



PELTON PARISH COUNCIL



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Chair's Message



I am delighted to present Pelton Parish Council's Annual Report for the 2024/2025 year at the end of this Council Term. The new Parish Council will be elected from 1 May and our Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Council will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 14 May at Pelton Community Centre. This is an opportunity for residents to raise any issues, concerns or projects they feel that the parish council should work on in the future and all are welcome.

We have vacancies on the Parish Council following the formal election process and will be advertising for Co-options very soon. If you would like to get more involved in the Parish Council and need any more information about the role and the work involved, please contact us for further details.

This has been an incredibly busy year for the Parish and has seen additional projects too, such as the campaign to improve mobile phone signal in Grange Villa, supporting the views of residents about planning applications and working towards re-applying for the NALC Gold Award (which we are hoping to be able to submit soon).

Our summer event has become an annual tradition and we are already working on plans for this year's event which will be advertised soon.

As a Parish Council, we believe that partnership working is vital to secure the best outcomes for our residents. We are proud to support Pelton Community Centre and Grange Villa Community Enterprise and are really pleased with the support for our local residents and our young people. For the coming financial year we have increased the grant they receive from the Parish Council to ensure that they can deliver even more.

Thanks to grant funding from Joy Allen, Police and Crime Commissioner we have continued to benefit from additional Neighbourhood Warden patrols in the parish and the Wardens provide a monthly update at our meetings.

We have recently recruited an Administration and Allotments Officer, Rachel Bridgeford. Rachel is working alongside our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Joanne Dickinson and will be taking the lead on Allotments and providing admin support to Joanne. The main contact number is still 07912688050 and the main email address is clerk@peltonparishcouncil.gov.uk

One of the issues that we have already enquired about is a Community Governance Review to change the parish boundaries between Pelton and Urpeth. We would also like to explore the potential of extending the parish boundaries to include Pelton Fell and will be arranging a public meeting to discuss this further.

I hope that you enjoy reading our Annual Report and if you do have any questions or comments, please let us know.

Best wishes,

Cllr Danny Wood
Chair - Pelton Parish Council

What have been our achievements and our priorities this year?

This Annual Report details work carried out by the Parish Council to benefit our residents over the last year, our plans going forward to build on these improvements and our long term priorities.

This year has been a busy one as we have delivered the following for our residents:

- Community Litter Picks
- Delivered a Parish Summer Event which was fully funded by the Parish Council
- Held the second Neighbourhood in Bloom Competition
- Progressed work on commencing a Neighbourhood Plan- further information will be provided about this in 2025. If you would like to get involved then it would be great to hear from you.
- 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.
- Management and maintenance of Thornton Pocket Park
- Sourced funding for the Pelton Underpass Project which was secured by Heart Remind CIC
- Arrange regular liaison meetings with the Site Manager from Esh Construction (Roseberry Homes Development)
- Held a public meeting in Grange Villa to discuss mobile phone connectivity issues, leading to compiling information from local organisations/residents to share with the mobile phone providers.
- Management and maintenance of the Memorial and Memorial Reflection Area at Holy Trinity Church, Pelton
- Management and maintenance of 6 allotment sites within the Parish
- Provide the services of litter pickers throughout the parish area to improve the area
- Funding towards a dedicated Neighbourhood Warden Service for 4.5 hours per week and secured match funding from the Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner for another 4.5 hours per week.
- Worked with Ouston and Urpeth Parish Council on a Poppy Project which culminated in over 200 Poppies being installed on lampposts in Pelton Parish leading up to Remembrance Day.
- Organised a D -Day 80th Anniversary Service on 6th June 2024 which included 6 different readers for the Service.
- Provision of community grants for the Pelton Community Centre and Grange Villa Enterprise Centre.
- Submitting comments on all planning applications
- Working with community groups- including Residents' Associations, Scouts, Guides and Brownies, Nursing Home, Schools, our 2 community centres & Pelton Youth Project
- Funding and delivery of parish events and support and facilitation of groups (where required) providing parish events/improvements as follows-

Event/Parish Improvement	24/25- £ amount
Remembrance Services- 2 x wreaths and Piper for Remembrance Sunday Event	£33 for the wreaths. The Piper provided his service for free
7 Christmas Trees across the Parish	£2154
Annual bedding contract with Durham County Council	£6000- Approx cost as invoice not received as of yet
Annual grounds maintenance contract for outside Pelton Community Centre, top of Hylton Terrace and grass at front of Sandyford Woods	£3015

Annual grounds maintenance contract for outside Grange Villa Enterprise Centre	£1707
Improvements to 2 x brick flowed beds at Grange Villa, Stone Row/Pine Street	£220
Annual cost for a dedicated Neighbourhood Warden in Parish for 4.5 hours per week	£5567
Printing costs for quarterly Parish Newsletters- delivered by volunteers	£1670
D Day 80 th Anniversary Service	£120- £45 for flowers and £75 for the Piper
Parish Council Summer Event	£512
Poppies Project	£1014- fully funded by Karbon Homes and County Councillors Batey, Pringle and Wood.
Traffic Calming Scheme	£8000
TOTAL AMOUNT	£30012

Parish Council Representation on behalf of Residents

The Council is proud to represent 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 arranged a public meeting for Grange Villa residents to discuss mobile phone connectivity issues.

