

PELTON PARISH COUNCIL



Grange Villa



High Handenhold and West Pelton



Newfield and Pelton Lane Ends



Pelton



Perkinsville

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Annual Report 2020/2021

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Annual Report 2020/2021

1. Introduction

This Annual Report details the work carried out by the Parish Council to benefit our residents over the last year (which were only slightly curtailed during the covid-19 pandemic) and our plans going forward to build on these improvements. This year has been a busy one as we have delivered local projects; Memorial Reflection Area; Stay Apart, Stay Safe, Stay Full Project; Food Parcels at Pelton Community Centre; Feedback Questionnaire-Beamish Museum Pass Winner; Donation to The Heel and Toe Charity; Christmas Themed Competition; Memorial Seat donated to Pelton Methodist Church; Cleaning of the Plinth at the Lavender Centre; Thornton Pocket Park Improvements; funding for local organisations. We have applied for the Local Council Award Scheme Gold award and are awaiting feedback from the National Panel.

2. Pelton Parish Council Responsibilities- These include:-

- Management and maintenance of the Memorial and Memorial Reflection Area at Holy Trinity Church, Pelton
- Management and maintenance of Thornton Pocket Park
- Management and maintenance of wooded area behind Sandyford Road
- Provide the services of litter pickers throughout the parish area to improve the area
- Provision of community grants for the Pelton Community Centre and Grange Villa Enterprise Centre.
- Submitting comments on all planning applications
- Funding and delivery of parish events and support and facilitation of groups (where required) providing parish events as follows-
 - VE Day, VJ Day and Remembrance Services
 - Funding supporting for Resident Association Initiatives
 - Funding support towards Culture for Kids Initiatives

The Council represents the parish on a number of external organisations, including:-

- Pelton Community Centre
- Grange Villa Enterprise Centre
- Chester le Street and District Area Action Partnership
- County Durham Association Small Councils Committee

The Council also looks to reflect the views of our community by liaising with other public bodies and commenting on key strategic issues such as housing, highways, planning etc.

The Parish Council considers community engagement an important part of focusing on local needs to the benefit of all parishioners. We ensure residents are kept fully informed of all decisions and proposals that may affect them. This information is shared through the following ways-

- The Parish Council Newsletter- published and delivered quarterly.
- The council website at www.peltonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Agendas, Minutes and important information is placed inside the Parish Council Noticeboards

3. Councillors

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Residents elect fifteen Parish Councillors every four years- the next election will be May 2025. This year the Parish Council had an uncontested election. The Council then elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council each year at the Annual Meeting of the Council which is held each year in May. Pelton Parish Councillors are not paid.

4. Council Meetings

Pelton Parish Council has monthly council meetings which usually take place in Pelton Community Centre on the 4th Wednesday of every month except August and December. Presently the majority of sub-committee meetings are being held on the Zoom platform until further notice. Everyone is welcome to attend, so please come along and see physically or virtually for yourself. The Elected Members of the Council are largely residents of Pelton, Pelton Lane Ends, Newfield, Perkinsville, High Handenhold, West Pelton and Grange Villa, who carry out all work on a voluntary basis. The Parish Council has a paid Clerk, who works 30 hours per week and is usually office based inside Pelton Community Centre.

5. Council Management and Services

The Clerk administers the Council, dealing with correspondence, communications and all aspects of finance including our accounts. The council also employs people/companies for specific tasks, i.e- landscaping and garden services, supply and maintenance of the flower beds, allotment pest control and litter picking. The council has an annual budget from income it largely receives from the council tax called the precept. This is used to pay for things in the villages regarded by the Councillors as important to the community.

6. Financial Information

Pelton Parish Council is funded directly through a precept collected through the Council Tax on the residents of Pelton Parish. The precept for the financial year 2020/2021 was £196295. The expenditure for the Parish Council includes the salary of the Parish Clerk, two Litter Pickers, grants and donations to local groups, local events, general maintenance of the parish owned play area and various additional projects and equipment. Full details of all income, budgets and estimates are on the website.

