

Toft Newton Parish Council

PO Box 1659
EPWORTH
North Lincolnshire
DN9 1UL
Tel: 07581 146213
E-mail: clerk@toftnewtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

SUMMONS

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend the bi-monthly meeting of Toft Newton Parish Council on **Tuesday, the 3rd of March 2026**, at Toft Newton Village Hall, Washington Drive, NEWTOFT, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 3NN, commencing no earlier than 6:30pm, and immediately after the Annual Toft Newton Parish Meeting which commences at 6:00pm

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, members of the public and press may attend the meeting and may only participate during the 'Public Participation' section of the agenda.

Recording at, and live streaming of Council Meetings is allowed, with the full knowledge of the Chairman of the meeting and must be conducted openly.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Lewis

**Michael Lewis, Dip Psy (ICS), CertHE (Glouc), MIOEE
Parish Council Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer and Proper Officer**

Monday, 23rd of February 2026

Distribution list:

Parish Councillor Nelson (Chair of Parish Council)
Parish Councillor Gibbs (Vice Chair of Parish Council)
Parish Councillor Carpenter
Parish Councillor C Roson
Parish Councillor J Roson
District Councillor Hague
District Councillor Rodgers
District Councillor Swift
County Councillor Smith
Toft Newton Parish Council employees
The Rt Hon. Sir Edward Leigh, MP

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AGENDA

Agenda item number	Item for discussion / resolution	Responsible member or officer
2025-26/03/1	Attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of Parish Councillors present. • Record of Ward and Division Councillors present. • Record of any guests or speakers present. • Anonymised record of any members of the public present. 	Clerk
2025-26/03/2	Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of any apologies received. • Note apologies in the minutes. • Record of any approvals or dispensations given in respect of apologies received, in accordance with the Local Government Act of 1972. 	Clerk
2025-26/03/3	Declaration of Interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive declarations of interests by any member of the Council in respect of any agenda items listed below. • To record any dispensations given to any members of the Council in respect of any agenda items listed below. <p><i>Note: declarations can be made at any point during the meeting.</i></p>	Parish Councillors
2025-26/03/4	Public Participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow members of the public the opportunity to address the Council. A maximum of 5 minutes will be allocated to each member of the public. • To allow for the Council to consider any points raised by members of the public. <p><i>Note: As per the NALC model Standing Orders, the maximum time allowed will be 15 minutes, each member of the public shall be limited to three minutes each.</i></p>	Members of the Public
2025-26/03/5	Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, the 11th of September 2025 as a true record. • To discuss and note any matters arising from the minutes of Thursday, the 11th of September 2025. • To accept the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, the 10th of February 2026 as a true record. • To discuss and not any matters arising from the minutes of Tuesday, the 10th of February 2026. 	Chair
2025-26/03/6	Report by The Chairman of the Parish Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive an update by the Chairman of the Parish Council. 	Chair

2025-26/03/7	<p>Report by the Ward Councillors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update from the Ward Councillors. If no Ward Councillors are present the Proper Officer will provide a basic update on the work of West Lindsey District Council. 	District Councillors / Proper Officer
2025-26/03/8	<p>Report by the County Councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update from the Ward Councillors. If the County Councillor is not present the Proper Officer will provide a basic update on the work of Lincolnshire County Council. 	County Councillor / Proper Officer
2025-26/03/9	<p>Parish Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-confidential update on parish issues. Maintenance of roads, hedges, street lighting, etc. Avian Influenza. Any other issues. 	Clerk & Parish Councillors
2025-26/03/10	<p>Asset of Community Value, Land off Alexandra Road, Colloquially Known As The Big Wood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the current situation with regards to The Big Wood. To make a decision on whether or not to apply for funding. To make a decision on whether or not to seek to retain the Asset of Community Value status. <p>Suspension of the Standing Orders to allow for additional Public Participation.</p> <p>Proposed resolution: <i>That the Chair of the Parish Council temporarily suspends the Standing Orders to allow public discussion on the issue of The Big Wood.</i></p> <p>Public Participation: 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, seek the views of any members of public present.</p> <p>Resolution one: <i>That the Council authorises the Responsible Financial Officer to apply for funding from any and all relevant sources to secure purchasing the Woodland.</i></p> <p>Resolution two: <i>That the Council seeks to retain the Asset of Community Value status.</i></p> <p>Resolution three: <i>That the Council seeks guidance and support from external, Greater Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire or South Yorkshire based organisations that have a vested interest in nature, and the natural environment to seek a collaborative approach to purchasing and managing The Big Wood.</i></p>	Clerk Chair Members of the Public Parish Councillors
2025-26/03/11	<p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council have been asked to submit views as a statutory consultee of the following planning application: WL/2026/00151, planning permission is being sought to erect a storage building at MBM Storage (The Former Hanger), Access Road to Faldingworth Airfield, Newtoft, LN8 3NG. Consultation closes on the 16th March 2026. 	Clerk

	<p>https://westlindsey-publicportal.statmap.co.uk/horizoNext/publicportal/planningapplications/150528</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on planning application WL/2025/00687, the proposed poultry farm at Faldingworth. <p>https://westlindsey-publicportal.statmap.co.uk/horizoNext/publicportal/planningapplications/149791</p>	Clerk
2025-26/03/12	<p>Playground / Football Field Update:</p> <p>Playground / Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on winter maintenance of the park. To receive a general update on the park. <p>Football Field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the football field. To receive an update on the usage of the football field. To receive an update on the Football Foundation Grant. <p>Playground Inspections for other local Parish Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive and update on the situation regarding third party Playground Inspections. <p>Establishment Of A Playground Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors are asked to join a working group to raise funds via grant applications to update the playground equipment. <p>Resolution: <i>That a working group be established to raise funds for updated playground equipment, and that this working group meets at least once a month, reporting to the full Council at Parish Council meetings.</i></p>	<p>Clerk Playground warden</p> <p>Chair & Responsible Financial Officer</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2025-26/03/13	<p>Village Hall Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive and update on the Village Hall. 	Chair
2025-26/03/14	<p>Proper Officer Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update from the Proper Officer on any relevant matters. To note that the Proper Officer has been updating the Parish Website, there is still information to be added, but it is more informative than it was previously. https://toft-newton.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/ To receive an update on any relevant Government Consultations, including on the National Planning Policy Framework: proposed changes to the planning system. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system - Consultation closes on the 10th of March 2026 and the Areas for producing spatial development strategies. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/areas-for-producing-spatial-development-strategies - Consultation closes on the 26th of March 2026. To receive an update on other Greater Lincolnshire issues, such as policing, flood prevention, fire and rescue service, emergency planning and the NHS. To receive an update on Greater Lincolnshire Devolution and Greater Lincolnshire Local Government Re-organisation. 	Proper Officer
2025-26/03/15	<p>Co-option Of Additional Councillors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss and vote on any applications from parish electors who wish to become Parish Councillors. 	Proper Officer

	<p>Resolution: <i>The Council agrees that additional Councillors be added as authorised signatories to the bank account and that going forward all payments will require either two Councillors or the Responsible Financial Officer and one Councillor to approve each payment.</i></p>	Councillors
2025-26/03/20	<p>Emergency Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors are asked to note and edit the draft Emergency Plan as previously circulated. • This needs to be inputted into the Lincolnshire Pro-forma before being submitted to the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum. 	Clerk
2025-26/03/21	<p>Events: Dates Of Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive the calendar for 2026 as distributed by the Proper Officer, this includes all currently planned meetings and other useful / relevant dates. • To note that the next full Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 21st of April 2026 which will be a Finance Meeting to sign off the year end documents ready to go to the Internal Auditor. 	Proper Officer
2025-26/03/22	<p>Exclusion Of The Public and Press:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To resolve to exclude any members of the public or press. <p>Resolution: <i>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, members of the public and press are now required to vacate the premises, so that confidential discussions can take place.</i></p>	Chair

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Part A: Item 10 Asset of Community Value, Land off Alexandra Road, Colloquially Known As The Big Wood:

Toft Newton is not part of a recognised Green Belt, which would offer some additional protections to prevent development on the woodland.

