



# **KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Contact Details:**

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Clerk to the Council: Angela Royle Administrative Assistant: Emma Booth

#### Meetings:

Parish Council meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month at Burton Village Hall, except for May. Committee meetings are called as and when required. A meeting timetable is posted on the website.

They start at 7.30 pm, with a public participation session at the beginning when members of the public are invited to address the Council.

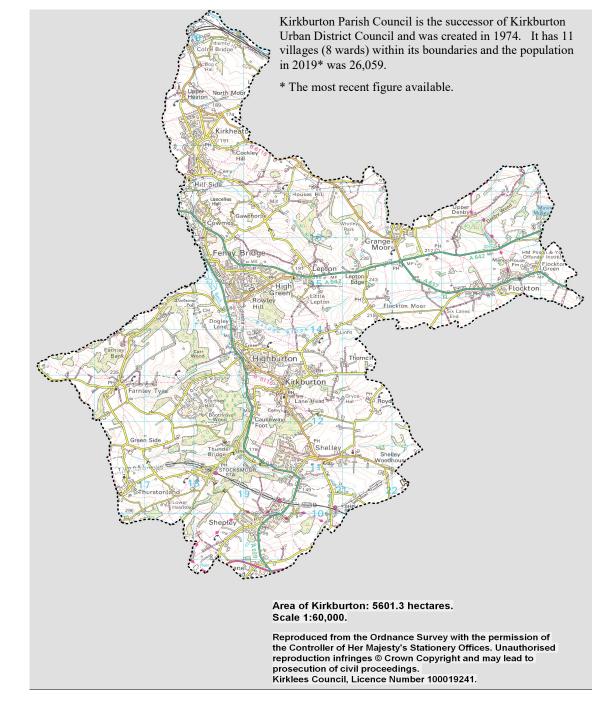
Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the Council and Committee meetings, except where it is notified that a particular item of business is exempt under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

This information is accurate as at the time of publication. Please check the agenda or website for any updates.

The photo on the front cover shows the Remembrance Day Service in Kirkburton Memorial Gardens.

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# **Chairman's Overview of the Year**

As I am sure our residents have found, this has been an unusual year. 12 months ago the Council was wrestling with the issues surrounding not being able to meet face to face and replacing these with virtual meetings.

I'm glad to say that the Council rose to this challenge and has successfully held virtual meetings, which have enabled our business to be done. I thank all of our council members whose adaptability has allowed this to be achieved.

The Council has continued to provide in 2020/21:

- Around 100 hanging baskets to brighten our villages over the summer.
- Christmas trees for all our villages.
- Over £50,000 in grants to our many deserving community organisations.
- Further assistance was provided to our community through the Village Improvement Fund, which contributed £15,000 to projects across the parish.
- Support to small library provision in Kirkheaton.
- Continued support to two allotments gardens at Grange Moor and Shepley and the continuing maintenance at Kirkheaton Churchyard.

Two Council projects were, in particular, well received this year. First, the Council identified resources to create a COVID 19 Emergency Support Fund to assist community groups who were experiencing difficulties during the pandemic. 25community groups benefitted from the £15,000 which the Council allocated to the project. The Council has received many thanks for "stepping up" at a time of need for our community groups.

Secondly, the Council was able to repair a 15 metre stretch of the Kirkheaton Churchyard boundary wall which was significantly bowing in several places. The Church has expressed their thanks for this necessary work.

There were a couple of face-to face projects which have been delayed due to the pandemic. However, I look forward, in particular, to the Climate Action Day and the fruit tree pruning tuition being held during the next 12 months.

I wish to give my thanks to Cllr Kath Middleton, who retired from the Council this year, for all the work she did for the residents of Flockton. I welcome to the Council Cllr Charlotte Myles who has been co-opted to the Council to fill this vacancy, and look forward to working with her in the future.

I also welcome Emma Booth who has joined the Council as an Administrative Assistant and wish her well in her employment with the Council.

My second consecutive year as Chair has been significantly assisted by the support received from the Vice Chair, Cllr Derek Hardcastle and the Chair of Management and Finance Committee, Cllr Robert Barraclough. Equally, the Clerk's firm footed advice and guidance has been invaluable. I also thank all Council members for their work and forbearance during these difficult times.

The year has turned out much more successful than I feared 12 months ago.



