

TRIMDON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

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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 2017. I hope that I have continued to successfully carry out the role expected of me.

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.

I would like to thank 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 4 May 2017 and will serve a term of four years.

Old Trimdon Ward

John BURTON
Denise DAVISON
Rob GILBERT
Bernadette OLIVER
Leslie OLIVER
Ian QUINN
Keith THOMPSON
Paul TRIPPETT

New Trimdon and Trimdon Grange Ward

Eileen DICKINSON
George ELLIOTT
Margaret ELLIOTT
Margaret HUGHES
David SMITH

Parish Meetings are held in the Community Centre, Trimdon Grange 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

Anne Delandre is the current Parish Clerk.

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 trimdonpc@tiscali.co.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 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 £22,142 to £22,781 for the financial year 2018/2019. The tax base also increased from the previous year resulting in an income of £151,288, an increase of £2,526 from the previous financial year.

The Parish Council is ever mindful of the current economic climate, and how this is affecting the residents of the parish and the Parish Council agreed that, once again, there would be no increase in the precept for 2018/2019. The precept has, therefore, been set at £151,288 for

the forthcoming year. This means that the amount paid by a band D taxpayer continues to remain at £139.59.

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 2017/2018 a total of £45,034 was awarded to community groups and organisations. Of this amount £7,850 was awarded under the Local Government Act 1972 S.137 regulations.

The Council has set a budget of £50,000 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 some or all of the residents of Trimdon Parish Council.

The Parish Council is particularly keen to fund organisations who provide support and wellbeing towards the delivery of youth activities. To support this aim, the Parish Council has 'ring-fenced' a sum of £5,000 from the Grants and Donations Budget to help deliver a Youth Service across the parish. The Parish Council sees this as a particularly important function, following the withdrawal of funding from Durham County Council to deliver a Youth Service.

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 2017/2018 15 interments and 3 interment of cremated remains took place.

Guidance Notes regarding the Cemetery, including a document 'Cemetery Information for Families' is available on the Parish Council website www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Parish Council has approved expenditure of £15,000 for improvements and repairs at the Cemetery, including the refurbishment of the War Memorial. It is hoped that this work will be completed by November, allowing a service to take place to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War on 11 November 2018.

BUS SHELTERS AND PARK BENCHES

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

During the course of the year the bus shelters were steam cleaned on two occasions and feedback on this work continues to be positive. In addition, a number of Perspex panels have been replaced. Arrangements are in place for this work to continue to be carried out on an ongoing basis.

During the year, the Parish Council purchased three new benches to be located throughout the parish; one in Trimdon Village, one in Trimdon Colliery and one in Trimdon Grange Cemetery.

In addition, three new picnic benches were replaced at Skerne Play Park, Trimdon Village.

PARISH NOTICEBOARDS

During the course of the year, work has taken place at all three Parish Noticeboards to replace the Perspex windows and pinboards.

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.

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 2017/2018, the Parish Council considered 20 planning applications. The Parish Council supported two applications; did not support two planning applications and offered no comment on the remaining planning applications.

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 for damage and an annual inspection by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) took place in June 2017.

Once again, RoSPA commented that considerable resources and work had been put into the sites and none of the equipment across all three sites was categorised as being high risk.

The Parish Council continues to ensure that sufficient funding is in place to maintain all three Play Parks on an ongoing basis. In addition, In November £9,767 was spent replacing three items of equipment at Trimdon Grange Play Park (the non-bump see-saw, slide and roundabout) which will ensure that children can continue to enjoy this Play Park for many years to come.

SCARECROW COMPETITION

In June 2016, the Parish Council launched its inaugural Scarecrow Competition. The 2017 competition was not as well supported, but this was mainly attributed to the very poor weather during the early part of June. Despite this, the Parish Council has agreed to hold another competition in June 2018 and will make a decision on the long-term future of the competition based on the response to this event.

TRIMFEST 2017

The Parish Council was pleased to, once again, work with GemArts and local community groups to host Trimfest 2018: A Celebration of art, music and cultures from across the world.

During the 19th – 27th October 2017 a number of multicultural events and activities for the local community were held to bring people together to experience and learn about art and cultures from across the world, while celebrating Trimdon and the local area too.

The Parish Council is grateful to a local company, Dyno Plumbing and Heating, who sponsored the publicity material for the event.

BULB PLANTING WITH LOCAL CHILDREN

During October 2017, the Parish Council worked with Durham County Council's Civic Pride team and local children to plant 30,000 crocus bulbs across the three villages. This will ensure that residents can look forward to a beautiful display of spring bulbs in the coming years.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON 2017

The Parish Council is grateful to ex-Trimdon resident and Radio Tees Presenter, Gary Philipson, who switched on the tree lights on the village green, Trimdon Village. The Parish Council would also like to thank members of Trimdon Concert Brass Band who were there to play festive music. Free rides were available for local children and Christmas cake and wine was served in St. Mary Magdalene Church. Once again, the evening proved a great success, with a record number of people attending the event.

WEBSITE

Trimdon Parish Council has its own website 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 trimdonpc@tiscali.co.uk or leave a message on www.trimdonparishcouncil.gov.uk.