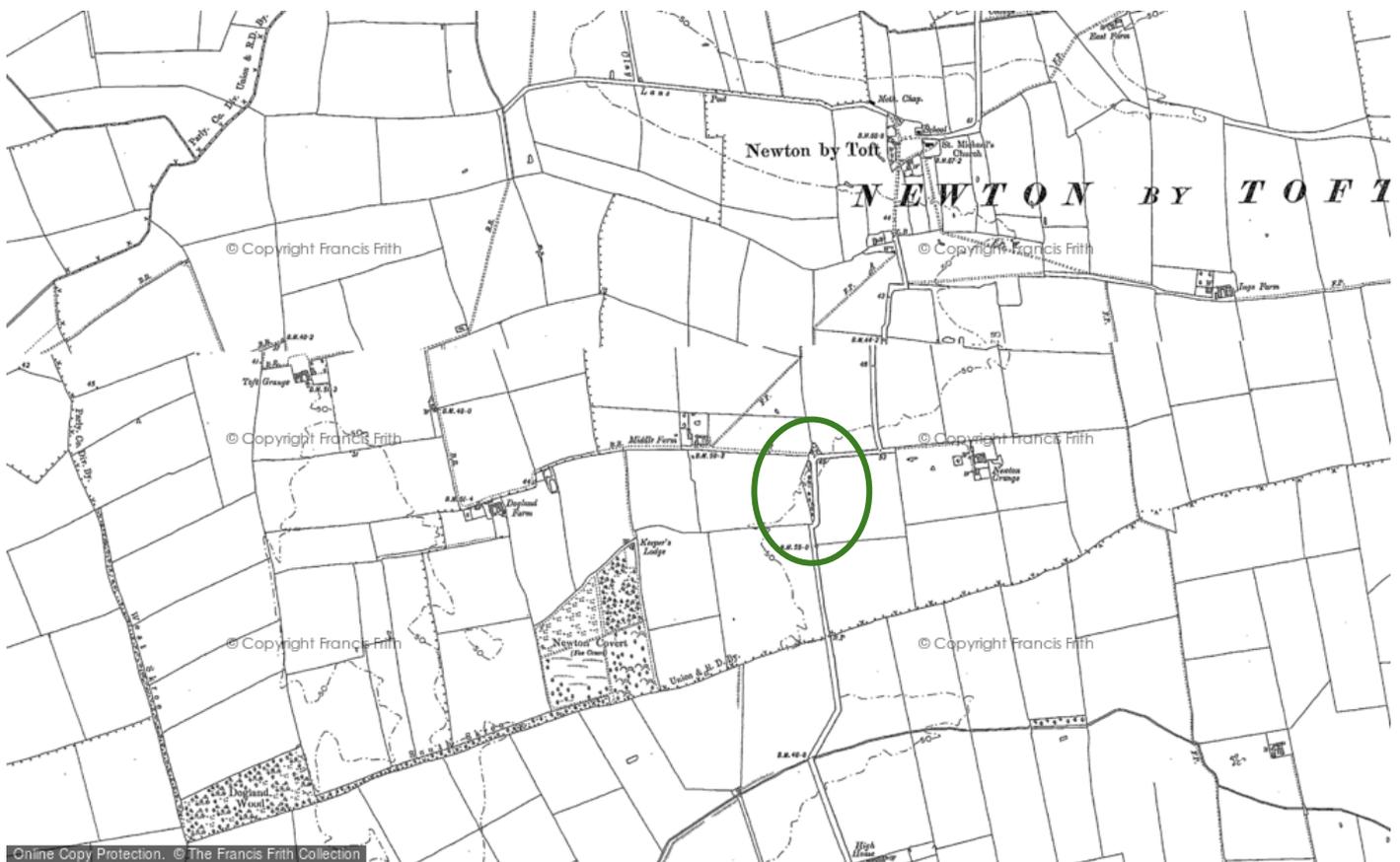
However, there have not been any substantial planning applications approved in the vicinity of the site since at least 1974.

Additionally, the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, as adopted in 2023, does not identify The Big Wood as a site for development – providing a degree of protection until 2040. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan is about to be reviewed, so there is potentially an opportunity to protect the site for even longer.

The current Central Lincolnshire Local Plan can be accessed at:

<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/Local%20Plan%20for%20adoption%20Approved%20by%20Committee.pdf>

The Big Wood is shown on the very first Ordnance Survey of Market Rasen, dated 1886. A slightly more recent copy of this map (1891) has been left at the Village Hall for prosperity purposes.



I have highlighted The Big Wood with the green oval. A zoomed in version of the woodland is below.



This map proves that this woodland is the exact same shape and size today, as it was 140 years ago. While this site is not known to be an ancient woodland, in that it cannot be proven to have existed since at least the year 1600, it is classified as a long-established woodland.

The entries in The Domesday Book of 1086 for the parish of Toft Newton refer to Toft next Newton, and Newton by Toft, and while large swathes of land were under the ownership of the Lord of the Manor, insufficient detail is provided to identify if this woodland was part of the land at that time. I suspect it wasn't woodland, as none of the trees appear to be around 1,000 years old.

I have contacted to Lincolnshire Archives Office to see if they have any records that might give a definitive age to the woodland. At the time of writing, I am awaiting a reply.

I have been in touch with the Elected Mayor's Office, to see if there is any funding that the Mayor

might have access to, which could be used to buy, make safe, insure and manage on behalf of the residents of Toft Newton and the neighbouring parishes. Unfortunately, the Mayor does not have any funding that could help, but her office has provided a number of links that might or might not be useful. I am currently investigating these.

The owner of the woodland wants to sell the woodland. While we still have three and half years on the Asset of Community Value status, with our consent, she can sell the woodland, however, until the summer of 2029, it is currently protected as a woodland. If the woodland is sold, the updated title deeds will show that the site is an Asset of Community Value and that no development work can take place on this site.

In 2008 the site was surveyed to see if it would qualify to be a Local Wildlife Site, it did not pass the criteria, however, in 1977 it was designated as a grade B Site of Nature Conservation Interest, this was a non-statutory designation, used to identify areas of land or water with substantive local value for nature conservation, including wildlife habitats, geological features or biodiversity assemblages that are significant at a county or district level.