Community Engagement

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-

peltonparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Business-Plan-updated-on-12.4.25.pdf

External Funding received in 24/25 for Parish Projects-

We apply for external funding to help deliver local projects to benefit our residents without impacting on the annual precept required. Below is the funding received in 2024/2025. We will continue to look for opportunities to work in partnership with other organisations in 2025/2026.

Organisation	24/25- amount and purpose
Karbon Homes	£1000 towards the cost of employing a Litter Picker £100 towards the Poppies Project

Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	£5566 match funding to provide another 4.5 hours per week dedicated Neighbourhood Warden in the Parish from 1.4.24= 9 hours per week. £1000 for an Environmental Project being led by the Neighbourhood Warden
County Councillors Batey, Pringle and Wood	£915 towards the Poppy Project
TOTAL ANNUAL EXTERNAL FUNDING	£8581

Grants and Donations awarded in 2024/2025-

We receive requests for grants and donations and welcome applications from local organisations. This is the Grant Awarding Policy [Grant-Awarding-Policy.doc.pdf \(peltonparishcouncil.gov.uk\)](#) and Grant Application Form [Grant-application-Form-updated-June-2022.docx \(live.com\)](#) if you would like the Parish Council to consider an application.

Organisation	24/25- amount and purpose
1st Newfield Scouts Group	£414 for camping and first aid equipment
Grange Villa Enterprise Centre	£20886- Annual grant
Holy Trinity Church	£100 for refreshments at Carol Service
Pelton Community Centre	£90000- Annual Grant
Pelton Community School	£590- Coaches for beach trip
Pelton Grange Nursing Home	£390 for Chair Based Exercise Classes
Pelton Parish Council Events	£90 for a sign and competition prize to design a sign for the Newfield allotment site £84- Prize for the Photography Competition £140-In Bloom competition-
Roseberry Primary School	£1500 for funding towards outdoor play equipment £1000 for the Robotics Championship
TOTAL ANNUAL FUNDING	£115,194

Long Term Priorities of the Parish Council

We carried out a community consultation from July 2024 to early January 2025 to seek the views of residents about our main priorities for long term budget planning. We will carry out an annual consultation going forward which will be circulated in the summer and autumn parish newsletters. This was the feedback received which will be considered when agreeing future budget requirements-

1. I think the following should be priorities for the Parish Council:

[More details](#)

● Strongly Disagree
● Disagree
● Neither Agree or Disagree
● Agree
● Strongly Agree

Support for Community Centres

Regeneration of Vacant Sites and Buildings in the Parish

Allotments

Creating a Neighbourhood Plan

Road Safety

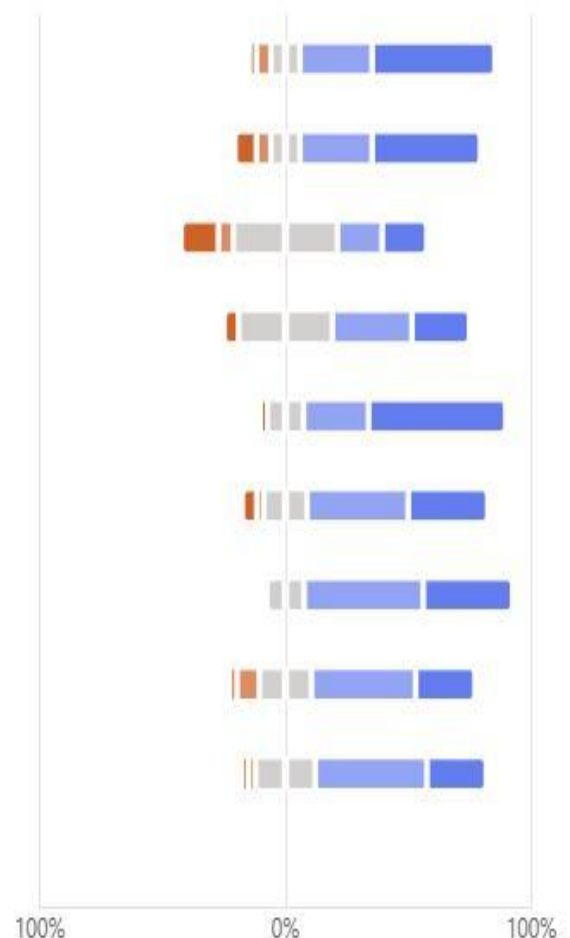
Additional Neighbourhood Warden Hours in the area

