



KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 2024



KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

Contact Details:

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Highburton
Huddersfield HD8 0QT

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Website: www.kbpc.co.uk

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

* Mrs Royle was Clerk to the Council during the year under review. The post is currently vacant pending the appointment of her successor.

Meetings:

Parish Council meetings are normally held at 7.30 pm 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, along with agendas and minutes.

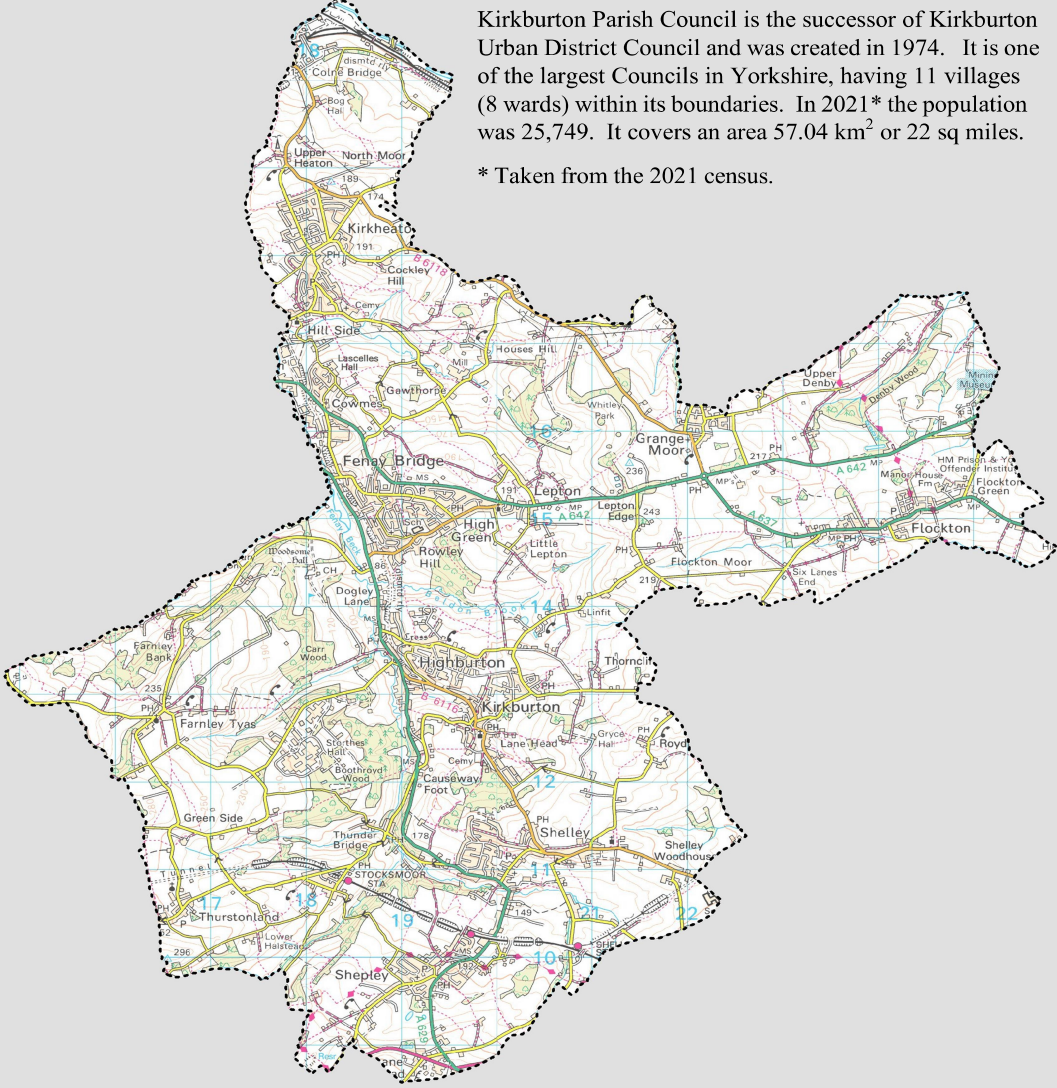
Every meeting begins with a public participation session when members of the public are invited to address the Council.