Cllr Steve Beresford Chair 2020-21

# **Summary of the Council's Activities and Decisions**

As mentioned previously, Covid has presented a significant problem this year, but the Council has kept going at almost the same rate as in other years and has adapted to the new situation. The Clerk has been working from home wherever possible, and the meetings have been held virtually.

#### **Public Involvement**

The Council continued to try to keep the public involved in its work. Kirkburton was the first Parish Council in the Kirklees district to hold its meetings online and also to maintain the practice of allowing people to address the Councillors beforehand. Several people attended to raise their concerns, principally about planning applications. Everyone is encouraged to come to a meeting occasionally to find out what is going on and to make Councillors aware of the issues you are facing. If you have any problems, which fall within the Council's remit, please do tell us about them and we will support you if we can.

## **Noticeboards / Website**

Noticeboards are another means the Council uses to keep everyone updated. We have agreed to put in two extra noticeboards, one in Flockton by the Working Men's Club and the other by the recreation ground on Liley Lane in Grange Moor. The latter will be a double-sided noticeboard due to its location. Work on obtaining the necessary permissions and having them installed is underway.

Community groups are also welcome to display their posters free of charge.

We have 4 websites. The main <u>www.kbpc.co.uk</u> is the official site, which is updated regularly with news of recent decisions and projects taking place. You can also find your local Parish Councillor and check which ward you are living in. There are two sites, which are maintained in conjunction with Denby Dale Parish Council: one is an archive of historic documents and materials: <u>https://denbydalekirkburton.past-view.com/</u> which is currently being upgraded. We will shortly be contacting local history groups to find out if they are interested in contributing to the site. If you have any information or photographs of local interest, which you would like to share on the site, please get in touch. The other one is a tourism website: <u>http://www.denbydale-</u> <u>kirkburton.org.uk</u> which is designed to provide information to residents and visitors alike and hopefully increase the number of visitors to our area. We hope this will in turn help local businesses.

The Parish Council walks are currently being checked by members of the Environment Committee, to ensure that the routes are still correct and that the waymarkers are in place. There is also a dedicated website for it: <u>www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk</u> where you can download a route map and find out a little about the local areas and their history.

#### Representation

A major role of the Council is to ensure that the local views are heard by the people and organisations, which are making decisions on issues affecting this area, such as the various departments of Kirklees Council, Metro and the Police. One of the main areas of concern is planning. The Council considers each application lodged in the Parish area and where it is appropriate, it makes comments to Kirklees Planning Services. The decisions taken by Kirklees



do not always reflect our views, but it is important to ensure the local view is known.

The Council sees details of most of the planning applications proposed for the area and considers them. It tends to comment on the ones, which it views as detrimental to the local area. Examples include making roads more dangerous by adding exits from properties at places where there would be poor sightlines, or if they detrimentally affect those people already living in the area. Obviously, we all need to progress and many new houses are required, but we need to maintain those aspects of this area, which we all value such as the openness of the countryside. With this in mind the Council is continuing to work with local community groups in Kirkheaton and Lepton on developing Neighbourhood Plans. These are long-term projects, but will be beneficial to those areas when they have been completed.

Developers for the two sites along Penistone Road / Rowley Lane attended several Parish Council meetings and explained the current thinking for the developments. Councillors were able to put forward suggestions, which we hope will be taken up as the plans take shape. You can keep updated on the developer's latest proposals on the Lepton Master Plan website: <a href="https://www.johnsonmowat.co.uk/consultations/hs3-lepton-huddersfield/">https://www.johnsonmowat.co.uk/consultations/hs3-lepton-huddersfield/</a>

We work with the Police on a regular basis. Individual Councillors are also frequently in contact with police officers about specific issues within their villages.

Kirklees Young Peoples' Services officers attended a meeting to update Councillors on the changes being made to the Service and to obtain their views. There was also a visit from the Kirklees Community Plus Unit, who provided detailed information on how local communities were coping during the pandemic and the help the Unit was able to provide. The Parish Council is aware that many local communities have established schemes to help neighbours, who were isolating or suffering from Covid. We would like to thank everyone who stepped up in this way.

#### **Poppy Wreaths**

In total, the Parish Councillors laid 11 wreaths at the war memorials throughout the Parish. In Kirkheaton the service was filmed and broadcast on the morning of Remembrance Sunday, it also included a clip of the local Parish Councillor laying a wreath in Grange Moor at St Bartholomew's Church, St John's sister church.

The outdoor services were necessarily much smaller than usual, but Councillors and parishioners were determined that the sacrifice made by so many in the various conflicts over the years should be marked, despite the current difficulties.

#### **Christmas Trees / Hanging Baskets**

A Christmas tree was provided in each village (10 in total), one of which was paid for by Kirklees Council. As always they were popular. Those in Flockton and Grange Moor (*pic right*) were sited in new locations, at the request of the local residents. We were grateful to Kirklees Council for checking each socket before making the installations.

And last summer there were a total of 96 hanging baskets in most of the villages in our area. We are grateful to Kirklees Council for providing two small grants to contribute towards the cost. It's always a popular project which adds colour to the villages, especially last year when we were all staying much closer to home. Shelley Over 60's and Yetton Together raised the funds for extra baskets in Shelley and Kirkheaton, making the displays even more impressive.



#### **Dog Wastebag Dispensers**

We continued to supply free dog wastebags, but following feedback from various residents and local community groups that this is no longer supported in some villages, we carried out a comprehensive consultation. As a result of this the dispensers were removed from all of the villages except for Grange Moor, Lascelles Hall, Lepton, Stocksmoor and Thurstonland.





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## Allotments

The allotments at Grange Moor (*pic left*) and Shepley are still popular. We would like to thank all of the tenants who help the Council with the sites by doing various jobs free of charge. We have addressed issues at both sites over the last year and welcomed new tenants.

#### Environment

There is a very enthusiastic Environment & Climate Change Committee, which is looking at ways of ensuring that we play a small part in contributing to the work being done globally, to address the Climate Change problem.

The Parish Walks project, which is mentioned earlier in this report, is being refreshed. Some of you will recall that they were developed

around 10 years ago. Each walk has a leaflet showing the route and giving information about the village where it is located and snippets of local history. There is also a dedicated website: <a href="https://www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk">www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk</a>

The Councillors are currently engaged in checking all of the routes to ensure that they are still correct and that the waymarkers are in place. If you know of any problems with the walks or if you would like to help, please get in touch.

Before the pandemic there were plans to hold a Climate Action Day to draw attention to the problem and to show people how they could play their part in reducing emissions and cutting down on their carbon footprints. We are still hoping to hold the event, as soon as it is permitted.

Another project which suffered a setback was the Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop. We had a lot of interest from people, who wanted to learn the correct methods of tree pruning and, who were also willing to pass on their new-found knowledge to other volunteers, so that the fruit trees planted by communities a few years ago could be pruned at very little cost to the public purse. We are hoping to hold this event in November, and will be in touch with those who notified the Clerk of their interest, when we have confirmation that it can go ahead.

#### **Refurbishment of Guidestoop**

The Council was very lucky to find a volunteer from the Milestone Society who renovated an old guidestoop, which is located opposite the Blacksmith's Arms in Kirkheaton. It is thought to date back to 1738 and was originally along a branch of the London to Richmond highway, which went through Rotherham, Wombwell, Barnsley, Midgley, Flockton, Grange Moor, past the Blacksmith's Arms, down to Colne Bridge and onwards to Halifax. Later, in 1759, the section from Barnsley to Grange Moor was turnpiked to join the Wakefield to Austerlands turnpike, which took the route through Huddersfield. The Council would like to record its thanks to Christine Minto for generously giving of her time and expertise and making such a valuable contribution to our local heritage.



#### **Thurstonland Seat**



The Council funded the refurbishment of the public seat in Thurstonland, which commemorates the late Brian Webster TD, a longstanding member of the Council who died in office a few years ago. The area around the adjacent guidestoop was also cleared and the railings repainted.



#### **Kirkheaton Churchyard**



Council maintains the closed churchyard, which provides a valuable open space for people to use for exercise and to escape from the bustle and noise for a while. There are also a number of visits by people doing their family history research. The churchyard includes a number of interesting memorials, including what is believed to be the oldest surviving outdoor gravestone in this area, which belongs to John Horsfall who died in 1624.

This year the Council undertook a large contract to address the problem of the boundary wall on Church Lane, which was bowing out towards the road and looking rather precarious.

The Council's grass cutter continues to maintain the area and is also currently treating the Japanese Knotweed present in the lower part of the Churchyard. The periodic tree safety inspection was carried out. A number of issues were raised, which will be addressed as soon as the bird nesting season has passed.

Both Councillors and staff kept themselves updated by attending online training on a variety of subjects including risk assessment, website accessibility and various legal updates.

All the sites where the Council has a responsibility received an annual risk assessment inspection, and any problems noticed were addressed.

## Finance

Summary of Accounts 2020-21	£
Precept	142,250
Refund of VAT	3,498
Allotment Rent & Deposits	1,109
Shelley Village Hall – Ground rent and insurance costs	1,663
Hanging Baskets – Grants received from Kirklees Council	1,740
Bank Interest and Kirklees	245
Total Income	150,506
General Running Costs:	
Administration including employment costs, insurance, meetings, office equipment, photocopying, postage, rent, stationery, telephone/internet.	39,407
VAT (to be reclaimed in full)	6,752
Civic Governance:	
Audit, chains of office, civic functions, elections, legal/professional advice and	
fees, poppy wreaths, subscriptions, training.	3,712
Public Information:	
Advertisements, noticeboards and websites.	2,145
Grants:	
Small annual grants to 54 non-profit organisations within the Parish; Clock Grants, General Grants, Village Improvement Funding, Small Groups Emergency Grants / Donations	83,092
Miscellaneous:	
Allotments, Christmas trees, dog wastebags, hanging baskets, Kirkheaton Churchyard, and support to community libraries.	37,098
Total Expenditure:	172,206
<b>Allocated Reserves</b> (To cover costs of projects in progress, but not yet completed):	61,897
General Reserve:	71,290

The general reserve is legally required to be maintained to cover unexpected emergencies which may arise during the year. The full Receipts & Payments Statement can be viewed on the website and copies are available on request.

## **Grants / Donations**

The various grant schemes continued to prove popular amongst the many community groups. It was an especially difficult year for them financially due to having to cease their meetings and fundraising activities, whilst at the same time having to continue to pay for maintenance of property, sports grounds etc. For this reason the Council introduced an additional scheme specifically for the purpose. In total £10,245 was awarded to those groups, who were in financial need. The Council also made donations to 4 charities, which were similarly under financial pressure and providing significant help to people in this area.

The recipients were: the Denby Dale Centre (for its work at the Hub in Kirkburton), Forget Me Not Trust, Kirkwood Hospice and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance each received a donation of £1,000 to help them to continue with their valuable work, at a time when the fundraising on which they depended, had to cease. All of them expressed profuse thanks for the Council's generosity and sent in details of how it would make a significant difference to the service they were able to offer the local people.

#### **Small Annual Grants Awarded**

The take-up of small annual grants is always high as groups are able to use the funding towards their overhead costs, as well as purchasing new equipment, subsidising group trips and Christmas parties. It has often been remarked that without this grant many of the groups would not have been able to continue. The grants awarded are listed overleaf, and photos of some of the groups and projects, which have benefitted are included throughout the report.

In total, £12,994 was awarded as annual small grants, individual grants are listed below. Community organisations are invited to apply in the autumn each year. Forms become available in September and must be returned with the financial information by the last Friday in October. Cheques are issued the following April at the beginning of the financial year.

£

#### Flockton

	250
Flockton Cricket Club	250
Flockton Football Club	250
Flockton WI	250
Grange Moor Youth Training Band	250
Lepton Highlanders Junior FC	250
Lepton Highlanders Senior FC	250
All Hallows Church	200
Burton Belles WI	250
Burton Environment Group	250
Highburton Playgroup	250
Kirkburton & Highburton Comm Assn	250
Kirkburton History Group	250
Kirkburton Petangue Club	250
Kirkburton Pre-School	250
Kirkheaton	
Kirkchair	250
Kirkheaton Creative Craft	250
Kirkheaton Knitting Group	250
Kirkheaton PCC	200
Kirkheaton Rovers AFC	200
Kirkheaton Senior Citizens Club	250
Lepton	200
Lascelles Hall Cricket Club	250
Lepton Community Link	250
Lepton Luncheon Club	250
Lepton PCC	200





*Photos: Shepley Band playing on the recreation ground at an event to mark the centenary of the Unveiling of the War Memorial, and Burton Community Fields, which Burton Environment Group has developed considerably over the last few years.* 