At the 2008 survey, The Big Wood, contained the following trees, shrubs, grasses and herbs:

Trees and Shrubs:

- Acer campestre – Field maple
- Cornus sanguinea – Dogwood
- Crataegus monogyna – Hawthorn
- Fraxinus excelsior – Ash
- Prunus spinosa – Blackthorn
- Quercus robur – Pedunculate oak
- Rhododendron ponticum – Rhododendron
- Rosa canina – Dog rose
- Sambucus nigra – Elm
- Ulmus glabra – Wych elm
- Ulmus procera – English elm

Grasses:

Brachypodium sylvaticum – Wood false-brome
Poa trivialis – Rough meadow grass

Herbs:

Alliaria petiolate – Garlic-mustard
Anthriscus sylvestris – Cow parsley
Arctium minus – Lesser burdock
Galium aparine – Cleavers
Geranium robertianum – Herb-Robert
Geum urbanum – Wood avens
Glechoma hederacea – Ground-ivy
Hedera helix – Ivy
Heracleum sphondylium – Hogweed
Ranunculus ficaria – Lesser celandine
Ranunculus repens – Creeping buttercup
Rumex obtusifolius – Broad-leaved dock
Rumex sanguineus – Wood dock
Stachys sylvatica – Hedge woundwort
Taraacum officinale agg – Dandelion species
Urtica dioica – Stinging nettle
Veronica chamaedrys – Germander speedwell
Veronica montana – Wood speedwell.

The content was essentially the same as in 1977, other than more fallen wood, and no evidence of spurge laurel bushes or Hairy Violet. In both 1977 and 2008, selective canopy thinning was recommended to improve the biodiversity of the site.

In 2022, the Johnson government published a policy paper titled “Keeper of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy paper”, this is still in place today, while it is aimed at ancient woodlands, it sets out a commitment to increase woodland cover across the UK by 2050, so it is another potential source of protection for the woodland.

Developers are required to ensure that all developments have a biodiversity net gain, where a development is not able to increase the biodiversity on site, the development is required to buy units to improve biodiversity in the UK. Currently one unit costs £42,000.

Organisations can become an approved biodiversity habitat bank, and sell units of Biodiversity net gain to developers – I have requested further information on this. Essentially, if a developer buys one Biodiversity Net Gain unit, it is guaranteed to increase biodiversity by 10% over 30 years.

Businesses are required to off-set their Carbon dioxide – 1 acre of woodland absorbs approximately 2.5 tonnes of CO₂ per year. Mycarbonplan.org quotes businesses paying between £0.01 and £0.05 per tonne.

As The Big Wood is 0.84 acres in size, we could charge a business between £21.00 and £105.00 per year to offset the equivalent of 2.1 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

However, to do so we would need to become a registered Carbon Offset provider.

While bringing The Big Woodland into public stewardship will require an initial outlay far beyond our precept, there might be the possibility of attracting ongoing finances to off-set biodiversity loss through local developments or a very limited amount of CO₂ offset – there is certainly a lot that can be explored.

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Part A: Item 11 Planning Application WI/2026/00151

West Lindsey District Council have received a planning application from MBM Storage.

Who are seeking planning permission is being sought to erect a storage building at MBM Storage (The Former Hanger), Access Road to Faldingworth Airfield, Newtoft, LN8 3NG. Consultation closes on the 16th March 2026.

<https://westlindsey-publicportal.statmap.co.uk/horizoNext/publicportal/planningapplications/150528>

To date there has been one objection submitted from a member of the public who lives in the parish.

Councillor Gibbs highlighted that too much of the road had been highlighted on the maps, and I can find no reason why this has been done.

My thoughts on this planning application are:

1. A number of the roads in the parish are currently in a poor state of repair. In the last few weeks there have been numerous reports of potholes, surface defects and damage to vehicles caused by the poor maintenance of the roads in the Toft Newton Parish, as evidenced by the fixmystreet.com website which at the time of writing has 20 reports within the last four weeks. The use of these roads by any extra vehicles, especially HGVs will be further compromised.
2. Most of the route to this site from within the parish is via a mixture of private or unadopted roads. Due to the condition of both public and private roads within the parish we believe that this planning application or any similar development to proceed then the unadopted roads must be adopted under the terms of s.278 of the Highways Act 1980. Once adopted the roads (previously adopted, newly adopted and public) must be maintained to a higher standard than of late. This includes repairs, ongoing maintenance and the management of the roads, footpaths, street signs, grass verges and hedges.
3. We are concerned about the actual loss of biodiversity in our rural parish. We would want the 0.56 biodiversity net gain compensation units to be provide by a local provider where possible, certainly one within the Greater Lincolnshire or wider East Midlands area, so that the eventual gain is as local to the site as possible.
4. We would also ask that instead of 0.56 biodiversity net gain compensation units be purchased that this is increased to a full 1.0 unit, and where possible that this is invested in a scheme that covers a period longer than the statutory 30-year term, so that the longer term benefits are felt. The Wildlife Trusts can help developments achieve both of these aims. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/nature-based-solutions/biodiversity-net-gain>
5. We also have concerns about the increased size of the concrete hardstanding. Our parish has experienced localised flooding on multiple occasions during the last few years, partly due to the increase in wetter winters, but also by the heavy clay soil becoming waterlogged. Reducing natural opportunities for rainwater soakaway should be mitigated against.