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.

The photo on the front cover: Bishop Smitha Prasad, Bishop of Huddersfield's visit to All Hallows Church, Kirkburton

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Kirkburton Parish Council is the successor of Kirkburton Urban District Council and was created in 1974. It is one of the largest Councils in Yorkshire, having 11 villages (8 wards) within its boundaries. In 2021* the population was 25,749. It covers an area 57.04 km² or 22 sq miles.

* Taken from the 2021 census.

Area of Kirkburton: 5601.3 hectares.
Scale 1:60,000.

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Chairman's Overview

2023/24 has been a year of new experiences for me as Chair! So, where do I start? Well, first of all, I feel hugely honoured to have been given this prestigious position for 2023/24 and the opportunity to serve Kirkburton Parish Council. I have tried to do the position justice, to which extent I have worked extremely hard in supporting committee members where I could, whilst still endeavouring to shape my own village to advantage.

I guess, I must thank a lot of people for their advice, support and guidance through what has been a trying year:

The Clerk and Administrative Assistant for the sterling work they do making sure the Council functions properly and for pointing me in the right direction during meetings;

My Vice Chairman, Derek Hardcastle, similarly; My Wife, Mary, especially for me not being at home helping her due to multifarious excuses of a random nature – none of them to do with the chairman's work but she doesn't know that yet.

And finally, all the other Councillors for sitting politely while I learned the ropes.

So sorry, to lose our Clerk of 24 years standing, but may I wish her all the best for the future.

So happy to welcome our Administrative Assistant's new baby into the local fold, congratulations Emma!

So sorry to have broken the Chains of Office so soon into my service.

So glad to have met Bishop Smitha Prasadam at All Hallows Church in Kirkburton.
So glad to have met the Rev Julie Anderson, new Vicar of All Hallows Kirkburton, St Johns Church Lepton, St James's the Great Flockton and St Michael's Emley at her inauguration.

Finally, I would like to pass on my good wishes to my successor, Cllr Derek Hardcastle, for his year of office.

Do I have any regrets? Only that, as a parish Council there is not the harmony that I would have liked, and I have to remind everyone that our 'primary' purpose is to represent our residents and NOT just our own political party.

Cllr Bob Smith
Chairman 2023-24



Right: Cllr Smith and Cllr Cowan at the Annual Meeting 2023.

Summary of the Council's Activities and Decisions

This report covers the Council's activities during the financial year 2023-24. It has again been an active year with the Council supporting residents and community groups with its various grant schemes. The year started on a high with the King's Coronation. The Council was happy to help the celebrations along by contributing towards the cost of the Coronation Parties. Photographs of some of the events can be found later in this report.

The other grants schemes continued with a total of £55,890 being awarded, including £8,561 awarded under the Village Improvement Funding scheme. Full details are provided later in the report.

Support to Residents and the Community

As well as providing grant funding to community groups to support existing initiatives and provide help to new ones, the Council also acts as a voice for the local residents and supports their views wherever it can. Planning is a good example – the Council is notified of every application in our area, and submits comments to Kirklees where appropriate. If you have an issue with a planning application, please let us know and we will support you if we can. We welcome people coming to the meetings to raise subjects on any issue which comes within the Council's remit. There's a public slot at the start of every council and committee meeting.

The dialogue with the developer working on the site adjacent to Penistone Road in Lepton has continued, and representations were made when the formal applications came before the Council, when we tried to secure the best outcome for the residents.

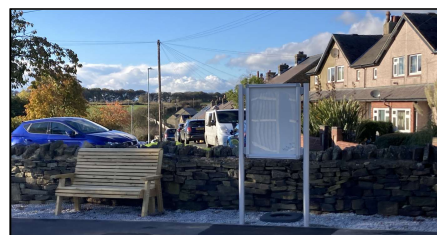
There is full disabled access to the village hall, meeting rooms and toilets. If we are aware in advance, we will reserve a parking space close to the entrance. We are grateful to Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association for maintaining this excellent facility for everyone.

