

PELTON PARISH COUNCIL



Grange Villa



High Handenhold and West Pelton



Newfield and Pelton Lane Ends



Pelton



Perkinsville

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Annual Report 2022/2023

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Chair's Message



1507 Air Squadron Cadets and Durham Constabulary Cadets with Parish Council Volunteers at the recent Pelton Parish Coronation Event

Firstly a huge thank you to everyone that has worked with the Parish Council over the last year. As well as our day to day responsibilities we have had a very busy year.

Planning has been a big issue for the Parish Council recently and together we have registered a number of important open spaces as Assets of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011. This means that should the current owners dispose of them, we as a Parish Council would be given the opportunity to purchase them before they could be sold on the open market. We would like to particularly thank everyone that took the time to respond to our petition to protect the play area and open space at The Wynd.

We have also registered a number of our allotment sites as Assets of Community Value and we are working with Urpeth Parish Council and Ouston Parish Council to develop a Neighbourhood Plan which would focus on protecting green and open spaces, maintaining distinct identities for each of our communities and encouraging regeneration of vacant and derelict sites within the area. If this is something you would be interested in getting involved with, please let us know.

Despite the financial climate we have continued to provide support to both Pelton Community Centre and to Grange Villa Community Enterprise and have made funding available to support residents' associations across the parish.

We have worked with Durham County Council to provide additional Neighbourhood Warden patrols and targeted support at areas of the parish that need it most.

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We have held community litterpicks and have also supported regular litterpicks with children from both Pelton Community Primary School and Roseberry Primary School to help keep our villages tidy.

All of this work is set to continue and we are already working on our budget for next year to deliver even more for our residents across the parish.

On behalf of Pelton Parish Council, I would like to thank all of the organisations that have worked with us and all of us and every resident that has taken time to engage with us. It is great to look back at some of the achievements of the past year, but as a Parish Council we are always looking ahead. The next year presents a number of challenges for us – but also a great deal of opportunity to make our community an even better place to live.

Best wishes,

Cllr Danny Wood
Chair
Pelton Parish Council

Introduction

This Annual Report details work carried out by the Parish Council to benefit our residents over the last year and our plans going forward to build on these improvements. This year has been a busy one as we have delivered local projects; Community Litter Picks, Successfully registered important community spaces- Grange Villa, Newfield and Hylton Terrace allotments and The Wynd Play Area/Green Open Space as Assets of Community Value; Petitioned Durham County Council to refuse to sell the Play Area/Open Space at The Wynd; Multi Agency Walkabouts in all village areas; supported the Platinum Jubilee Event; set up a Neighbourhood in Bloom Competition; Purchased a display case for the Pelton Stargazers Juvenile Jazz Band Banner and supported the Heritage Day where the Unveiling took place; supported the installation of a seat in memory of George ‘Sonny’ Demand; agreed to commence a Neighbourhood Plan with Urpeth and Ouston Parish Council. We continue to maintain high standards of service to our residents after we were awarded the Local Council Award Scheme Quality Gold Award in July 2021. One of only 2 Parish Councils in County Durham and Cleveland with the accolade.

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 6 allotment sites within the Parish
- 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-

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- Remembrance Services
- Funding supporting for Resident Association Initiatives
- Funding support towards initiatives by local organisations
- Funding for a Neighbourhood Warden to work 4.5 hours per week in the parish

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 has arranged a public meeting with 2 Durham County Council Cabinet Members, Cllr James Rowlandson and Cllr Mark Wilkes. Ms Joy Allen, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner attended a Q&A Session at a Parish Council Meeting.

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
- Please see the Parish Council Business Plan for further information about the Parish Council- [Business Plan 2021-2024](#)

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These are the main projects we have delivered in our Parish Area during 2022/2023

FAMILY LITTER PICK on 18th AUGUST 2022

In partnership with Pelton Community Centre and John Smith, the Neighbourhood Warden we held a successful Family Community Litter Pick in Pelton on 18.8.22. We collected from the Front Street, down Grange Street/Orchard Street/Wood Street/Elwin Place and The Wynd. 10 bags of rubbish were collected. Then we all headed back to the community centre for a welcoming cuppa and biscuits. We will be holding future litter picks so please let us know if you would like us to let you know the future details.



Volunteers who helped out at the family litter pick on 18.8.22

STARGAZERS HERITAGE DAY- 5th MARCH 2023

John and Joan Dodds organised a wonderful event on 5th March 2023 to bring everyone together to remember the Pelton Stargazers Jazz Band. The banner was unveiled and there were lots of memorabilia on display. Thank you John and Joan for arranging an amazing day for all who attended. Below are some pictures of the event.



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MULTI AGENCY WALKABOUT

Pelton Parish Council arranged with the Karbon Homes Community Connector for a multi agency walkabout to take place in 4 locations across the Parish. Karbon Homes Housing Managers along with the Neighbourhood Warden, Parish Clerk, Parish Council Litter Pickers, and Parish Councillors, County Councillors, Residents and Police Support Officers who were available on the various dates held a walkabout to identify local issues and litter picked at the same time. Thank you to everyone who took part in the walkabouts.

The walkabouts took place as follows

1. Pelton – 13th July 2022.
2. Grange Villa and West Pelton- 7th September 2022.
3. Newfield and Pelton Lane Ends- 28th September 2022.
4. Perkinsville – 5th October 2022.

Below are a few pictures of each walkabout with the multi-agency participants-



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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY- 13th November 2022

The Parish Council arranged a Remembrance Sunday Service at 3.30pm on 13.11.22. The weather was fine and we had a good turnout for the event. The Service was led by Reverend John Lintern. Parish Councillor Miriam Lonsdale-Cope provided 2 readings during the Service. The 1st Newfield Scouts Group were proudly in attendance. If you were unable to attend and would like to view the Service it is on the Facebook page of County Councillor Danny Wood. Here are a few pictures from the event.



Children from the 1st Newfield Scouts Group



Mr John Byrne laying a wreath on behalf of ex Service Personnel in Pelton Parish

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UNVEILING OF SEAT IN MEMORY OF GEORGE 'SONNY' DEMAND

You may have noticed the new seat installed at North View, Newfield dedicated to George William Hedworth Demand. Always known as Sonny to friends and family.

Family members, as well as Mrs Dorothy Rand MBE and Mr David Elgy wanted to have a memorial bench situated on the green in front of North View, Newfield. The siting of the bench is between the two places where Sonny lived in Newfield.

The bench was provided by Brenda and Gillian nee Young, who are Sonny's first cousins once removed. Much valuable assistance was given by Pelton Parish Council, Karbon Homes, Dorothy, David and the office of Rt Hon Kevan Jones MP.

On the 17th March 2023 an 'Unveiling' of the bench took place. Firstly, the Roseberry School children listened during their school assembly as Dorothy told them the story of Sonny. After the assembly the children and the guests walked to the bench where the 'Unveiling' took place. Below are some pictures taken on the afternoon.



Mrs Dorothy Rand MBE saying a few words prior to the 'Unveiling' of the bench

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Local children, Mrs Dorothy Rand MBE seated. From left to right, Gillian, Rt Hon Kevan Jones MP and Brenda

Thank you for taking the time to read through our Annual Report for 2022/2023. We are committed to continuing our work improving the Parish in 2023/2024. Please visit the Parish Council Website for further Parish News regarding future initiatives.

[Parish News - Pelton Parish Council](#)