Therefore, we would want to see a small stream or pond included in any such development, with soakaways installed in the concrete hardstanding, which lead to the stream or pond, so that rainwater can naturally be accommodated on site.

6. We ask that consideration be given to flood modelling by international as well as to locally available / produced flood modelling. For example, Climate Central predict that by 2050, significant parts of Lincolnshire shall be underwater, while the parish of Toft Newton is currently excluded from flooding in this model, flooding is a very real issue in the County and must be given a high priority local planning authority when approving or not local planning applications.

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Part A: Item 14 Proper Officer Update: Local Government Reorganisation

Local Government Reorganisation

In December 2024, the government published the English Devolution White Paper this wanted to merge borough, district, county and unitary councils into larger unitary councils that covered approximately 500,000 residents.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper>

Councils were given until the 28th of November 2025 to come up with and submit proposals for their area to the government.

Greater Lincolnshire

The ten councils that make up Greater Lincolnshire have spent the last eleven months consulting, discussing, debating and coming up with plans for the future of local government in the Greater Lincolnshire area. These plans have now been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, who will decide on the eventual outcome.

The recently formed Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority, led by the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor, Dame Andrea Jenkyns will not be affected by this reorganisation.

Local government reorganisation will see the new Council's coming into existence in April 2028, with elections to the new authorities in May 2027.

The government has recently announced that Police and Crime Commissioners will be abolished from May 2028, with their powers transferring to the Directly Elected Mayors or Council Leaders and new Police Panels. In Greater Lincolnshire this will mean changes happen at both Humberside Police and Lincolnshire Police.

There may also be further changes to the Police, the Fire and Rescue Services and the various NHS Trusts that cover the Greater Lincolnshire area that come into force with local government reorganisation.

The views of each Council

The Borough, City, County, District and Unitary Councils that make up Greater Lincolnshire have submitted their proposals to the government. The proposals are summarised and linked below.

North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and Lincolnshire County Council

North Lincolnshire Council has submitted a proposal to remain as a single unitary council, not merging with any other councils. The North Lincolnshire Council proposal also supports North East

Lincolnshire Council staying as a separate unitary council, and the rest of the councils in Lincolnshire merging to create one large unitary council.

<https://northlincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s25443/North%20Lincolnshire%20Council%20Local%20Government%20Reorganisation%20Submission.pdf>

North East Lincolnshire Council and Lincolnshire County Council also submitted proposals that would leave North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council as they currently are, and merge all of the Lincolnshire borough, city and district councils with the county council.

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/assets/uploads/2025/11/NELC-LGR-Proposal-November-2025.pdf>

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/10590/local-government-reorganisation-proposal-your-lincolnshire->

City of Lincoln Council

The City of Lincoln Council proposal would see parts of the West Lindsey district and the North Kesteven district merging with the City of Lincoln to create a Greater Lincoln Council, the rest of the county would merge to create a Rural Lincolnshire Council, leaving North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council as they are.

<https://democratic.lincoln.gov.uk/documents/s77588/Appendix%20B%20-%20Proposal.pdf>

North Kesteven District Council and South Kesteven District Council

North Kesteven District Council and South Kesteven District Council have submitted a proposal that would see the Kesteven councils merging to become one unitary council. The remaining borough, city and district councils would merge with Lincolnshire County Council to become a new unitary council. North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council would remain as they are.

<https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-11/NKSK%20LGR%20-%20BEST4GreaterLincolnshire%20Full%20Proposal%2028%20Nov%202025.pdf>

South Holland District Council, Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council

South Holland District Council, Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council have submitted a proposal known as A Greater Lincolnshire For All.

This would see two new unitary councils being created.

Northern Lincolnshire Unitary Council would be made up of North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, the City of Lincoln Council and West Lindsey District Council.

Southern Lincolnshire Unitary Council comprising Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council, South Holland District Council, North Kesteven District Council and South Kesteven District Council.

Lincolnshire County Council would be abolished by this proposal.

https://b7eb1918-01e9-4b0a-bd07-f56eb093df62.filesusr.com/uqd/6d167d_a44c791463204cb499d4f9c7bdde97f1.pdf

<https://www.greaterlincolnshireforall.org/>

West Lindsey District Council

West Lindsey District Council did not submit a public proposal but did send a letter to the Secretary of State with their thoughts.

The letter and West Lindsey District Council's principles for Local Government Re-organisation can be read here <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/council-democracy/local-government-reorganisation/response-statutory-invitation-our-principles-local-government-reorganisation>, and is attached to this agenda.

