



# One Voice

*Latest News from Kirkburton Parish Council*

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## **New Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2014-15**



Cllr Cass Whittingham was elected as Kirkburton Parish Council's new Chairman at the Annual Meeting. Cllr Whittingham has been a member of the Council since 2009 and represents her home village of Grange Moor. She works closely with groups in her village and is particularly involved with Grange Moor allotments, where she has contributed to the improvements over recent years.

Cllr Whittingham said "I'm pleased to be elected to the post of Chairman and I'm looking forward to an active year and to working with Pamela. I'm also delighted to congratulate Cllr Jimmy Paxton on his achievement of serving on the Parish

Council for 40 consecutive years. He is a very special person and has done so much for his community and for the Parish Council itself, and he does it all with such enthusiasm"

Cllr Pamela Brook was elected into the position of Vice Chairman. Cllr Brook 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 Kirkheaton. She said "It's 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 Cass over the next year."

## **Cllr Jimmy Paxton Completes 40 years on the Council**

Cllr Jimmy Paxton has served an amazing 40 consecutive years on the Parish Council. He was first elected in 1974 at the very first Parish Council election following the local government re-organisation. Cllr Whittingham presented him with a bottle of champagne at the Annual Meeting in recognition of his achievement. She thanked him for all his work over the years both for the Council and most importantly for the Flockton residents. Cllr Paxton was touched with the tribute and said he had enjoyed his time on the Council and had been lucky to work with some marvellous people.



## **Honley Show – 14<sup>th</sup> June**

We are pleased to announce that the Council will again have a presence at Honley Show in the Countryside Tent. The Councillors will be there to talk to local residents about what is important to you. For a bit of fun, there will be an opportunity to win small prizes by taking part in the quizzes and competitions for both children and adults. On a more serious note, we will be showcasing the work of the Council over the last year and providing information on our services, as well as consulting you on a variety of issues. If you go to the Show, make sure you call in to say Hello!



## Summary of the Annual Report for 2013 - 2014

<b>Summary of Accounts 2013-14</b>	<b>£</b>
Precept (portion of Council tax which funds the Parish Council)	102,960
Council Tax Relief Grant	19,040
Allotment Rents / Deposits	1,139
Chairman's Fundraising	515
Refund of VAT	4,435
Rent refund and bank interest	4,175
Shelley Village Hall Rent	5
Youth Engagement – Area Committee Contribution	971
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>133,240</b>
<b>General Running Costs:</b>	<b>42,906</b>
Administration including employment costs, insurance, meetings, office equipment, postage, service review, stationery, telephone/internet.	
<b>Rent and VAT (to be reclaimed in full)</b>	<b>8,015</b>
<b>Civic Governance:</b>	<b>5,876</b>
Audit, conferences, chains of office, civic functions, legal & professional advice, training.	
<b>Public Information:</b>	<b>1,528</b>
Advertisements, annual report, newsletter, noticeboards, shows and website.	
<b>Grants:</b>	<b>30,125</b>
Small annual grants to 47 non-profit organisations within the Parish; Grants for: Clocks, Community Projects, Emergency, Environment, Start-Up.	
<b>Donation to Forget Me Not Hospice – Chairman's Fundraising</b>	<b>515</b>
<b>Village Projects:</b>	<b>22,219</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotments, dog wastebag dispensers, fruit trees, gardening workshops</li> <li>• Christmas trees &amp; poppy wreaths. (Hanging baskets were paid for in the last financial year.)</li> <li>• Kirkheaton Churchyard</li> <li>• Public seats</li> <li>• Shelley Village Hall</li> <li>• Youth engagement</li> </ul>	
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>111,185</b>
<b>Allocated Reserves for ongoing projects and Capital Funding:</b>	<b>65,058</b>
<b>General Reserve:</b> (At the bottom of the range permitted by the Audit Regulations)	<b>31,580</b>

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



The Council has had another active year, supporting its residents and the many community groups within the Parish in both practical ways and by providing a wide range of grants which cover most eventualities, as well as making representations to various outside bodies. It has reviewed every planning application lodged in the Parish and made recommendations to Kirklees Planning Services when appropriate.



The Chairman's Sponsored walk was well supported, taking place on a beautiful autumn afternoon around the Flockton area. He raised £515 for the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice. The photo shows everyone gathered around the guidestop on the Billy Sweep Saunter Parish Walk.

The precept paid by Council-taxpayers to the Parish Council has remained at the same level since 2008, although this year the Government has changed the way it is calculated, which would have caused a shortfall of over £19,000. Kirklees kindly awarded a grant to cover the deficit on this occasion.



The fruit tree project has continued and has seen fruit trees being enthusiastically planted by Councillors, school children and villagers in Farnley Tyas, Shelley, Shepley, Stocksmoor and Thurstonland. There are plans to continue in the in next 'Tree Planting Season' so if you would like some in your village, please let us know. You do need to have a community group committed to helping with the planting and the future maintenance. *Photo shows members of the Shelley Conservation Group after planting up Healey Greave Meadow with 75 saplings.*

£13,569 has been awarded in annual small grants / emergency grants & start-up grants. The Community Project Grants continued to be in high demand, to the extent that at the last meeting, the amount being applied for was 3 times greater than the available budget. Hopefully, the groups which were unlucky will either find financial resources from another source, or may be able to apply again in the next financial year.

However, the Council was extremely pleased to be able to help Flockton Green Club with a grant to repair the village clock. It seems that the clock was originally installed to honour the dead and injured of World War I and was paid for by public subscription.



Communication has moved with the times, and the Parish Council now 'tweets' regularly to an ever-increasing number of Followers. We also have lots of interactions with residents via email, a lot coming originally via the website. The website too is growing and is now a valued source of information covering a whole range of subjects. If you haven't had a look yet, you are advised to make a visit soon. The Council also uses it to provide free advertising to community groups throughout the Parish on its Links and What's On pages.



Work at Kirkheaton Churchyard continues. This is a valuable open space not only for the parishioners of St John's Church, but also for the community at large. As well as cutting the grass we have undertaken a considerable amount of tree maintenance work, which sadly included felling a few trees, which had become unsafe.



In an effort to encourage water conservation and the use of water butts instead of the main water supply for the garden and cleaning the car, the Council gave away 30 water butts to the first residents to contact us. We have received numerous lovely Thank You letters / emails and cards.



The Council has also been working with the young people in the Parish and took part in the schools meetings with representatives of the School Councils from Kirkburton Middle School, Scissett Middle School and Shelley College. The project also involved working with Denby Dale Parish Council, local Kirklees Councillors, Kirklees Youth Services and Kirklees Leisure Services, Kirkburton / Denby Dale Area Committee. The young people organised a re-opening event for the skateboard park in Skelmanthorpe and made a very impressive presentation to both Denby Dale and Kirkburton Parish Councils about their projects. The youngest was only 11 years of age.

**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.

## PARISH COUNCILLORS' CONTACT DETAILS

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## Casual Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the Parish Council, in Kirkburton and Shepley. They will be filled by co-option at the July Council meeting. If you would like to put your name forward for consideration, please contact the Clerk. Full details of the qualifying requirements and the rules covering co-options are on the website and available from the office. The deadline for receipt of written applications is 12 noon on 27 June. Canvassing of Council members is forbidden.

## Grant Schemes for 2014/15



We are pleased to say that all of the existing grant schemes are continuing into the new Council year, but some of the rules have been amended. The forms for all the schemes (except the annual small grants) are now available for download from the website and on request to the staff / Councillors.

**Community Project Grants:** The deadlines for submitting applications are 6 June and 31 October. The maximum grant is 50% of the project cost.

**Environment Grants:** The first deadline for submitting applications is 4 July. A further 4 dates will be announced when the meeting dates for the year have been agreed. Applications must meet at least 1 objective in the Environment Plan.

**Small Annual Grants:** The forms will be available from September from the website and on request from the staff and Councillors. Completed applications must be returned by 31 October. Late applications are automatically refused.

There are also clock grants, start-up grants and emergency grants. If you qualify for any of these or need any help with your application, please get in touch and we will help if we can.

## New Seat for Kirkheaton



We are pleased to see the new seat at Town Top in Kirkheaton is now in place. It's lovely sitting next to the beautiful flowerbed, planted by the local people.

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### Office Opening Hours:

Monday and Thursday from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm

Clerk to the Council: Angela Royle

Assistant Clerk: Rachel Perry