

Toft Newton Parish Council

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

Date 22nd September 2022

Contemporaneous notes – Toft Newton Village Hall Association Emergency Meeting

Meeting held:

Toft Newton Village Hall, Washington Drive, Newtoft, near Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 3NN.

Attendees:

Councillor Rob Nelson, Toft Newton Parish Council / Toft Newton Village Hall Association

Councillor Russ Gibbs, Toft Newton Parish Council

Councillor Jackie Roson, Toft Newton Parish Council

Michael Lewis, Toft Newton Parish Council

Natalie Mellors, Toft Newton Parish Council

Approximately 25 members of the public were also in attendance

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 called by the Village Hall Association 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.

Councillor Nelson announced that the Village Hall was being mothballed and would be temporarily shut down for several weeks.

The current contract expires on the 26th of September 2022, then the will jump to an out of contract price.

A new electricity supplier has been found, where the costs will be around 550% more expensive than the previous supplier. The new supplier will take over the contract from the 10th of October 2022.

Other actions will be taken to significantly reduce electricity usage.

Non-domestic users of energy are subject to 20% VAT rather than 5% VAT that households pay on energy costs. There is no distinction for registered charities with small turnovers or multi-national conglomerates with multi-million-pound turnovers.

The government is introducing a temporary non-domestic energy price cap to help with surging energy costs from the 1st of October 2022, but this is limited to just 6 months, which will enable the VH to re-open in October.

The VH Association are looking at increasing the rent for users from outside of the parish.

The LPG gas tank is full so the Village Hall can still use gas without having to paying significantly more to top up the gas tank.

Solar Panels were suggested as the most viable option to secure the future of the Village Hall.

I suggested looking at VAT Registration to see if the VH could reclaim the VAT on it's expenditure.

Conclusion:

VH to close temporarily.

Clerk to explore VAT and Solar Panels.

Clerk and Chair to discuss with WLDC any options for support.

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