7. Parish Council Governance

We feel that we are a very ambitious and caring council. By working in partnership with people who are committed to our villages we have improved our community greatly and we want to do even more in the future. Our mission is to deliver quality services to Residents and Businesses within Pelton, Pelton Lane Ends, Newfield, Perkinsville, Grange Villa and parts of West Pelton and High Handenhold.

We are committed to:

- listening to and responding to the views and needs of local residents;
- addressing local residents priorities;
- providing and supporting local youth service amenities and provision;
- supporting our local community centre which in turn services and supports the local community;
- working proactively to improve our villages and the wellbeing of our residents;
- working in partnerships to maximise achievement and efficiency in service delivery;
- delivering and improving upon value for money;
- promoting local democracy;

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These are the main projects we have delivered in our Parish Area during 2020/2021

MEMORIAL REFLECTION AREA



The three benches designed by Jade Mitchenson at the Memorial Reflection Area

After the installation of the War Memorial many residents asked if seating could be added to the area. After listening to their feedback, we applied for funding and received the agreement of funding to install three memorial benches to be installed near to the War Memorial. This has been an ongoing project to provide an opportunity for local residents to have a focal point in the parish where they can pay their respects to all those loved ones who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of Freedom and Peace in our time.

The Memorial Benches will provide seating for people to carry out their personal reflection in comfort and in seats that represent what binds a community - Their heritage.

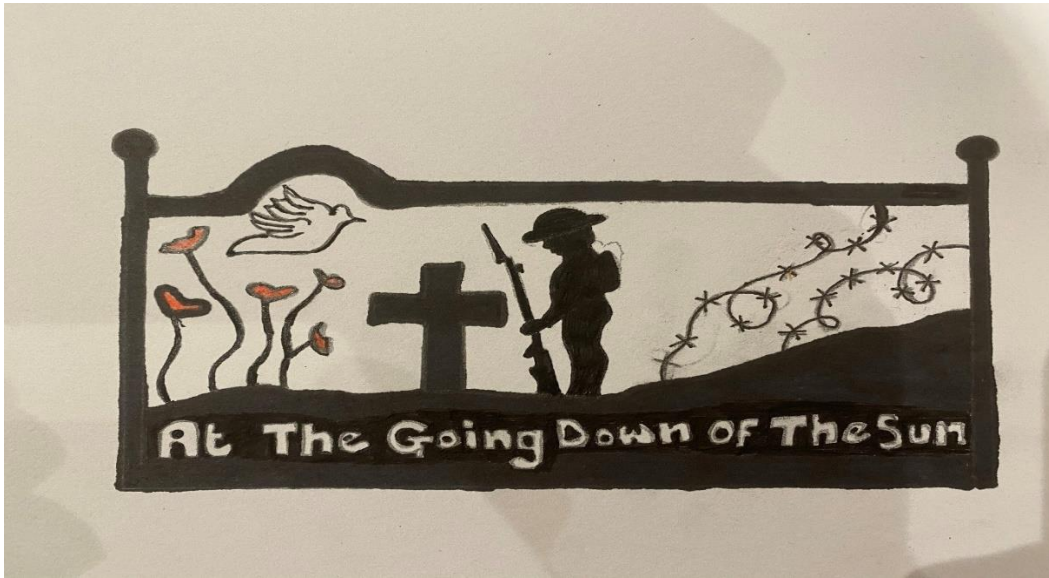
The project was funded through Section 106 monies after the Parish Council received letters of support from Rt Hon Kevan Jones MP, Mrs Dorothy Rand MBE, Major (Retd) Christopher Lawton MBE DL, Reverend John Lintern and County Councillor Danny Wood. As the War Memorial is unique the Parish Council sought the creativity of local children to create a bespoke design befitting the Memorial Reflection Area. Councillors Stephen Hann and Miriam Lonsdale-Cope visited the two local primary schools and carried out a presentation during their assemblies to promote the project. The Councillors asked the children to submit an art contribution using silhouette imagery on the theme of conflict and remembrance. These seats will be for current and future generations to be seated in the Memorial Reflection Area. It was important that local children took a part in designing these seats.