Noticeboards / Websites

We try to keep everyone as informed about the operations of the Council as possible, through the website, noticeboards and occasionally X (previously known as Twitter).

Agendas are put up on the noticeboards throughout the Parish, the minutes, agendas and plan lists are on display on the noticeboard within Burton Village Hall. There is an electronic mailing list, so if you would like to receive those documents by email, please let the Clerk have your contact details.

There are a number of noticeboards across the Parish where community groups are able to display their posters free of charge, please pass them to the key holder. We have repaired the noticeboard in Farnley Tyas and provided new ones in Stocksmoor and in Grange Moor Bowling Club's new miniature garden (*photo right*). A large proportion of the funding to create the garden was also provided by the Council.



We have 4 websites. The main www.kbpc.co.uk is the official site, which is updated regularly with news of recent Council decisions and projects taking place. You can also find your local Parish Councillor and check which ward you are living in.

The Parish Walks website has recently been updated following the review of the 10 circular routes. Details of the routes and the maps can be found here, as well as a potted history of the village. www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk

The other two are maintained in conjunction with Denby Dale Parish Council. One is an archive of historic documents and materials: <https://denbydalekirkburton.past-view.com> which has lots of old photographs and documents relating to the two parish council areas. If any local history group would like to contribute photographs of local interest to the site, or wish to have a link to their website, please let us know.

The tourist website: <http://www.denbydale-kirkburton.org.uk> provides lots of local information useful to anyone visiting this area as well as local residents and helps to support local businesses.



Christmas Trees

The Council continued to provide Christmas trees across the Parish despite the sharp increase in price this year and increased its order to 11 to include Lepton. They were appreciated more than ever this year. The Council also provided the lights over the shops in Lepton Square.

Photo: Grange Moor Youth Training Band playing Christmas carols around the Christmas tree in Grange Moor.

Poppy Wreaths

Inkeeping with tradition, the Parish Council provided 11 poppy wreaths which were laid by the local Parish Councillors across the area on Remembrance Sunday.

Hanging Baskets

Hanging baskets are another popular expenditure, bringing lots of summer colour to the villages. We put up a total of 94 baskets across the Parish Council area, some of which were grant funded by Kirklees Council. Shelley Over 60's and Yetton Together raised the funds for extra baskets in Shelley and Kirkheaton, making the displays even more impressive. We are grateful to all of the residents and groups who made this possible.



Allotments

We would like to thank all of the tenants for looking after their allotments and also for doing lots of extra jobs free of charge in the communal areas. We had a change of tenants at both allotments when we said goodbye to some longstanding tenants, but also welcomed new ones. We have done a significant amount of clearance work at Shepley, and in Grange Moor repairs have been made to the entrance gate as well as the regular maintenance work.

Kirkheaton Churchyard



The Council continued to maintain Kirkheaton Churchyard as it is legally obliged to do. The grass has been cut on the main area and some other general maintenance is currently in progress. The paths and gravestones are to be surveyed for safety and any issues identified will be addressed. We are aware that many volunteers also put in many hours' free labour at the churchyard, which all helps to keep the area looking so nice. We are grateful to everyone who contributes in this way.

The Council is required to plant 4 new saplings as a condition of previous tree permissions. The saplings have been donated by Cllr Bob Smith and will be planted by volunteers from Kirkheaton following agreement with the Church at the appropriate time in the season. It is a great example of everyone working together for the benefit of the community.

So thank you to everyone who helped.

The Churchyard is valued as an open space for everyone and not just the church-goers. They can often be seen there taking exercise and enjoying the seasonal wildflowers and fauna. It is a historic Church and Churchyard with the oldest graves thought to date back to pre-medieval times. There are some information leaflets available from the Church giving more detail. A local historian has 'mapped' the graves so family historians can locate their ancestors' graves easier. The information is on www.kirkheaton.info.