The next steps

The government has now received the proposals from most of the councils that are likely to be affected by Local Government Reorganisation. It is predicted that Local Government Reorganisation could see a reduction of a minimum of 1,532 Councillors across the new authorities.

The next steps are:

- February to March 2026: Government consultation on all proposals submitted.
- July 2026: The government announces its decision on the way forward for each area.
- May 2027: Elections for new unitary councils across the country take place and will be set up in 'shadow' form.
- 1 April 2028: The new unitary councils become operational.

Consultation

A Greater Lincolnshire Local Government Reorganisation information hub has been set up, you can view this at <https://www.greaterlincolnshirelgrhub.org/local-government-changes-greater-lincolnshire>.

The government consultation which runs until the 26th of March 2026. You can view this at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-lincolnshire-north-lincolnshire-and-north-east-lincolnshire/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-lincolnshire-north-lincolnshire-and-north-east-lincolnshire>.

Toft Newton Parish Council should try and submit a consultation response to this reorganisation as it is the largest Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire since the Local Government Act 1972. The implications of this reorganisation will impact all Town and Parish Councils in Greater Lincolnshire and other Counties too.

The Consultation questions are:

Having considered the proposals at the links above, please respond to the following questions:

Question 1

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Question 2

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

Question 3

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

Question 4

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Question 5

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Question 6

To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements?

Question 7

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Question 8

If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-7 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on the proposal.

Where a proposal includes a request that the Secretary of State modifies a proposal to achieve boundary change, or the proposal affects wider public services, such as fire and rescue authorities, you will be asked an additional question:

Question 9

This is a proposal that is accompanied by a request that the Secretary of State considers boundary change or that affects wider public services. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal sets out a strong public services and financial sustainability justification for boundary change?

Question 10

If you would like to, please use this free text box to explain your answer to question 9.

For each question, you can provide the following answers:

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree
- don't know

You will also be invited to explain your answers to questions 1 to 7 using a free text box at question 8. If a question on boundary change is included at question 9, you will be invited to explain your answer in a free text box at question 10.

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Part A: Item 16: Adoption of Revised Standing Orders

Councillors are asked to read and approve the attached standing orders. Upon approval these will apply to all future meetings of Toft Newton Parish Council.

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Part A: Item 16: Adoption of Guidance for Members of the Public Present at Parish Council Meetings

Councillors are asked to consider the attached Guidance for Members of the Public Present at Parish Council Meetings and adopt this for use at future meetings.

If adopted, this policy would be added to the Toft Newton Parish Council Website and attached to all future agendas.

Toft Newton Parish Council Guidance for Members of the Public Present at Parish Council Meetings

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, members of the public and press may attend and participate public meetings of Toft Newton Parish Council.

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 permits the audio and visual recordings and photography of Parish Council public meetings, by members of the public and / or the media in accordance with the Council's protocol on Recording of Public Meetings.

1. This notice will be attached to the agenda of each public meeting held by Toft Newton Parish Council and will be included on our website <https://toft-newton.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>.
2. The regulations allow any member of the public or media to use Social Media platforms, such as X, blogs, Facebook, Instagram or similar services to report the meeting.
3. Toft Newton Parish Council do not routinely record our meetings, however, arrangements can be made if so required.
 - a. If meetings are recorded, the recording will be made available to any resident of the Toft Newton parish, member of the public or the media, by prior arrangement with the Proper Officer.
 - b. In accordance with current data protection protocols, all recordings will only be retained for as long as is necessary. It would be our intention to delete the recording following the subsequent meeting.
4. At the start of each meeting the Chair or the Proper Officer will ask if anyone intends to digitally record, photograph or broadcast the meeting, so that members of the public are aware of any digital recording.
5. Although there is a statutory right to photograph and record meetings, the proceedings of the meeting must not be disrupted by the use of media tools, and any such recordings must not inhibit the involvement of other members of the public.
6. The Chair has the absolute discretion to terminate or suspend any recording activities if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting. The circumstances in which termination or suspension might occur will include:
 - a. A public disturbance or suspension of the meeting.
 - b. The meeting agreeing to formally exclude members of the public and press from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.
7. The recording and reporting of Parish Council meetings is subject to the laws in force at the time, and it is the responsibility of those undertaking the recording and reporting to ensure compliance. This will include, but is not limited to, the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Act and the laws of libel and defamation.
8. Toft Newton Parish Council is not liable for the actions of any person making a recording of a public meeting which identifies a member of the public, nor the publication of that recording.

Protocol for the Recording of Public Meetings:

Toft Newton Parish Council supports the principle of transparency and permits the audio and visual recording of meetings open to the public, subject to the following protocol:

1. The intention to record the meeting must be declared, and members of the public present, must be asked to give consent to being recorded.
2. Where members of the public declare an objection to being recorded, the recording must be paused when the objectors speak.
3. Confidential items of business must not be recorded.

This guidance and protocol will be reviewed annually.

