**TRIMDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**

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**CHAIRMAN’S INTRODUCTION**

*“I would like to thank the Members of Trimdon Parish Council for, once again, re-electing me as Chairman at the Annual General Meeting held in May 2019. We did not hold an Annual Meeting of the Parish Council or an Annual Meeting of Parish Electors in 2020 due to restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. I hope that I have continued to successfully carry out the role expected of me.*

*The last year has been a particularly difficult one for our communities. Many of the organisations we work with have endeavoured to provide support to the needy and vulnerable. The Council continually strives to meet the needs of the community by listening and responding to local issues. The Council remains committed to close working relationship with, amongst others, the Police, Durham County Council, community groups and local organisations on all matters affecting the parish area. In December 2020 we also said goodbye to Anne Delandre, the Clerk to the Council,*

*after seven years of faithful service. I wish Anne a long and happy retirement.*

*This year sees the retirement of two of our longstanding councillors from the New Trimdon and Trimdon Grange Ward. Eileen Dickinson and Margaret Hughes decided not to stand at this years Parish Election. I would like to thank them both for their dedication and service to the residents of communities.*

*Once again, my appreciation goes to the Members of the Parish Council for their continued support during the previous year.*

*Finally, I would like to thank the staff of Trimdon Parish Council who maintain their hard work around the village”.*

John Burton

Chair to the Parish Council

**INTRODUCTION TO TRIMDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Trimdon Parish Council serves the communities of Trimdon Village, Trimdon Grange and Trimdon Colliery.

The Parish Council currently comprises 13 councillors; eight representing Trimdon (Old Trimdon Ward) and five representing Trimdon Grange and Trimdon Colliery (New Trimdon and Trimdon Grange Ward).

The following councillors were elected, uncontested, on 6 May 2021 and will serve a term of four years.

Old Trimdon Ward New Trimdon and Trimdon Grange Ward

John BURTON

Denise DAVISON George ELLIOTT

Rob GILBERT Margaret ELLIOTT

Bernadette OLIVER Ian COULSON

Leslie OLIVER David SMITH

Ian QUINN Paul STEPHENS

Keith THOMPSON

Paul TRIPPETT

Parish Meetings are held in Trimdon Community College, Trimdon Village, usually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (with the exception of August) commencing at 7:00pm. The Agenda for each meeting is displayed on the Parish Notice Boards and on the Parish Council’s website.

Trimdon Parish Council encourages public participation and members of the public are welcome to attend meetings.

**STAFFING STRUCTURE**

Br Joseph Hobson is the current Parish Clerk following the retirement of Anne Delandre in December 2020.

The Clerk’s office is located at Bluebell Meadow Primary School, Elwick View, Trimdon Village. If you would like to contact the Clerk you can telephone on 01429 880224 or email clerk@trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Clerk is supported by two members of staff who look after the cemetery and public areas. During the summer months, the council employs a Seasonal Gardener to help with the grass cutting and the planting and watering of the summer bedding plants.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

At the beginning of the year the Durham County Council notified the Parish Council that the level of Council Tax Support Grant would increase from £22,700 to £23,534 for the financial year 2020/2021 and £25,996 for the financial year 2021/2022.

The Parish Council is ever mindful of the current economic climate, and how this is affecting the residents of the parish. Although many businesses and services have been greatly impacted by the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, the services provided by the Council and its employees have been maintained. The Council decided not to increase its precept for 2021/2022 in light of the financial difficulties faced by many residents. The precept was, therefore, set at £159.064 for the forthcoming year (2021/2022), having previously been set at £159,792 for the financial year 2020/2021.

**GRANTS AND DONATIONS**

The Parish Council regularly receives requests for grants and donations from a variety of organisations. It has a Grants and Donations Policy which aims to support activities and projects which benefit residents.

During the financial year 2020/2021 a total of £41,850 was awarded to community groups and organisations, including an additional grant of £1,000.00 made to Trimdon Community College Association in lieu of the Council being unable to run the usual Christmas tree light up. This helped TCCA provide activity packs and selection boxes to children living in the three Trimdons.

The Council has set a budget of £45,000 for the forthcoming year for grants and donations in order to continue to offer financial support to organisations and activities which contribute constructively to the life and wellbeing of the residents of Trimdon Parish.

The Parish Council continues to fund organisations who provide support and wellbeing towards the delivery of youth activities as these are no longer provided through Durham County Council.

**CEMETERY, TRIMDON GRANGE**

Trimdon Cemetery is owned and managed by Trimdon Parish Council, who is the appointed burial authority, and is located on the east side of Trimdon Grange (accessed off North Side Buildings).

The grounds maintenance and burials are undertaken by the grounds staff.

During 2020/2021 there were 21 interments and two interment of cremated remains. The Council re-affirmed its policy of placing memorial stones back-to-back in the new area of the cemetery. This practice, in common with many municipally run cemeteries, means that half of the graves will have the memorial stone placed at the foot of the grave. This affords a wider space for the ride along and reduces the risk of damage to memorials.

Guidance Notes regarding the Cemetery, including a document ‘Cemetery Information for Families’ is available on the Parish Council website [www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk).

**BUS SHELTERS AND PARK BENCHES**

The Parish Council has the responsibility for the upkeep of the bus shelters and park benches across the parish.

The Perspex bus shelters will be cleaned again this year. Two of the stone shelters have had roof replacements.

**ALLOTMENTS**

Trimdon Parish Council owns three allotments sites at Trimdon Station, Trimdon Grange and Trimdon Village.

There are waiting lists for all three allotments sites, however, local residents are welcome to place their name on the waiting list. Currently

97% of the allotments are allocated.

The Council has spent over £2,100 removing rubbish from the allotments. Fly tipping at the sites continues to be a problem. The Allotment Committee will be making regular inspections of all three sites to ensure that allotment holders are maintaining their plots in accordance with their tenancy agreements.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Trimdon Parish Council is notified of all planning applications received by Durham County Council affecting the Trimdon Parish area and is invited to comment.

During 2020/2021 the Council considered nine planning applications determining that it had no objection to any of them.

**PLAY PARKS**

Trimdon Parish Council has the responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of Play Parks in each of the three villages. It is very encouraging to see that all of the Play Parks continue to be enjoyed by local children, giving them the opportunity to play and exercise in a safe environment.

The Play Parks are inspected on a weekly basis by parish council staff who have been trained for this purpose. There was, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no annual inspection for damage by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). However, the Council ensured that the play equipment was maintained to a high standard.

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**CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS**

The Parish Council has introduced a new and more secure email address:

[clerk@trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON 2020**

Sadly, this event could not go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions. We earnestly hope that we can hold the event come Christmas 2021

**WEBSITE**

Trimdon Parish Council has its own website [www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk). The site has been designed to share what is happening in Trimdon Village, Trimdon Grange and Trimdon Colliery and is continually updated with information and links.

**CONTACT US**

The Parish Council would welcome feedback on this Annual Report. Please contact the Parish Clerk on 01429 880224, email clerk@trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk or leave a message on www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk.