

Lanchester Parish Council

Annual Report 2021 /22

Councillor Keith Harrison, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council 2021/22

Lanchester Parish Council's Annual Report provides me with an opportunity to inform the community of the work of the Parish Council between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

Covid continued to remain in the forefront through the year. The business of the Council was conducted partly through remote meetings but mainly by returning to face to face meetings with public access.

In May 2021 there were local elections. The election for Lanchester Parish Council was uncontested with 14 nominations for the 15 vacancies. Following the election, Mr Eric Hepplewhite was co-opted onto the Council to fill the remaining vacancy. These Councillors will sit until the next election in 2025.

In May, the referendum for the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan took place. This followed many years of work involving community consultation and planning policy development. Following a delay because of Covid, the referendum on the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan took place on May 6 2021. An overwhelming 89% voted YES for the Neighbourhood Plan, a great endorsement from the community. Organisations and members of the community came together to celebrate the adoption of the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan at an event on Wednesday 20 October. The Parish Council would wish to pass on a huge thanks to the working group of volunteers who have worked tirelessly over a number of years to deliver the Neighbourhood Plan.

On Saturday 27 November, families gathered on the Village Green for the annual Christmas Light Switch On. Recorded Christmas Carols were provided by Lanchester Brass Band and Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society. Christine Monaghan and Frank Redfern the former editors of the Village Voice turned on the lights accompanied by local schoolchildren. The event was live streamed free for those who wanted to watch from home courtesy of Lanchester Partnership. The Lights were again extended throughout January to bring cheer to people through the dark winter nights.

Work began at the end of 2021 to seek permission to permanently locate the beacon brazier at Burnhope picnic area. In addition preparations were made to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the lighting of the beacon on 2 June 2022

In January 2022 the Parish Council commenced work with the Walk and Talk Trust to develop a heritage walk. The project aims to create 100 circular heritage walks across County Durham over the next few years, including a walk in Lanchester.

At the end of 2021 Lanchester Parish Council began work on a project to install a Solar Planet Walk along the Lanchester Valley Walk. The project will provide a scaled version of the planets from the sun to pluto. The sun will be located in the village and the 9 planets will be spaced out to scale along the valley walk towards Consett. Each planet site will have interpretation and information. A working group is meeting to progress the project.

Work continued through the year to develop a new play area to replace the old and inaccessible play area at Manor Grange. A lease for the land has been obtained from Durham County Council and funding has been secured including grants and a financial contribution from the Parish Council. The tender for the works took place in 2021 with the successful company being awarded the contract in January 2022. Work commenced on the play area in May. We look forward to children and their families enjoying a new and exciting play facility.

The Council has continued to produce the Annual Report and the quarterly Council Newsletter both of which have been distributed widely throughout the community. Within the village, the Christmas lights and summer hanging baskets once again showed off the Parish to its best.

Receipts and Payment Account

Year ended 31 March 2022

Payments

General Admin	£39,059.51
Donations / Grants	£500.00
Rec. / Envir. Facilities	£14,647.05
Leisure Amenities	£2,753.51
Development Projects	£311.00
Contingencies	£0
VAT	£2,955.46

Receipts

Council Tax Support Grant	£804.74
Precept	£67,943.06
Interest Received	£17.42
Garage Rent	£200.00
Bus Shelter Maintenance	£0
Sundries	£100.00
Wayleaves	£16.37
Grants & Donations	£50,000.00
VAT	£3,323.68
Total	£122,405.27

£60,226.53

Balance at 1 April	£114,460.87
Add Total Income	£122,405.27
	£236,866.14
Less Total Expenditure	£60,226.53
Balance at 31 March	£176,639.61

The balance figure includes monies identified for specific works including Manor Grange Play Area.

This statement represents fairly the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2022 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.

Schedule of Meetings

Lanchester Parish Council has 15 Councillors who meet in full session 11 times a year.

During 2021/22 the Council met remotely via Zoom for some meetings, but mainly met in face to face meetings. Members of the public were welcome to attend.

Notice of all meetings can be found on the Parish Council notice board on the Village Green and on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council have in place a Public Participation Policy. Public and press attendance & participation is welcome at all meetings.

Grants / Donations

The Parish Council has the powers to give financial support to local clubs and organisations. During 2021/22 the Parish Council awarded the following grants / donations:

Churches Together	£100
Royal British Legion	£100
Lanchester Parochial Church Council	£300

Requests for grants / donations are normally considered by the Parish Council in March.

Lanchester Parish Council

Comprises of 14 elected councillors, one co-opted councillor, a Lead Officer / Clerk and a Handyperson

Following the local elections in May 2021 the following Councillors sat on the Parish Council.

Lanchester Parish Councillors for 2021/22:

Jude Considine	Ossie Johnson
David Friesner	Trevor Jones
Alison Gray	Barrie McDermid
Keith Harrison	Lorraine Montgomery
Eric Hepplewhite	David Smith
Paul Jackson	David Toner
Vicky Jackson	Ian Tute
	Stuart Walker



Staff	Lead Officer / Clerk	Sally Laverick	520146
	Handyperson	David Maddox	

Councillors do not receive any payment or allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out Council business.

Services and Activities

Lanchester Parish Council currently provides and maintains the following services within the Parish:

- Play Areas
- Bike Track
- Allotments
(managed by Association)
- Village Green
- Xmas Lights
- Hanging Baskets
- Grass Cutting (some)
- Tree Maintenance
- Bus Shelters (some)
- Public Seating (some)
- General upkeep
- Partnership working
- Project Working

