

# **One** Voice

Latest News from Kirkburton Parish Council

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Spring / Summer 2013

## New Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2013-14



Cllr Steve Beresford was elected as Kirkburton Parish Council's new Chairman at the Annual Meeting. Cllr Beresford has been a member of the Council since 2011 and represents his home village of Lepton. Before coming to the Parish Council, he worked for over 30 years as an Accountant for Kirklees. He is a Trustee at Lepton Highlanders where he was also Treasurer for 20 years. He is a strong supporter of the many community and voluntary organisations in the Parish Council area.

Cllr Beresford said "I'm pleased to be elected to the post of

Chairman. The Council has achieved an awful lot over the past year at Grange Moor allotments, in Kirkheaton Churchyard as well as introducing new projects such as the 1000 Fruit Tree project and the youth engagement initiative. I hope that we will have another active year and all the Councillors will work together for the benefit of the community."

Cllr Cass Whittingham was elected into the position of Vice Chairman. Cllr Whittingham is an active member of the Council and is particularly involved with environmental projects. She also works closely with groups in her own village of Grange Moor. She said "It's quite an honour to be elected into the Vice Chairman's position and I hope that I will do it justice. I'm looking forward to working alongside Steve over the next year."



## **Quality Status Award**

We were very pleased to welcome our local MP Simon Reevell to present the Quality Council award to the Parish Council at our April meeting. Photo shows (left to right): Cllr Richard Burton, Cllr Steve Beresford and Simon Reevell MP. Mr Reevell congratulated the Council on its achievement and spoke of the importance of Parish Councils and the part they play in progressing the Big Society.

**Honley Show** There were record attendances at the Show this year, and many of you called into the Parish Council stand to meet Councillors and the Clerk and discuss important issues. We had a photo display showing work completed over the last year and, for a bit of fun, ran some quizzes and competitions. Thank you to everyone who stopped to say Hello. For the younger people, we ran a "Guess My Name" competition and asked children to name the rabbit & the lamb. Jacob guessed the sheep was called Gilbert and Laura won the rabbit for guessing his name was Joshua. Well done both of you!



### **Summary of Annual Report (01.04.12 – 31.03.13)**

Summary of Accounts 2012-13	£
Precept	122,000
Allotment Rents	273
Proceeds of the sale of Shelley Village Hall (capital funds)	10,000
Refund of VAT	8,837
Rent refund and bank interest	4,116
Shelley Village Hall Rent	2,785
Chairmen's Fundraising	1,007
Total Income	149,018
General Running Costs:	45,302
Administration including employment costs, insurance, meetings, office equipment, postage, stationery, telephone/internet.	
Rent and VAT (to be reclaimed in full)	8,787
Civic Governance:	14,664
Audit, conferences, chains of office, civic functions, main 4-yearly Parish Council elections, legal & professional advice, training.	
Public Information:	1,497
Advertisements, annual report, newsletter, noticeboards, shows and website.	
Grants:	40,064
Small grants to 45 non-profit organisations within the Parish; Community project grants and environment grants.	
Village Projects:	
Allotments, dog wastebag dispensers, fruit trees, gardening workshops, engraving of guidestoops, public seats, youth engagement	10,639
Hanging baskets, Christmas trees and poppy wreaths	11,968
Kirkheaton Churchyard	2,343
Shelley Village Hall	3,352
Donations to Forget Me Not Hospice & Parkinson's UK (fundraising)	1,007
Total Expenditure:	139,637
Allocated Reserves (To cover costs of projects in progress, but not yet completed):	42,180
General Reserve: (At the lowest level permitted by the Audit Regulations)	34,488

The full report is on the website, also available from public sites around the Parish & on request from the office.



The allotments continued to be popular with people. The Council funded a series of fruit & vegetable growing workshops, the Tutors for which came from the Holme Valley Gardening Network. These were provided free of charge by the Council for the allotment tenants and have proved very popular, covering a whole range of topics chosen by the participants. We also ran an allotment competition at both allotment gardens. The judge expressed surprise at the high standard of all of the plots, and found the task of choosing just one winner on each site very challenging.