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

Finance

Summary of Accounts 2023-24	£
Precept	152,017
Allotment Rent & Deposits	654
Chairman's Charity	150
Shelley Village Hall: Ground rent and insurance costs	2,250
Hanging Baskets: Grants + purchases by Community Groups	3,779
Bank Interest	6,143
VAT Refund	4,963
Total Income	169,956
General Running Costs:	
Administration including employment costs, insurance, meetings, office equipment, photocopying, postage, rent, stationery and telephone/internet.	52,604
VAT (to be reclaimed in full)	5,976
Civic Governance:	
Audit, bank charges, chains of office, Chairman's charity, civic functions, elections, legal/professional advice and fees, poppy wreaths, subscriptions and training.	24,020
Public Information:	
Advertisements, noticeboards and websites.	3,704
Grants:	
Small annual grants to 57 non-profit organisations within the Parish; Clock Grants, General Grants, Coronation Grants, Eco Grant and Village Improvement Funding.	55,890
Miscellaneous:	
Allotments, Christmas trees, fruit tree workshop, hanging baskets, Kirkheaton Churchyard and parish walks.	27,315
Total Expenditure:	
169,509	
Allocated Reserves	
To cover costs of projects in progress, but not yet completed:	32,504
General Reserve:	95,100

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

Public Seats

The Council has 50 public seats which are sited across the parish. If you see one in need of repair or replacement, please let us know. The seat will be inspected and prioritised on our action list according to urgency in terms of health & safety, how often they are used and available funding



Improvements at St Lucius' Churchyard and the new noticeboard at Stocksmoor.

King's Coronation Grants



To help the local communities celebrate the unique occasion, the Council invited groups to apply for funding to help towards the cost of their events. A total of £1,977 was awarded to Burton Out of School Club, the Friday Friendship Café, Grange Moor Community Association, Grange Moor Youth Training Band, Kirkburton Petanque Club, Kirkheaton PCC, Lepton Luncheon Club, Stocksmoor Village Hall, Thurstonland Community Association and Yetton Together.



Small Annual Grants Awarded

Small annual grants are available to all community groups operating on a voluntary basis, and they can be used for anything which helps to keep the group going, eg running costs, insurance, meeting refreshments, as well as any equipment needed for the group to operate. In April 2023 the Council awarded 57 small annual grants and clock grants, totalling £15,258, to groups spread across the whole of the Parish and covered all interests and age groups, including playgroups, Over 60's, musical groups, various sports and environmental clubs. Photographs of some of the items funded by grants can be seen throughout this report. If you would like to apply for a small annual grant but are unsure whether your group would qualify, please contact the Administrative Assistant. Forms become available in September each year and must be returned by the last Friday in October. If approved, the funding is made available the following April, at the start of the Council's new financial year.

General Grants	£
10 Coronation Grants, the details can be found elsewhere in this report.	1,977
Elevate towards the rental and costs of resources.	750
Farnley Tyas Community Group towards a new cabinet for community defibrillator	280
Friday Friendship Café for annual venue costs	650
Grange Moor Community Assn to support a new exercise class in its first year.	1,500
Grange Moor Community Assn towards the Luncheon Club costs	500
Grange Moor Youth Training Band towards the purchase of new instruments	1,161
Highly Strung Ukulele and Guitar Group towards venue & tuition costs	750
Kirkburton and Highburton Community Association for defibrillator consumables	563
Kirkburton Cricket Club towards upgrading the toilet facilities.	2,860
Kirkchair to fund a theatre and restaurant trip for people suffering from social exclusion.	740
Kirkheaton Cricket and Bowling Club towards the cost of buying replacement second hand furniture for the Club lounge.	1,600
Kirkheaton Cricket and Bowling Club towards the cost of new flooring in the changing rooms and entrance hall.	2,000
Kirkheaton Popular Music Choir towards musical equipment.	1,936
Lepton Village Preservation Society to help with running costs	300
Shelley Community Association for 2 applications for defibrillator consumables	474
Shelley Community Association towards upgrading the village hall kitchen equipment	750
Shelley Environment & Conservation Group for petrol wheeled/trimmer brush for maintaining public areas	499
St Lucius DCC for skip hire to clear rubbish from the churchyard following clearance work.	420
St Lucius DCC towards a projector screen to show films to the local community.	750
The Cabin CIC in Shelley to cover the cost of a SEND member of staff for one year.	721
Yetton Together - Towards the annual rent of Kirkheaton Community Centre	2,000
Yorkshire Air Ambulance - Towards fuel and operating helicopter costs	2,000
TOTAL	£25,181

