

Toft Newton Parish Council

Website: <https://toft-newton.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>

Date 9th January 2023

Contemporaneous notes – Everyone Active Meeting

Meeting held:

Toft Newton Village Hall, Social Club / Community Room, Washington Drive, Newtoft, near Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 3NN.

Attendees:

Councillor Di Rodgers, West Lindsey District Council
Councillor Rob Nelson, Toft Newton Parish Council / Toft Newton Village Hall Association
Councillor Russ Gibbs, Toft Newton Parish Council
Grant Smith, West Lindsey District Council
Claire Morris, West Lindsey District Council
Chris Duncan, Everyone Active
Peter Smith, Everyone Active
Don Pavia, Toft Newton Village Hall Association
Emily Nelson, Toft Newton Village Hall Association
Steph Orr, Toft Newton Village Hall Association
Doug Orr, Toft Newton Village Hall Association
Michael Lewis, Toft Newton Parish Council
Natalie Mellors, Toft Newton Parish Council

Toft Newton Village Hall Association:

The charity works for the public benefit having as its objects:

1. Reduced isolation of a rural community.
2. To improve the parish of Toft Newton, to encourage the goodwill and involvement of the wider community, to foster community spirit and encourage civic pride.
3. To provide a Village Hall for use by all residents of the parish.
4. Increased sense of community well-being through improved access to existing and new activities, services and events.

Notes:

This meeting was organised by Councillor Diana Rodgers (known as Di), the Independent Dunholme and Welton Ward Councillor on West Lindsey District Council, who had been a keen supporter of Toft Newton Village Hall during the redevelopment and in the early days of operation of the new Village Hall, in response to the temporary shutdown of the Village Hall in September and October 2022, due to a 900% increase in electricity prices, which would have bankrupted the Toft Newton Village Hall Association had action not been taken.

For reference the LPG gas and electricity costs were:

- £4,632.53 in the 12 months to the 31st of December 2021, and
- £8,941.77 in the 12 months to the 31st of December 2022.

Toft Newton Village Hall Association held a very well attended public meeting in September 2022, to say that with immediate effect, the Village Hall was being mothballed and would be temporarily shut down for several weeks.

A new electricity supplier has been found, where the costs will be around 540% more expensive than the previous supplier. Other actions will be taken to significantly reduce the electricity usage.

The purpose of this meeting was to see if Everyone Active <https://www.everyoneactive.com/>, the West Lindsey District Council Leisure Services approved provider could base any of their local services at, or operating from the Toft Newton Village Hall.

Chris Duncan talked about various services that they could provide, which would be facilitated either directly by themselves or using volunteers to run the various groups. All volunteers would receive appropriate training via the Everyone Active Volunteer Training Package.

He further suggested developing a Health and Well-being Plan for the parish, which could include various sporting, health and well-being, physical and mental health activities, aimed at all members of the community.

He also explained that the Warm Spaces Hub at Gainsborough Leisure Centre, provide a range of activities, warm drinks, snacks, and training has been provided by Shine Lincolnshire <https://shinelincolnshire.com/>, which has included provided Mental health First Aid Training to the volunteers and users of the Warm Spaces Hub.

Further discussion took place about working with other leisure and voluntary services to provide activities, drop-ins and services from Toft Newton Village Hall.

Organisations mentioned included:

- Positive Futures <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/young-people/positive-futures>
- Active Lincolnshire <https://www.activelincolnshire.com/>
- Post Office <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/>
- Lincolnshire Credit Union <http://www.lincscreditunion.org.uk/>
- Citizen's Advice <https://www.citizensadvicelincolnandlindsey.org.uk/>

It was also suggested that as all schools have a PE premium, Everyone Active could provide activities from Toft Newton Village Hall, the playing field or football pitch for local schools and claim a portion of the PE premium.

Everyone Active would need each session to breakeven to be able to provide a session, so sessions which do not have enough signed-up participants would be cancelled.

The Toft Newton Village Hall Association could provide two to three sessions to Everyone Active for free to help break even.

I suggested that Toft Newton Parish Council would contribute a limited amount of support for hall hire costs.

Everyone Active suggested conducting an online and paper-based survey and wondered if one could be delivered to all residents of the parish.

For one to be delivered to all households, 128 would need printing for Newtoft, and slightly more than 230 for the whole of the parish.

Councillor Di Rodgers suggested contacting the Clerk at Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council as they had worked with other organisations to increase the usage of the Village Hall.

Outcomes:

The Clerk will contact the organisations mention to see if we can work together to provide services to residents of the parish.

Conclusion:

While this meeting was useful and certainly meant that Everyone Active were able to view the facilities available at Toft Newton Village Hall, it seemed as though the only way that they could provide any services and therefore support the Village Hall, would cost Toft Newton Village Hall Association and / or Toft Newton Parish Council to base any Everyone Active services at the Village Hall rather than bringing in extra income it would result in extra expenditure.

Michael Lewis, Dip Psy (ICS), CertHE (Glouc) (He / Him)
Parish Council Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer / Proper Officer