Litterpicking

Support/grant for local schools

Support/grant for local residents' associations

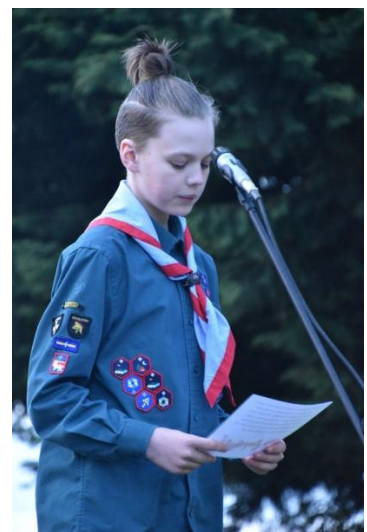
Other- Please specify below



These are the main projects we have delivered in our Parish Area during 2024/2025

D-DAY 80th Anniversary Service on 6th June 2024

The Parish Council organised the Service on 6th June 2024. The Tribute Poem at 9.15pm was read out by 7 residents with a mixture of ages. It was a poignant service led by Reverend John Lintern. Please see below for pictures of the Service.



Pelton Parish Coronation Community Event on 28.7.24

We held a traditional Summer Fair on 28.7.24 and as it was sunny we were able to make the most of all the fun outdoor activities- stocks, coconut shy, sack races, etc. There are pictures below of the fun filled 2 hours. Thank you to the organisations who were able to attend on the day. A particular big thank you to the 1507 Air Cadets who were a great team, all polite and happy to get involved. The Parish Council provided all of their activities for free and that included free tea, coffee, juice and homemade cake.



PELTON PARISH PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The Parish Council held the first Photography Competition in 2024. We had an under 16 category and an over 16 category. The winner of the under 16 category for the Photograph Competition won a 12 month subscription to [Visual Education: Learn. Create. Thrive.](#)

The winner was 9 years old and is called Thomas. A picture is attached of him with his camera and the winning picture. Along with a picture of Thomas being presented with his Certificate of Achievement by the Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Danny Wood. As you can see Thomas is a keen photographer and this prize will be invaluable to him developing his skills/knowledge.

The photo was taken by Thomas at Beamish Museum at the bus stop near the entrance building.

Well Done Thomas.



Pelton Parish Neighbourhood in Bloom 2024

Pelton Parish Council held the second in Bloom competition in 2024 and below are some pictures from the entries received



After School Litter Picking Club- Roseberry Primary School

Since 10th January 2023 children from Roseberry School have been out and about in all weathers attending a weekly After School Litter Picking Club. The School Teacher, Mrs Cutts has been regularly supported by John Smith, Neighbourhood Warden (who even attends on his days off), 3 Parish Councillors – Joyce Barker, Stephen Hann and Clare Todd. The children are an absolute pleasure to walk around with and to listen to as they comment on the amount and type of litter in their locality. On average 2 bags of rubbish are collected in the time they walk around different routes close to the school.

Act of Remembrance Service – Sunday 10th November 2024

The Parish Council arranged a Remembrance Sunday Service at 3.30pm on 10.11.24. The Service was led by Reverend John Lintern. Parish Councillor Miriam Lonsdale-Cope provided a reading during the Service. The 1st Newfield Scouts Group and 1507 Chester le Street Air Cadets were proudly in attendance.

Newfield Allotment Sign Competition

Roseberry Primary School recently held a competition for the children to create a sign for the Newfield allotment gate. The winning entry chosen was created by Connor in Year 3. It's a brilliant creation and is shown below. Connor was presented with a certificate and 1 £30 Dobbies gift card by Kevin and George from the allotment site. Well done Connor!



POPPIES PROJECT 2024

Pelton Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has taken part in the Poppies Project 2024. On Saturday 26th October 2024 volunteers helped to attach the Poppies onto the lampposts where we have permission to install them from Durham County Council. We were unable to put them onto telegraph poles but are looking into this for 2025. The Poppies and the cable ties are reusable so we will be able to install them each year going forward.

Funding from Karbon Homes and the Neighbourhood Budgets of County Councillors Alison Batey, Paul Pringle & Danny Wood covered the cost of the Poppies bought direct from the Royal British Legion and the reusable cable ties.