Eco Grant

Kirkburton First School was awarded £350 to help fund the materials needed to build an eco pond in the school grounds. This scheme has been discontinued next year, but groups and schools are encouraged to apply for a general grant to help fund environmental projects.



Village Improvement Funding

Seven projects were funded through 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 following list shows a breakdown of how the funding was used:

Lepton Preservation Society	3,500	To create and install 2 mosaics in Lepton Square.
Grange Moor Community Association	1,000	To contribute towards the Luncheon Club project, which benefits residents.
Kirkheaton Environment Trust	195	To purchase Swift bird boxes and spring bulbs for planting in the Community Orchard.
Yetton Together	640	Replacement planters and compost for Kirkheaton.
Stockmoor Village	725	Towards the cost of a new noticeboard.
Shelley Educational Foundation	1,500	To purchase and install new information boards on the recreational ground in Shelley.
Flockton First School	1,000	To make improvements to the playground making it safer and maximising the use of the small area.
TOTAL	£8,561	



Clockwise: Cllr Derek Hardcastle (Vice Chairman) & Jill Hardcastle at Lepton Luncheon Club's Christmas Dinner; the Community Orchard tended by Yetton Together in Kirkheaton; Yetton Together volunteers outside Kirkheaton community centre and one of the planters maintained by Lepton Village Preservation Society.

And finally

As I will have left the Council by the time this report is published, I just wanted to say a few words. After 24 years with the Council I feel it is time to say Goodbye, but before I do, I would like to say a few thank you's. First of all to the Councillors, Chairman and past Chairmen for all their help over that time. I came to the role totally new to local government and parish councils and discovered a whole new world. I have particularly enjoyed working with the allotment tenants and the many volunteers at the community groups. It has been a pleasure seeing how much can be achieved by the groups and the Parish Council working together.

I would also like to thank Rev Ian Jones for his help with Kirkheaton Churchyard as well as all the Kirklees officers, with whom I have had contact on a whole range of issues, and always received sound guidance and information. And finally, thank you to Emma Booth, my Administrative Assistant, who has been a great support. I'm sure she will continue to be an asset to this Council and provide help to the new Clerk.

Thank you also for the many cards and messages of goodwill I have received. They are all much appreciated.

I wish the Council well in the future and look forward to hearing of its successes and achievements.

Angela



Left: Rev Julie Anderson's Inauguration Service at All Hallows Church, Kirkburton.

Right: Cllr Smith presents Lepton Highlanders with his cheque for £200 from the Chairman's Allowance.





Parish Councillors 2023-24

Cllr Bill Armer
 Cllr Dominic Black
 Cllr Charlotte Bright
 Cllr Richard Burton
 Cllr Maria Carthy
 Cllr John Cowan
 Cllr David Knight
 Cllr Alison Munro
 Cllr Bill Rowlands
 Cllr Richard Smith*
 Cllr Peter Taylor
 Cllr Edward Voyce

Cllr Robert Barraclough
 Cllr Ray Bray
 Cllr Pamela Brook
 Cllr Ian Carthy
 Cllr Andrew Cooper
 Cllr Derek Hardcastle
 Cllr Pauline McGleenan
 Cllr Jimmy Paxton
 Cllr Bob Smith
 Cllr John Taylor
 Cllr Claire Voyce
 Cllr Clare Walters

Cllr Marjorie Wheelhouse

* Until 3 February 2024.



Top: Planting by Lepton Village Preservation Society and the Coronation Party at the Friday Friendship Café.

Bottom: Lepton Village Preservation Society prepare for the installation of a mosaic in Lepton Square.