There were 17 entrants and the Parish Council were impressed with the standard of entries for the competition. The winner of the competition, Jade Mitchenson impressed the Councillors with her artistic talent to create a contemplative design befitting the Memorial Reflection Area. Jade received a £20.00 The Works gift card and her name is included on the plaque engraving on one of the three benches. The Parish Council also provided £10.00 The Works gift cards to each of the sixteen children who entered the competition which were presented to them during their school assembly at Roseberry Primary School. A big thank you to everyone who entered the competition.

In addition, the six finalist's artwork is displayed in Pelton Community Centre if you would like to take a look at the local artwork creations.

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We look forward to receiving feedback from local residents when they visit the new seats.



Winning design created by Jade Mitchenson



Several Years 3 & 4 entrants from Roseberry Primary School receiving their certificates and £10.00 The Works Gift cards.



Six finalist's creation on display at Pelton Community Centre

NEXT STEPS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE MEMORIAL REFLECTION AREA

Further improvements to the Memorial Reflection Area in 2021/20211 will include- the installation of small railings to attach the wreaths and a flower bed to the sides and behind the Memorial. After that we will seek local opinion on any further improvements during the Outdoor Spaces and Recreational Areas Committee Meetings.

STAY APART, STAY SAFE, STAY FULL PROJECT

Pelton Parish Council donated £500.00 towards a new project providing meals on wheels to residents in the Pelton Parish area. The project was run by NeuroActive UK for initially twelve weeks out of Ouston Community Centre. They provided two hot meals delivered each week to residents in the local area. Funding and support was provided by the local County Councillors Alison Batey, Danny Wood and Colin Carr along with donations from Urpeth and Ouston Parish Councils.

FOOD PARCELS DONATION IN ACTION AT PELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Parish Council has donated £2900 to support the food parcels donation scheme being carried out at the community centre. These weekly food parcels are made up with produce delivered by Fareshare along with other items such as nappies. Food parcels being made up in

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Pelton Community Centre



Food parcels being made up in Pelton Community Centre

FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE- BEAMISH MUSUEM PASS WINNER

The feedback we have received from the questionnaire in the newsletter distributed in early March 2020 was considered as part of the budget planning preparation for 2021/2022. Thank you for taking part in the questionnaire. The winner of the Beamish Museum Unlimited Family Pass kindly donated by Beamish Museum was Elaine Graham. Elaine and her husband, Henry who were delighted to receive the pass which they will be using to take their grandchildren for regular visits.



Elaine and her husband, Henry at Beamish Museum

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DONATION TO THE HEEL AND TOE CHARITY

Pelton Parish Council unanimously agreed at a Parish Council Meeting to provide a donation of £2000 towards the local Heel and Toe Charity. Heel and Toe are raising much needed funds towards their projects which have been affected due to Covid-19.

If you would like to read more about the charity and their fundraising projects then details are on their webpage



Chair in August 2020, Cllr Gerry Walker presenting a cheque to Heel and Toe Charity

VE DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE on 10th May 2020

Pelton Parish Council had planned a family fun packed afternoon for all our local residents to enjoy on Friday 8th May 2020. Giving the local children and their families the chance to commemorate the VE Day 75 linking with The National Toast and the playing of the Piper.

Cllr Miriam Lonsdale-Cope was disappointed that the VE Day 75 Commemorations were unable to take place but of course wanted to still arrange for the Parish Council to mark their respects on Sunday 10th May 2020. Cllr Lonsdale-Cope said "Although we are in an awful time at this moment with the coronavirus. We still must remember VE Day in this 75th year. We must remember those men and women who sacrificed their lives in World War 2 to give us our freedom. If you can think about their trials and tribulations they must have gone through. We give them love and thanks for what we have now".

