

Carham Parish Council Newsletter

No 15 ~ December 2024



We are sorry to be losing our much-valued parish clerk, Agnes Changleng, who has announced her intention to retire in 2025. She will be a hard act to follow, but we are now looking for someone to replace her and take up the job in May. The advertisement for this is over the page. As well as looking for a clerk, we are inviting residents to consider standing for election to the parish council when the local elections are held at the beginning of May. We are a small council with limited resources, but we enjoy working together and getting things done for the benefit of the parish, and we would welcome some new faces and fresh enthusiasm. In the meantime, we wish you a very happy Christmas and hope that the new year is a good one for everyone.

Carham Parish Council

Join Carham Parish Council

Carham Parish Council's councillors are ordinary people from across the parish who have volunteered a little of their time to represent the community. The council meets six times a year and each meeting is about an hour. Sometimes there is work for councillors to do between meetings, but as a rule it is the parish clerk, an employee of the parish council, who takes action to implement council decisions, as well as providing administrative support and advice on procedures. If you are interested in joining the parish council, please come to one of our meetings – with no commitment to join – to see what takes place.

- ❖ Carham Parish Council is an elected body in the first tier of local government and is funded by a small element of your Council Tax (the precept). Its job is to represent the interests of the whole community. It plays an important role in community life, as it is the official link between the residents of the parish and Northumberland County Council. It also plays a general consultative role on behalf of local people, commenting on planning applications and other matters that may affect the parish at large. It does not have a duty to deliver services – this is the job of Northumberland County Council – but it works in other ways to improve the quality of life and the local environment, from planting trees and monitoring the parish's public rights of way to installing speed monitors, maintaining Wark play park and supporting community events and activities. For more information, go to www.carhamparish.org and click on the Parish Council tab.

2025-26 Precept

Each year Carham Parish Council has to decide whether it needs to increase the precept. This is the money – a very small part of the Council Tax that is paid by residents – that we are given to run the parish council. It covers non-discretionary costs such as the parish clerk's salary, liability and professional insurance, and the annual play park inspection, as well as ad hoc items such as the purchase of grit bins and the repair of traffic speed monitors. The precept was last increased in 2016 and since then costs have risen for us as well as for residents, but we have decided to hold it at its current level for another year.

Phone Box at Mindrum Station

Although it is sometimes out of order and is undeniably complicated to use, the phone in the public telephone box on the B6352 near Mindrum Station is still in service. This part of the parish is sparsely populated and has an unreliable mobile signal, so it is important that this phone remains working for emergencies, if not for any other reason. It has had a closure notice on it before now, but new Ofcom rules say that phone boxes will be safeguarded against removal if they are still needed by a local community. Please help us to keep this phone box in use by making the occasional phone call from it, when you are passing by.



Contact Us

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Carham Parish Council

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Website
www.carhamparish.org

Carham Parish Defibs

Although the defibrillator project is now an entity in its own right – Carham Parish Defibs – the parish council will continue to support it. Our communities are a long way from the emergency services, but the project will help them to be more resilient and may even save lives. Four of the parish’s communities applied for defibrillators in the first round, and Carham Parish Defibs will be working with them to get these life-saving devices in place. If you and your neighbours are thinking of applying for a defibrillator next time round, please let Carham Parish Defibs know, so that they can plan their fundraising for 2025.

Claim Pension Credit

The UK Government is encouraging pensioners to check their eligibility and apply for Pension Credit. Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you are over State Pension age and on a low income, and is worth an average of £3,900 a year. It is separate from your State Pension, and you can get it even if you own your home or have savings. You can apply any time after you reach State Pension age and can get up to three months backdated if you were eligible during that time. If you make a successful claim for Pension Credit before 21 December you will qualify for a 2024-25 Winter Fuel Payment. You can apply online <https://apply-for-pension-credit.service.gov.uk/start>, or by phone via the Pension Credit claim line 0800 99 1234.

Vacancy for Parish Clerk and RFO

Carham Parish Council is looking for an experienced administrator to fill the role of Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer. Experience as a parish or town clerk and a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) are desirable. The post equates to one hour a week and is based on working from home, with six evening meetings a year held in St Cuthbert’s church, Carham. The salary will be paid in accordance with experience and in line with the National Joint Council Salary Scale LC1 (SCP 7-12). The rate is £13.26 to £14.36 an hour on current pay scales. The successful candidate will work with a supportive group of councillors who encourage continuing professional development; training will be available. To apply, send your CV and a covering letter to the chairman of Carham Parish Council, Pat Feerick, at Sunilaws House, Cornhill on Tweed TD12 4RD. The closing date is Tuesday 31 December 2024. The anticipated start date is 1 May 2025.

Carham Parish Council is an elected body in the first tier of local government. It is responsible for representing the interests of the whole community. Among other things, it is concerned with community safety, street lighting, common land, play areas, litter, tourism, traffic calming, seats and shelters, rights of way, and some aspects of planning and highways.

The parish council meets six times a year. Meetings are in alternate months beginning in May, on the second Tuesday of the month, in St Cuthbert’s Church, Carham, at 6.30pm. Anyone living or working in the parish can attend a meeting.

For the minutes of Carham Parish Council meetings, go to www.carhamparish.org