Shelley	
Emmanuel Church Shelley	200
Friday Friendship Café	250
Scissett Youth Band (2015)	250
Shelley Conservation Group	250
Shelley Over 60's Club	250
Shelley Toddlers	250
Shepley	
Friends of Cliffe House	250
Shepley Bowling Club	250
Shepley Croquet Club	250
Shepley Junior Cricket Club	250
Shepley Luncheon Club	250
Shepley's Magazine	250
Shepley Spring Festival	250
Shepley Tennis Club	250
Shepley Village Association	250
Shepley Women's Institute	250
WH Senior MBE Yorkshire Studies Group	250
Thurstonland/Farnley Tyas	250
Farnley Tyas Women's Institute	250
St Lucius' Church	200
Stocksmoor Village Association	244
Stocksmoor Village Hall Management Comm.	250
Stocksmoor Women's Institute	250
St Thomas' Church, Thurstonland	200
Thurstonland Cricket Club	250
Thurstonland Village Association	250



Above: Bulbs & Planters courtesy of Yetton Together. Below: Trim Trail by BEG and hanging baskets on Far Bank courtesy of Shelley Conservation Group.





#### Village Improvement Funding

Council continued to fund projects via the Village Improvement Funding. Under this scheme local Councillors are able to put forward projects, which they feel would be beneficial for their village.

The community groups which benefitted from the funding used it for a whole variety of purposes, such as improvements to property, installing defibrillators, purchasing equipment for use at community events, purchase of additional litter bins, gardening equipment and supplies, mobile devices for use by school children to home-school, and a new village marker stone to name but a few. Full details are contained within the Grants Committee minutes.

In total £24,125 was paid out as village improvement funding. Funding for the projects which are not yet completed has been included in the Allocated Reserves.





Photos: New bin courtesy of Farnley Tyas Community Group,
new Village Marker stone by Stocksmoor Village Association and members of the Shepley Bird & Wildlife Group in action.

General Grants	£
Elevate towards new equipment and room hire.	50
Farnley Tyas Community Group towards the cost of new kitchen equipment.	3,00
Grange Moor Community Association towards the Luncheon Club activities.	75
Highburton Playgroup to help towards the cost of the new outdoor play area surface.	5,00
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association to update and improve the website.	80
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association towards production of Burton Bulletin	75
Kirkburton Association Football Club	50
Kirkburton History Group to produce & install plaques on sites of historical interest.	72
Kirkburton Senior Citizens Group to help with the costs of the Annual Tea	30
Kirkheaton History Group towards venue costs.	70
Kirkheaton Youth Football towards the cost of a new pavilion	100
Kirkheaton Cricket and Bowling Club (bowling section) towards the costs of new benches & shelters for spectators and to replace the sleepers around the green.	1,53
Lepton Futsal Club to assist with costs of new equipment and volunteer training.	40
Lepton Rainbows to help with materials for activities.	5
Shelley Brownies to help with insurance and running costs.	75
Shelley Community Assn - 4 signposts & a new noticeboard on the Recreation ground.	1,52
Shelley Community Association to replace 2 bins on Huddersfield Road.	27
Shelley Community Football to purchase PPE to enable the Club to function safely.	50
Shelley Conservation Group towards repairs to steps on Shelley Whinns & a handrail.	1,10
Shelley Cricket Club towards cost of mobile net.	75
Shelley Educational Foundation for a noticeboard on The Bridle.	20
Shelley First School to contribute towards the purchase of mobile devices to enable children without facilities at home to participate in home schooling.	2,99
Shelley Over 60's Club for a new website for the Ukulele Band.	60
Shepley Bird & Wildlife Group to help with the costs of providing activities.	30
Shepley Bowling Club to install CCTV.	70
Shepley Pre-School Playgroup to help with essential repairs to the portacabin.	5,00
Shepley Village Assn towards the cost of the VE Day Anniversary Commemoration	25
Thurstonland Endowed (VC) First School to purchase planters and design technology equipment for gardening and arts projects.	74
Yetton Together towards the annual insurance premium.	75
Total Spent	£32,67









Photos: New sign provided by Shelley Education Foundation, renovated steps on The Whinns in Shelley and Yetton Together volunteers planting up the roundabout in Kirkheaton.



Flockton C of E (C) First School

# **Parish Councillors' Contact Details**

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