Date: 3rd of March 2026

Review due: Annual Parish Council Meeting - May 2027

Toft Newton Parish Council

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Tel: 07581 146213
E-mail: clerk@toftnewtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Part A: Item 17: Report By The Responsible Financial Officer:

March 2026 – Financial Report

Current Account balance (as of 23rd of February 2026): **£10,138.44**

Savings accounts need to be opened, I tried to open them last year, but they were not approved. I am unsure why. We previously agreed to open Instant Access Savings Accounts for:

- **Election charges** – putting in £150 per year to cover the four yearly costs of TNPC's contribution to contested and non-contested elections. *I would recommend that this account is a 35-day access account rather than an instant access account, to help maximise interest.*
- **Playground development** – putting in £1,000 per year to be spent on play equipment repairs and maintenance.
- **Football field** – setting aside a contribution to cover the costs of the maintaining the football field, initially as part of the Football Foundation Grant, then to maintain the pitch to a high standard after the grant has expired.

Forward planning:

I am assuming a 2025-26 year-end carryover of approximately £4,000.00 into 2026-27.

This means the projected income and expenditure will allow a carryover into 2027-28 of approximately £1,618.00 in the current account, with a VAT refund due in excess of £2,000.00, plus bank credit interest and money in the savings accounts. In total, at the start of the 2027-28 year (including the VAT refund), there should be a balance in excess of over £4,000.00.

The 2028-29 year should start with a similar balance due to a VAT reclaim of over £2,000.00.

Under the current Local Government funding arrangements, Parish Councils are exempt from having to hold a referendum of local residents if their precept increase is to exceed 5%, but this is reviewed each year.

Without having to seek permission from the District Council, Parish Councils can increase their precept by anywhere between 0.01% and 4.99% per year. Above this and the District Council would need to agree to the increase.

For the 2026-27 financial year we have requested a precept of £10,608.00, that is a 2% increase on the previous year.

I have calculated figures for the precept for 2027-28, based on the 2026-27 precept of £10,608.00.

0.01%	£10,609	2.0%	£10,820	4.0%	£11,032
0.5%	£10,661	2.5%	£10,873	4.5%	£11,085
1.0%	£10,714	3.0%	£10,926	4.99%	£11,137
1.5%	£10,767	3.5%	£10,979	Figures rounded to nearest whole £.	

I would suggest that a 2% increase in built in each year.

In 2023-24, Toft Newton Parish Council increased the precept by 4% after several years with no increase.

In 2024-25 and 2025-26 we did not increase the precept.

In 2026-27 we have increased the precept, mainly because of increased budgetary pressures from inflation, but also partly due to increased expenditure.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) might mean that Town and Parish Councils take on more responsibilities, especially as the December 2024 English Devolution White Paper called for them to do. It would therefore be prudent to have some reserves to enable any extra services to be covered. Further devolution of services to Parish Councils should come with money attached, but the grass cutting around the village has cost £891.7s this year, the Lincolnshire County Council contribution for 2025-26 was only £428.52, slightly less than 50% of the annual cost.

If the precept was increased by 2% per year, the income would be, as follows:

2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
£10,820	£11,036	£11,257

Lincolnshire County Council have increased their portion of the 2026-27 Council Tax bill by 2.9%, West Lindsey District Council by 2.4%, and Lincolnshire Police by 6.3%.

Staffing:

Notes to consider when looking at the pay and terms and conditions for employed staff.

- The National Employer Representatives and Trade Unions do not start negotiations on pay until the autumn, in the middle of November 2025 only the GMB and Unison have started their internalised discussions.
- The Trade Unions have to submit their claims at the end of November annually - this makes agreeing a Staffing budget for any year difficult, therefore, using the evidence available Councils can only forecast their upcoming budget.
- GMB current position: £3,000 (pro rata for part-time staff) per year flat rate increase or RPI (4.5% in September 2025) increase plus an additional 2% <https://www.gmb.org.uk/public-services/local-government/njc-green-book-noticeboard>.
- Unison current position: £3,000 (pro rata for part-time staff) per year flat rate increase or 10% and a minimum hourly starting rate of £15.00 per hour <https://plymouthinunison.org.uk/2026-njc-pay-claim-branch-consultation/>.
- Unite the Union hadn't published any details on their position at the point that I was researching this in mid-November 2025.
- The National Employers did not provide their offer for 2025-26 until three weeks into the financial year. This offer was based on the September 2024 CPI rate of 3.2%.
- The award that was accepted for the 2025-26 financial year was 3.2% in July and backdated to the 1st of April, 2025, these pay rates are attached for reference.
- The UK government recently announced their budget for 2026-27, the National Living Wage will increase from £12.21 to £12.71 per hour - a 4.1% increase, this is based on the September 2025 CPI figure <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/consumerpriceinflation/september2025>.

- Based on increased wages for the current, and previous two financial years, I would expect wages in 2026-27 to increase by 4.1%.

