****

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025**

**CONTENTS**

PAGE

CHAIRMAN’S INTRODUCTION 2

INTRODUCTION TO TRIMDON PARISH COUNCIL 2

STAFFING STUCTURE 3

FINANCIAL INFORMATION 3

GRANTS AND DONATIONS 3

CEMETERY, TRIMDON GRANGE 3

BUS SHELTERS AND PARK BENCHES 4

ALLOTMENTS 4

PLANNING APPLICATIONS 4

PLAY PARKS 4

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON 2024 5

DEFIBRILLATORS 5

WEBSITE 5

CONTACT US 5

**CHAIRMAN’S INTRODUCTION**

*2024/2025 has again been a difficult year for the Council to manage its finances. The rate of inflation has reduced but legacy issues continue as prices remain high. This coming year has seen the Council increase its precept by 4%, less than many councils have done for the 2025/2026 fiscal year. We have worked diligently to deliver our services within a tight budget but this year saw the Council dip into its reserves.*

*The Council, and its staff, are committed to supporting the people who live within the Parish. We are fortunate to be blessed with excellent local community and voluntary organisations, which do fantastic work. We have seen a number of improvements to the services we provide as outlined in the report. Unfortunately, we have seen a lot of the play equipment in our playparks damaged by arson, a bill that has run into many thousands of pounds. We kindly ask residents to report any suspicious behaviour by youths to the police. Following the tragic murders last year in Southport, which led to riots in some city centres, the Council noted a significant rise in racially motivated graffiti around the villages. Council staff worked diligently to remove the hateful graffiti from walls and play equipment.*

*I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their hard work in supporting the Parish and representing local residents. In addition to their Council responsibilities, most councillors are engaged with other community organisations and projects both within and external to the Parish. Of course, there will be a new Council for the next four years and I wish all members well.*

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 1 May 2025 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 Carole BELL

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 6:00pm. 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 continues his service as Clerk to the Council Parish. The Clerk’s office has been relocated to located The Parish Office, St Alban’s Church, Northside Terrace, Trimdon Grange, Trimdon Station TS29 6HG. 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 full-time members of staff and a 30 per week hour seasonal gardener. The ground staff look after the cemetery and public areas around the three villages.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The Council has seen a further decrease in the amount of the grant for the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme from £26,891.00 in 2024/2025 to £21,471.00 for the 2025/2026 fiscal year, placing an additional burden on the Council’s finances.

The Parish Council is ever mindful of the current economic climate, and how this is affecting the residents of the parish. The precept for 2024/2025 was £184,991. For the fiscal year 2025/2026 the Council has set a precept increase of 4% to £190,541.

**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 2024/2025 awarded to over £44,000 to community groups and organisations.

The Council has set a budget of £46,000 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 2024/2025 there were 9 burials and a number of interments of cremated remains. This has been a significant reduction in the number of burials, halving over the last four years. 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.

One of the bus shelters required major refurbishment last year. The bus shelters will be cleaned again this year.

**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 100% of the allotments are allocated.

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. The Council has been in the past subject to several large water rate charges due to burst pipes. We ask allotment holders to be vigilant regarding possible leaks and inform us immediately. 2024/2025 has seen a significant number of allotment holders given notice for failure to maintain their allotments in accordance with their tenancy agreements. This has seen a noticeable difference in their presentation, particularly at Trimdon Grange. Rats remain a perpetual problem for allotment holders and the Council staff regularly place baited traps.

**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 2024/2025 the Council considered five planning applications, objecting to one of them, the proposed Children’s Home in Trimdon Village.

**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. The annual inspection for damage by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) took place in June 2024 and found that the play parks and equipment are maintained to a good standard. However, the Council ensured that the play equipment was maintained to a high standard. Criminal damage to play equipment continues to be an issue, most recently caused by arson. The Council is always quick to respond to damage and make necessary repairs and replacements as needed. Damage caused to play equipment by vandalism and graffiti cost the Council more than £7,000, forcing the Council to make a claim on its insurance.

**BIG BRASS BASH & CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON 2024**

The Council again hosted the Big Brass Bash, part of the Durham Brass Festival. It was an excellent event and well attended, even though the weather was less than perfect. The Christmas Tree Light Switch On event took place on Friday 6 December 2024 and was very well attended. The Council provided free rides for children, snacks and drinks, and each child received a tub of chocolates. The Trimdon Brass Band played Christmas Carols and the feedback from those attending the event was excellent.

**DEFIBRILLATORS**

The Council purchased, installed and maintains three emergency defibrillators, one in each of the villages which form the Parish. The defibrillators were used two times and they were regularly taken by the Ambulance Service when their vehicle did not have one available. These are essential lifesaving equipment and we would ask anyone who sees anyone interfering with them to contact the police and report it.

**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.