

Toft Newton Parish Council

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Formalisation of a long established protocol between Toft Newton Parish Council and Toft Newton Village Hall

Toft Newton Parish Council owns the football pitch, which is located at Newtoft Park, situated behind Toft Newton Village Hall on Washington Drive, Newtoft, near Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 3NN.

Toft Newton Village Hall which is owned and managed by the Toft Newton Village Hall Association contains the changing rooms and showers.

The cost of hiring the pitch and changing rooms with the showers is £10 per hour.

The long-established protocol has been that the football pitch is booked through the Village Hall booking process and that the fee covers the hire of the:

- Football pitch
- Changing rooms and showers.

Toft Newton Village Hall keeps the entire hire fee.

As well as providing the changing rooms and showers, Toft Newton Village Hall undertakes the line making of the pitch, and incidental repairs and ad-hoc maintenance of the pitch, at no cost to Toft Newton Parish Council.

Toft Newton Parish Council pay for 10 grass cuts of the whole playing field which includes the football pitch each year, with funding allocated in both the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years for two extra cuts if required.

The Football Foundation grant awarded in 2025-25, 2026-27 and 2027-28, will result in significant improvements to the football pitch, which includes:

- New football goals
- Better drainage, through regular scarification and deep slitting of the pitch.
- Levelling and slightly increasing the height of the pitch.

Toft Newton Village Hall will continue to provide the line marking, which due to the increased use of the pitch may need to be undertaken on a more regular basis.

The Football Foundation grant will provide funding for out of season pitch upgrades and for some in season incidental repairs and ad-hoc maintenance, other minor repairs will be carried out by the Village Hall.

The current un-documented procedure saves Toft Newton Parish Council expenditure on line marking, incidental repairs and ad-hoc maintenance.

Newtoft United who were formerly based in Lincoln has been based at the Newtoft pitch since 2025, and a girl's team from Market Rasen is moving to the Newtoft pitch too.

Within Lincolnshire, line marking a full-size football pitch costs around £60 per time if carried out by local independent contractor or around £300 per occasion if completed by a national specialist contractor.

The Football Association have rules around the line marking, and the Grounds Maintenance Association provides a range of articles and guidelines to ensure pitches meet these requirements.

It is expected that an amateur football pitch will need to have the lines repainted each year an average of 10 times.

10 occasions of line marking throughout the year at £60 would cost the Parish Council £600. Incidental repairs and ad-hoc maintenance, based on the Football Foundation grant application costs, could amount to an additional several hundred pounds. Therefore, the value to the Parish Council of the current arrangement is significant.

Based on the current arrangement, football pitch hirers effectively get the pitch for free when the changing rooms are hired, the hire charge is used to provide:

- Electricity
- Heating
- Hot water, and the
- Football Pitch.

The Village Hall ensures that a safe, good quality and clearly marked pitch is available for the hired use.

Formalisation of this arrangement:

Toft Newton Parish Council agrees to continue the current arrangement with Toft Newton Village Hall Association, which is as follows:

- Toft Newton Parish Council owns the football pitch.
- Toft Newton Village Hall Association owns and manages the changing rooms and showers.
- The hire charge for the changing rooms and pitch combined is £10 per hour.
- This money goes directly to Toft Newton Village Hall Association.
- Town Newton Village Hall Association provides the line marking and incidental repairs and ad-hoc maintenance to the pitch.
- Toft Newton Parish Council pays for the grass cutting of the football pitch as part of the playing field cut 10-12 times during the grass cutting season.
- Hirers effectively get the pitch for free by hiring the changing rooms.
- The pitch is maintained to a good standard by Toft Newton Village Hall Association.
- The additional improvements to the pitch in 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 are funded in part through a grant from The Football Foundation and in part from Toft Newton Parish Council.
- These improvements will significantly improve the quality of the pitch.

It is important to ensure that consistency and continuity are maintained.

Therefore, this agreement is signed by both parties

Signed on behalf of Toft Newton Parish Council:

Councillor Russ Gibbs
Vice-Chairperson

Lesley Keast
Responsible Financial Officer

Signed on behalf of Toft Newton Village Hall Association:

Rob Nelson
Chairperson of Toft Newton Village Hall Association.

Date: 7th July 2026

To be discussed, confirmed and minuted as an effective operational arrangement between Toft Newton Parish Council and Toft Newton Village Hall Association at each Annual Parish Council Meeting held in May.

To be reviewed every three years. The next formal review is therefore due during the 2028-29 financial year.

Approved by Toft Newton Parish Council on:	7 th July 2026
First intermediate due:	May 2027
Then review:	Annually
First formal review due:	2028-29 Financial Year
Subsequent formal reviews due:	Every three years