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Part A: Item 17: Report By The Responsible Financial Officer:

2026-27 Draft Budget

The draft budget, new budget headings and cost codes are attached.

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Part A: Item 18: Adoption Of The Revised Financial Regulations:

Councillors are asked to read and approve the Financial Regulations. These are based on the NALC model Financial Regulations.

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Part A: Item 20 Emergency Plan

The Clerk has been working on an Emergency Plan for the parish. Lincolnshire County Council requires that all parishes have Emergency Plans.

This work is being coordinated by the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum.

I have used the plan from Appleby Parish Council as a template, as I updated their plan when I was the Appleby Clerk. However, once completed it needs transferring over to the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum template, which is slightly better than the template that I based the draft on.

Flooding Advice is included here and on the following page, followed by the Draft Emergency Plan.

Flooding Advice for Toft Newton residents.

Lincolnshire County Council have issued a new poster on "How to Report a Flood".

I will be putting physical copies up in the Toft Newton Parish soon, but in the meantime, here is a virtual version.

Please register to receive the Environment Agency Flood Alerts at <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>, you can receive Flood Alerts by phone, text and / or e-mail.

Toft Newton Parish residents should register to receive alerts for the following areas:

Barlings Eau and Duckpool Catchwater.

Rase and Upper Ancholme.

River Rase from Market Rasen to Bishopbridge.

River Ancholme down to Bishopbridge.

Follow @LincolnshireLRF on X, Facebook or online at www.lincolnshireresilienceforum.org/news.

Listen to BBC Radio Lincolnshire, online, via the BBC Sounds app, on DAB, or on 94.9FM / 104.7FM.



IN THE EVENT OF A FLOODING EMERGENCY, YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON THE SAFETY OF YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

IF YOU NEED TO EVACUATE

If there is an immediate risk to life, **call 999** and ask for the Fire Service

IF WATER HAS ENTERED YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

If water has entered the living areas of your property and you cannot stay safely:

HOMEOWNERS

Contact your insurer directly

If you are not insured, contact your district council's housing team for assistance

PRIVATE RENTERS

Notify your landlord immediately

COUNCIL TENANTS

Contact your district council's housing team

or visit www.lincolnshireresilienceforum.org/risks/river-surface-groundwater-flooding

IF WATER IS LIKELY TO ENTER YOUR PROPERTY

If possible, obtain sandbags from a local supplier for faster support

If you cannot access sandbags, report your need on www.fixmystreet.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Alternatively call 01522 782082 (Please note that it is quicker to report online)

WE DO NOT HAVE A DUTY TO PROVIDE SANDBAGS BUT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ASSIST

FixMyStreet



TO REPORT FLOODING

FLOODING AFFECTING THE HIGHWAY Report it on FixMyStreet
FLOODING TO PROPERTY OR LAND Let us know via FixMyStreet or call 01522 782082 (Note there may be delays during high demand)

STAY INFORMED

For the latest updates during a flooding incident

Follow **LINCOLNSHIRE LRF** on X, Facebook or online at www.lincolnshireresilienceforum.org/news

Listen to **BBC RADIO LINCOLNSHIRE** online, on DAB, or on **94.9FM / 104.7FM**

Sign up to Flood warnings at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings and

www.check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings/lincolnshire#warnings



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Part A: Item 21 Events: Dates Of Future Meetings

Toft Newton Parish Council will be holding the following public meetings in 2026.

- Tuesday, 21st April 2026: Finance Meeting
- Tuesday, 5th May 2026: Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday, 5th May 2026: Parish Council Meeting starting at or shortly after 6:30pm
- Tuesday, 7th July 2026: Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday, 8th September 2026: Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday, 3rd November 2026: Parish Council Meeting

All meetings commence at 6pm unless otherwise stated, and are held at Toft Newton Village Hall, Washington Drive, Newtoft, Market Rasen, LN8 3NN.

Faldingworth Memorial

RAF Ingham Polish Bomber Squadrons Centre will be holding a re-dedication ceremony at the memorial in May 2026; Toft Newton Parish Council will be invited to attend the ceremony. Details will follow.

The 2026 Calendar is attached.

West Lindsey District Council meetings can be viewed at:

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx>.

Lincolnshire County Council, the **Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel**, and the **Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority** meetings can be viewed at:

<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

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PART B – CONFIDENTIAL SECTION AGENDA

Agenda item number	Item for discussion / resolution	Responsible member or officer
2025-26/03/B1	<p>To receive a confidential staffing report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillors are asked:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To agree to form a Personnel Committee.○ To agree to the Terms of Reference for the said committee.○ To undertake shortlisting and subsequent interviews to replace the Parish Clerk. <p>Resolution one: <i>That Councillors agree to set up a Personnel Committee.</i></p> <p>Resolution two: <i>That Councillors adopt the Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee.</i></p>	Proper Officer