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Several Councillors- The Parish Council Chairman on 10th May 2020- Cllr Gerry Walker, along with Cllr Mick Simpson and Cllr Stephen Hann attended a brief Commemoration Event at the War Memorial led by Cllr Miriam Lonsdale-Cope. See below for a video clip of part of the event where Cllr Lonsdale-Cope gave a brief speech in honour of those who died during World War 2. Thank you to Cllr Danny Wood for videoing the ceremony on behalf of the Parish Council.

[VE Day Video 1](#)

A 2 minute silence was then held followed by the laying of a Wreath and Commemoration Flowers which were red, white and blue at the War Memorial by Cllr Walker and Cllr Simpson.



Chair in May 2020, Cllr Walker and Cllr Lonsdale-Cope



Cllr Simpson and Cllr Lonsdale-Cope

VJ DAY COMMEMORATION on 15th August 2020

Pelton Parish Council held a service for the 75th VJ Day on 15th August 2020. Reverend John Lintern and Cllr Miriam Lonsdale-Cope (who co-designed the War Memorial along with the retired Parish Clerk, Maxine Robinson) carried out a short service to honour the occasion. It was poignant and provided the opportunity for the Parish Council to honour all of the military personnel and civilians who died during World War 2. A two-minute silence was then held followed by the laying of a Wreath and Commemoration Flowers on behalf of the Parish Council and the local residents by the Chairman at the time, Cllr Gerry Walker and Cllr Stephen Hann.



Chair at the time of the event, Cllr Walker



Commemoration Flowers



VJ Day Wreath

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY- 8th NOVEMBER 2020



Reverend John Lintern and Cllr Miriam Lonsdale-Cope carrying out the Service



County Councillor Danny Wood, Vice Chair of Parish Council- Mick Simpson and Mr John Byrne laying wreaths on behalf of residents.

This year the Parish Council were unable to carry out the traditional Remembrance Sunday Service we would like to that befitted the importance of the occasion. However, we felt that ensuring there was an opportunity for an Act of Remembrance in Pelton Parish was extremely important to us all and how that was be carried out would be different but no less important for us all this year.

Our Service commenced at 3.30pm at the War Memorial, Holy Trinity Church, Pelton. The Service was led by Reverend John Lintern and Cllr Miriam Lonsdale-Cope carried out a reading on behalf of the Parish Council. The wreath laying was carried out on behalf of the Parish Council by the Vice Chair – Cllr Mick Simpson; Durham County Council by County Councillor Danny Wood (who was also in attendance as Chair of the Parish Council) and the ex-Service Personnel of Pelton Parish by Mr John Byrne. Another first for the Parish Council this year was a Facebook livestream for the event through the Facebook page of Cllr Danny Wood.

Christmas Themed Competition

Thank you for entering our Christmas Themed Competition. After reviewing the entries, the Parish Councillors agreed on the winning entries, Millie Stonebank who drew a Gingerbread House and Jamie Bell who along with her daughters had a wonderful outdoor Christmas display. Both winners received a £20.00 Tesco Gift Card.



Millie Stonebank with her winning design



Jamie Bell and her girls Outdoor Christmas Display

MEMORIAL SEAT DONATED TO PELTON METHODIST CHURCH



The Parish Council were proud to see the newly installed Memorial Bench outside the Pelton Methodist Church. The bench was donated by the Parish Council as a dedication to local people who have helped friends and family during the pandemic.

The Ladies at the Pelton Methodist Church chose the colour of the seat and the thoughtful wording included on the plaque-

‘For all who helped, encouraged, loved and cared for family and friends of this community during troubled times. Always here for each other. Look for the rainbows. Donated by Pelton Parish Council.’

We look forward to receiving any feedback you may have regarding this project.

Cleaning of the Plinth at the Lavender Centre

The Pelton Plinth has been installed for 7 years and over the years has become less easy to read and quite dirty. Pelton Parish Council arranged for the restoration of the Plinth at the Lavender Centre by David France Masonry. The work was intricate and the masons hand cleaned the Plinth to ensure the words were not eroded.

Below is a before a before and after picture for you to see the transformation. Many residents walk past this Plinth and we hope you enjoy looking at the transformation.

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Before the cleaning and after the cleaning of the Lavender Plinth

THORNTON POCKET PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Cllr Danny Wood and Lewis Stokes, Community Relations Manager, Banks Community Fund in Thornton Pocket Park

The following article was printed in the local press regarding the improvements at Thornton Pocket Park funded by The Banks Group.

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Visitors to a revitalised Chester-le-Street community park now have somewhere to sit and enjoy the sunshine thanks to a four-figure grant from a regional employer.

Thornton Pocket Park in Pelton was threatened with closure two years ago after becoming run down and poorly used, but thanks to a campaign by local residents and funding secured through Pelton Parish Council, the park was saved and has since been greatly improved.

As part of the next stage of its redevelopment, a £5,000 grant was obtained from property and energy firm The Banks Group's Banks Community Fund to help bring new seating into the park – and it has now been installed in time for the beginning of spring.

Two 'Humpty Dumpty' benches and a further vandal-proof bench have been put in place, along with a 'snakes and ladders' picnic table on which families can play the popular board game with their own counters.

During the design process, Pelton Parish Council consulted with local children and families about the types of seating they'd like to see in the park to ensure that it met their practical needs.

New play equipment was installed in the park in 2019 as part of its revitalisation and it has become an increasingly popular place for local families to visit and play, especially during the pandemic.

Cllr Danny Wood, Chair of Pelton Parish Council, says: "We'd like to thank residents and the local community for their work in saving and supporting Thornton Pocket Park over the last couple of years."

Joanne Dickinson, clerk at Pelton Parish Council, says: "There's been a great local response to the work that's been done to improve the park – there are always people there and it's a really lively, safe and well-used part of our community.

"Our families have been asking when we might be getting some seating installed at the park, especially the many grandparents who come here and who might like to sit down sometimes while their grandchildren run about the place.

"Involving them in agreeing the type of seating that we were going to install means we know it's going to meet their needs and it also increases their sense of ownership of what's become a real community asset.

"We wouldn't have been able to afford to install the seating as quickly as this without Banks' generous support and it's great that it's in place for everyone to use as the better spring weather begins to come our way."

Lewis Stokes, community relations manager at The Banks Group, says: "There's been a really impressive community effort to turn somewhere that was in a poor state of repair into a vibrant, well-used recreational facility.

"As a County Durham business, we're very pleased to be able to help with the next stage of Thornton Pocket Park's redevelopment and hope everyone enjoys sitting out in the springtime sunshine."

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RADIO 5 Live Interview with local resident Mrs Susan English-Stewart about Thornton Pocket Park is a great example of local community engagement with the Parish Council

The Radio 5 Live team who had seen the news feature about Thornton Pocket Park contacted the Parish Council on Saturday 20th March 2021. They were researching 'what your local park means to you during lockdown' after Liverpool City Council gave protection to over 100 local parks. Radio 5 Live were after a residents' point of view. The Chairman asked Susan English-Stewart who has been fully supportive of the project from the beginning if she would be ok to speak and she did. The feature was on the Sunday 21st March 2021, 7am show at around 1hr 43 minutes into the show. Susan proudly talks about the project, lovely to listen to if you get a chance.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000tf1m> (this will only work if you have the BBC app)

Thank you for taking the time to read through our Annual Report for 2020/2021. We are committed to continuing our work improving the Parish in 2021 /2022. Please visit the Parish Council Website for further Parish News regarding future initiatives.