



## Lynemouth Parish Council Annual Report 2023-2024

The Parish Council has strived throughout the past year to provide residents with the best services possible at a local level.

The primary source of income for Lynemouth Parish Council comes from the precept, which is a local tax collected by Northumberland County Council on behalf of the Parish. This money is required to run our Council and pays to maintain and improve the facilities, activities, events and services that we provide.

The precept for 2023-24 was £30,000 and represented a 1% increase for households from the previous year. For the coming year (2024-25) Lynemouth Parish Council has set the precept at £31,000. Because of an increasing tax base (the average number of band D equivalent properties within the Parish) this actually resulted in a 1.7% decrease for individual household charges over last year. Other elements of the council tax bill over which the Parish Council has no influence – charges levied by Northumberland County Council, the Social Care Charge and Police Authority charge have risen by an average of approximately 5%.

The Council wants to protect and improve the social and environmental well-being of our village and the lives of all who live and work here. We continue to monitor our expenditure, and examine very closely how and where we spend money.

We continue to maintain and improve the area along Barrons Walk to ensure it remains accessible and enjoyable for all residents. Funding for the Street Cleanser/Litter Picker has continued on a part-time basis. Mr Johnson does an excellent job, often going over and beyond what is actually expected from him and we thank him for that. However, it is disappointing that there remains a core of people who still do not realise the effect that litter has on our environment and either refuse to use the litter bins provided or pick up after their dogs. This is especially concerning in the area of the recreation ground, where the actions of irresponsible dog owners can result in possible diseases and infections for children who should be able to play safely.

The Council wants to create strong links with our young people and we work to improve community awareness and involvement by strongly promoting the Lynemouth Council Award for Citizenship in conjunction with our local schools, William Leech Primary and Duke's Secondary. Councillor Kevin Hinmarsh has liaised closely with Duke's School to involve those young people who have moved on from our primary to secondary school.

Children from William Leech Primary and Rev Julia helped us all celebrate Christmas by once again performing their customary Carols by Candlelight through the village. Thanks to the "Tute" for showing fantastic community spirit by opening their doors and providing refreshments for all and congratulations to this year's design a light competition, Charlie Slough.

The Parish Council continues to provide allotments which are operated on a break even basis, in that each allotment holder pays a fee for their plot, and the Council's maintenance of the site approximates to the rent received.

Our thanks go to the Ashington Neighbourhood Policing Team who make the effort to attend our Parish Meetings whenever possible to listen and respond to residents' concerns. In the past year by far the most concerning issues for residents have been those around Elaine House and Inspector Daniels has openly addressed these when asked at meetings. However, the message remains "Report It to Sort It". Please do not assume that someone else has already done so. Without the evidence and data there is no way to tackle any problems. A new management team is now in place at Elaine House and Naomi Harrison is with us tonight to introduce herself to residents and give a brief insight into the organisation.

The Council regularly receives requests from charities and other organisations for donations and during the year grants money towards activities which are considered "to bring direct benefit to the area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants". This year we have continued to support organisations such as the Great North Air Ambulance and the Merchant Navy Welfare Board and have contributed to the maintenance of the children's playground.

Our 2023 Annual Remembrance Day Service was well attended by veterans, serving military personnel, local organisations, and members of the public, all honouring those who gave their lives for their country and did not return. We were also proud to fly the flag for Merchant Navy Day on 3 September, in recognition of the sacrifices made during the First and Second World War by the often forgotten men and women of the Merchant Navy.

As a community it is still vital that we help each other as best we can to get through what is still for many a time of anxiety and uncertainty and with this in mind, the Parish Council continues to liaise closely with the County Council, Northumberland communities Together and local community groups and volunteers to help support residents.

I would like to thank all Councillors, past and present, for their input and contribution. The position of Parish Councillor is unpaid and no remuneration is received by any of the members. Parish Councillors give their time freely in an effort to contribute to the well-being of our village.

Thanks also to Graeme, our Parish Clerk, who aims to provide this Council with independent, objective and professional advice and support, and to Steven Common and Dave Johnson, who work extremely hard in an attempt to make a real difference to the village.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Dunn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair