notification applications for telecommunications must be determined within 56 days, or the developer will gain deemed consent. I would advise you that we refused the application on the 22.04.2021, for the following reason:

"The proposed telecommunications equipment by virtue of siting, height, appearance and prominent location would have an undue negative impact on the visual amenity of the street scene and surrounding landscape contrary to saved policy C45 of the Morpeth District Local Plan ([2003](#)) and the NPPF. Therefore, control is to be exercised over the siting and design of the proposal."

I have attached the officer report for your reference.

While the resident's concerns are noted, it should that the National Planning Policy and Government guidance do not agree with the residents' interpretation of the World Health Organisation finding, which are considered to find that there are is currently no evidence to suggest that telecommunications mast have a harmful impact on human health.

I would advise that if a telecommunications application is submitted with an ICNIRP compliance certificate, then the application cannot be refused on health grounds.

I hope this is of use to you.

Regards

■ My response--

Good Day [...]

Below is my stance on 5g. I do not believe any 5g mast has any serious health implications.

Studies from organisations including the World Health Organisation, Public Health England and the UK Health Protection Agency have all shown that 5G isn't harmful to health. According to Public Health England (PHE), 'Independent expert groups in the UK and at international level have examined the accumulated body of research evidence. Their conclusions support the view that health

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effects are unlikely to occur if exposures are below international guideline levels.' And what of the guideline levels? PHE notes that anywhere that does break the guidelines, such as places very close to the base stations, are always closed off to the public. The wavelength 5G operates at is non-ionising radiation. That means it doesn't produce enough energy to damage the cells in your body, which can cause cancer. Gamma rays, X-rays and ultraviolet radiation from the sun, by contrast, have smaller wavelengths and higher frequencies, and can and do cause cancer. There is also concern that the higher number of small 5G masts in built-up areas could cause health problems. However, although there will be more masts, they are low-powered and act more like signal repeaters, relaying the signal from one mast to the next. Macro-cells, which are larger and also repeat the signal, have strict conditions on height and distance which can have some drastic decreasing effects on the amount of radiation you are exposed to. The US Food and Drink Administration says: 'According to current data, the FDA believes that the weight of scientific evidence does not show an association between exposure to radiofrequency from cell phones and adverse health outcomes.

Regards Terry.

- email from Neil Regarding 20mph

Both myself and Scott approved.

Hello both,

Hope you are well and staying safe.

Please find enclosed proposals for the "20 when lights flash" scheme for Broomhill First School. If you are happy for the scheme to proceed I will request that the design team progress asap.

We don't need any TROs with this scheme, so hopefully the scheme can be implemented early in the new financial year.

You may wish to note that the school made contact yesterday about parking problems. I understand the pub car park is not going to be available as they are providing outdoor seating for patrons, the remainder of the car park will be for patrons only.

I think it's going to be difficult to resolve this situation to be honest, the head teacher has requested that I meet with her to discuss, I know she is working on an alternative pedestrian access to the school as well.

Please let me know if you have any queries.

Thanks

Neil Snowdon

- **resident question 30mph speed signage being moved closer to the village.**

Signs were relocated---

This was an LTP scheme requested by Togston Parish Council.

The old location did not meet the criteria for 30mph signs because it was in the open countryside. The signs have been moved closer to the village to better reflect the environment, i.e. the start of the development.

- **ASB From a property in North end close.**

Also Lay by end of Togston road leading to sewage works, & old line, fly tipping.

All reported to relevant enforcement officers.

Police, and Public Protection officers.

Regards Cllr Terry Clark Amble.

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Financial Position at 10 June 2021			
		Budget	Total
Balances at 1 April 2021			
TSB Club Charity and Trust Account			6,137.77
TSB Business Instant Access Account			827.43
Petty Cash			98.58
BALANCE b/f at 1 April 2021			7,063.78
RECEIPTS			
Precept		4,000.00	2,000.00
Rents		1,571.00	
Allotments			897.50
Garages and Parking			660.00
Wayleave		250.00	249.14
VAT Refunds		100.00	-
Interest received		-	0.08
		5,921.00	3,806.72
PAYMENTS			
Clerk's Salary		2,950.00	749.46
Clerk's Expenses		50.00	54.64
Stationery		-	25.75
Insurance		750.00	708.76
Allotments			
Water Charges		350.00	-
Rock Salt		100.00	-
(Grass?) Cutting		200.00	222.07
Hedge Cutting		200.00	-
Togston in Bloom		150.00	-
Plants		150.00	63.00
Miscellaneous (Petty Cash)		200.00	2.29
Subscriptions/Training		170.00	184.98
Donations		150.00	-
Room Hire		50.00	30.00
Audit Fees		90.00	117.00
Website		75.00	75.00
Christmas Lights		-	-
Recoverable VAT		-	5.61
		5,635.00	2,238.56
BALANCE c/f			8,631.94
BANK RECONCILIATION			
Balances at 10 June 2021			
TSB Club Charity and Trust Account			7,774.94
TSB Business Instant Access Account (at 23 May 2021)			827.51
Petty Cash			29.49
			8,631.94

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Fund	Balance c/f at 1 April 2021	Grants and donations	Other income	Allocation of budget	Expenditure	Current Balance
Allotments			897.50	-	222.07	675.43
Garages and Parking			660.00		-	660.00
Christmas Lights	827.43			-	-	827.43
Total Earmarked Reserves	827.43	-	1,557.50	-	222.07	2,162.86
General Reserves	6,137.77	-	-	-	-	6,137.77
Working Balance	-	-	2,249.22	-	2,016.49	232.73
						8,533.36