Fruit trees have been planted in Farnley Tyas, Grange Moor, Kirkheaton, Lepton, Shepley and Thurstonland. All the planting days have generated a terrific feeling of community spirit as residents and Councillors have worked together to plant the trees. We are now looking forward to the harvest. The project will continue until we have



planted them in all of the villages. If you know somewhere suitable in your village, please let us know and we will consider it, but it should be noted that planting can only take place if the community is prepared to help with the planting and future maintenance of the trees.

Meetings: Council: 1<sup>st</sup> August, 5<sup>th</sup> September. Environment Committee: 19 September, 17 October.
 Committee meeting dates will be notified as soon as they have been agreed.
 All the meetings at Highburton Village Hall
 A full meeting schedule available for download from the website
 All meetings are open to the public.
 All meetings have a public participation session at the start.



Our new website and Twitter account have developed considerably over the last year and it now means we can engage more easily with residents, particularly the younger age

groups. If you are a voluntary community/sport group in the Parish and would like a link to our website, please let us know and we'll put it up for you. There is also an opportunity for advertising your events free of charge on the website – please send details to the Clerk.

Work has continued at Kirkheaton Churchyard, where repairs have been undertaken to the base of the Colne Bridge memorial. The grass cutting was carried out over the summer to a very high standard by Mr David Rangeley, who very sadly passed away before Christmas. The Council paid tribute to Mr Rangeley's efforts over the last 20 years – he will be sadly missed.



grants often also attract funding from other sources, which means that the area benefits from a huge amount of outside investment. A selection of projects supported are shown throughout the newsletter. If your group needs some financial support, please have a look at our website to obtain full information on the grant best suited for your needs. The staff would also be pleased to answer any queries and help you to make the application at the right time.



Hanging baskets, Christmas trees and poppy wreaths were also provided across the parish. This year we planted two living Christmas trees in Thurstonland and Lascelles Hall to take the place of those purchased from Kirklees – these were well received by the local villagers and in Thurstonland, they turned out to help with the planting. As well as cutting down on the costs, these trees will add to the biodiversity. We are looking to extend this, so please let us know if you know of a suitable place.

2012 was a special year and we saw lots of celebrations taking place to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Council supported the local communities by making available a special grant which contributed towards the costs. Photographs of some of the events are included elsewhere in this newsletter. We also engraved each of the guidestoops on the Parish Walks and the Chairman held a sponsored walk raising over £1,000 for charity.



It is pleasing to note that all this support to the many local groups and residents has been achieved with no increase in the precept, which is an annual cost of  $\pounds 13.50$  to Council taxpayers in band D.



We also continued to represent the local representatives on issues which are important, such as planning, health, highways, road safety. We also played a part in having Shelley College's proposal of extending their intake at the expense of the Middle Schools overturned. We are seeing more people speaking at meetings.



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## *What's New?* More Dog Wastebag Dispensers Installed



Council is continuing to try to reduce the amount of dog fouling within the Parish and we continue to work closely with the Dog Warden. After the success of installing dog waste dispensers last summer we have recently installed a second phase of

dispensers in locations identified as known problem areas. We recognise that this is not a new idea, but we hope that by giving people an alternative, it will encourage people to pick up after their dogs. We are very happy to report that there has been a marked improvement where we located the first phase of dispensers. The new dispensers have been installed in all the villages/centres. Please see the website for full details. And do remember, if you see someone letting their dog foul the pavement, if you report them and are prepared to make a statement, it could result in a prosecution.

## Allotment Competitions 2013

The competitions at the two allotment gardens are to be repeated. Everyone can enter, but please let us know if you'd rather not. Plots will be judged



by Graham Porter of the Huddersfield Examiner and the winners will receive garden centre vouchers. Here's hoping for a better summer than the last one!

## Fruit & Vegetable Growing Workshops



And continuing the gardening theme, the next series of workshops has begun. It is open to all Council allotment tenants free of charge. The Holme Valley Gardening Network tutors share a wealth of knowledge and experience with our tenants. The topics covered are chosen by the participants.

## And a reminder about Grants

Forms will be available for the small annual grants as usual in September, either as a download or on paper. All community groups in the Parish are welcome to apply. Community project grants continue. The next deadline for applications is 25 October 2013. Full details of all grants are on the website.

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