

Toft Newton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Parish Meeting

Tuesday, 7th of July 2026

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

Members Present:

Parish Councillor R Nelson (Chairperson)

Parish Councillor B Carpenter

Parish Councillor N Grimmett

Parish Councillor J Roson

Parish Councillor O Nelson

In attendance:

Michael Lewis, Locum Clerk

Lesley Keast, Parish Council Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer / Proper Officer

Natalie Mellors, Playground Warden

There were no members of public present.

Meeting started at 18:03

Public Meeting

Agenda Item Business Transacted Number

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) variation of the explosives licence of Faldingworth Defence Limited, and to seek the views of members of the public, to inform any Parish Council feedback to the HSE.

1 Introduction of Councillors and Officers present

There was a brief introduction of the newly appointed Clerk to Councillors and staff prior to this meeting starting.

As no members of the public were present, there was no need for formal introductions.

Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 by the Council from:

Parish Councillor R Gibbs (Family commitment)

Parish Councillor C Roson (Work)

2 Election of Chairperson for this Parish Meeting

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairperson of Toft Newton Parish Council is automatically appointed as the Chairperson of this and all other Parish meetings, if they are in attendance at the Parish meeting.

Therefore, Councillor Rob Nelson assumed the Chair.

3 Discussion about Faldingworth Defence Limited appeal hearing

No members of the public were present; however, it was important to have a discussion about the hearing.

The Locum Clerk led a discussion on Faldingworth Defence Limited's appeal hearing which was originally planned for June 2026, but was vacated, and is now expected to be heard in the Autumn of 2026.

There was general consensus that very little information was available about the variances to the explosives licence, and therefore this makes it difficult to submit an informed opinion.

It was therefore agreed that we cannot provide any comments in support of either Faldingworth Defence Limited or the HSE, because of the lack of publicly available information.

The Locum Clerk returning to his role of Consultant to the Council will advise the HSE of the following:

- Due to the lack of information in the public domain about the variation of the licence, we cannot comment on it, therefore, we cannot support either Faldingworth Defence Limited or the Health and Safety Executive in the upcoming appeal hearing.
- We accept that the lack of information in the public domain is likely to be due to commercially sensitive or security related issues. However, as part of the former RAF Faldingworth Airbase is in our parish, we should have been furnished with information that would have allowed us to have a proper, just and informed discussion on this issue. In accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972, schedule 12a, parish councils' can resolve to exclude members of the public and press, so that they can discuss information that should not be in the public domain. Therefore, had we been provided with sufficient information, we may have been able to make an informed and just decision to support either side in this hearing.
- Lastly, our objectives as a parish council are to champion the rights of residents, voluntary and charitable organisations and businesses within our parish, we are therefore, usually keen to support opportunities for education, training and employment, improvement of the housing stock, community spaces, the infrastructure, the history and heritage of the parish, the protection and enhancement of our fantastic natural environment. We therefore ask that you consider these objectives when making your decision on the variation of Faldingworth Defence Limited's explosives licence.

The Consultant to the Council will submit this text to the HSE before the end of July 2026 to allow plenty of time for the HSE to include them in the hearing.

4 **Open forum – residents discussion**

A resident had sent a message via the Playground Warden wanting to know why the hedge around the perimeter of the playing field was cut twice in the space of just two weeks earlier this year, stating the hedge looked “butchered”.

Note: The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 prohibits hedge cutting between the 1st of March and the 31st of August each year.

What happened this year was that the Parish Council contractor cut the hedge in the playing field in accordance with the annual plan that is in place in January 2026, then in February 2026 the farmer also cut the hedge back, but on their side of the hedge, this left the hedge looking bare in places.

The Clerk will contact the hedge cutting contractor to ask if going forward they can cut the hedge back in the late autumn rather than in the winter.

Meeting ended at 18:19

Please note:

In accordance with our 2026 Standing Orders, these minutes will be distributed to Councillors and made available on the Toft Newton Parish Council website in draft form within 28 days of the meeting taking place.

Additionally, in accordance with our 2026 Publication Scheme, draft and final documents that contain signatures or other identifying features such as addresses, phone numbers, etc., will be redacted prior to being uploaded to the website.

Approved by Toft Newton Parish Council	Date:
Chair's signature:	

Date and time of upcoming Parish meetings:

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

Tuesday, 2nd March 2027

6:00pm

Annual Parish meeting