



One Voice

Latest News from Kirkburton Parish Council



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Councillors' Visit to the Houses of Parliament



Photo above: From left Cllrs Peter Cunnington, Robert Barraclough, Cass Whittingham - Vice Chairman, Richard Burton, John Hirst and Alison Munro pictured outside the Houses of Parliament

On Monday 4th November 17 councillors and partners, led by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council Cllr Steve Beresford and Cllr Cass Whittingham travelled to the Houses of Parliament following a kind invitation from Kirkburton and Dewsbury MP Mr Simon Reeve. Arriving mid-morning Councillors were met in the main lobby off St Stephen's entrance by Cllr Jim Dodds and two members of Simon's staff, as unfortunately Simon could not be present due to an important commitment in Dewsbury. Councillors looked round the two chambers, both palaces and the main rooms accompanied by a description of the functions and the fabulous pictures and décor of the formal areas. The tour ended with a question and answer session in Westminster Hall, followed by a visit to the Parliament Gift Shop for souvenirs and then ended with lunch at the Jubilee Café. Members then hit Harrods for some early Christmas shopping and ogling, before returning home to Huddersfield late evening. The party had a great fun and informative day out and formal thanks have been forwarded to Simon and his team. All costs and expenses were met by the group and no taxpayers' funding was involved at any stage.

Council takes over the Parish Walks

The Parish Council has taken over responsibility of the very popular walks, developed in conjunction with EPIP and Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome. They are a series of 10 self-contained circular walks of varying lengths, which have proved very popular with the public. Each walk has a quirky name and its own guidestoop. The engravings are all specific to the area they are located in, but they do all carry Her Majesty's crest in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee. The Highburton guidestoop, located just off Northfield Lane, is pictured to the right, with the insets showing the engravings from the top and back of the guidestoop. Leaflets with the routes can be obtained from the libraries, tourist information centres and the Parish Council office.



Commemoration of World War I

The Parish Council was pleased to welcome Joanne Catlow to the February meeting. One of her roles is to co-ordinate the many WWI commemoration events planned throughout Kirklees over the next four years. She has provided the Parish Council with details of events already in preparation, sources of information, as well as details of possible funding streams. If you or your group are planning to do something and need some help or information, please get in touch or visit www.1914.org and www.open4funding/info/kirklees. As part of the commemorations, the Parish Council is currently collating the names of the war dead from the various war memorials in the Parish with a view to having them added to the records currently on the Kirklees website.

Budget News



The Council has now completed its deliberations on the funding plans for the next financial year. It has reluctantly agreed to increase the precept* for the first time since 2008 by 3% in line with the rate of inflation, which equates to an increase of 4p per year for band D properties. The Council is committed to supporting the many local community groups in the area. It has increased the budget for small annual grants and has maintained the community project grants budget at £20,000. Funding has also been found to commemorate the start of World War I. The environment budget continues, part of which is used to fund projects managed by community groups. It should be noted that many of the grants awarded have the effect of attracting grant funding from other organisations and Trusts, and the projects often involve the employment of local people.

* Portion of the Council tax which funds the Parish Council.

New Public Seat



We are very pleased to announce that we have recently installed a new public seat in Healey Green Lane, Houses Hill at the request of members of the Yetton Together community group. The new seat, which is made of recycled materials, has been situated part way down the lane to enjoy scenic views around the area. Later in the year we will be continuing the maintenance programme, and will be refurbishing seats in Farnley Tyas, Shelley, Stocksmoor and Thurstonland. If you are aware of any seats in need of repair or refurbishment, please let us know, and we will add them to our list.

Meetings: Council: 6 March, 3 April, 16 May (Annual Meetings) **Environment Committee:** 20 March

• Committee meeting dates will be notified as soon as they have been agreed.

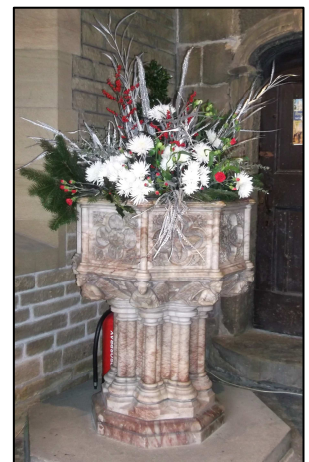
- All the meetings at Highburton Village Hall
- A full meeting schedule available for download from the website
- All meetings are open to the public.
- All meetings have a public participation session at the start.

Christmas Celebrations



St John's Church in Kirkheaton has recently undergone a large redevelopment project since Easter 2013. A new floor has been laid, the roof repaired including new roof lights and the pews replaced with oak chairs to make the best use of the space. A new heating system, sound system and video screens have been installed along with toilet facilities and a fully equipped kitchen. There has been a complete re-decoration, the Vestry has been refitted as the Parish Office and the Church are now in the process of re-laying the path for good wheelchair access. The work was paid for by an awful lot of inspiration by Revd Richard Steel, hard work by churchgoers, extensive fund raising and grants. The Parish Council helped out with a grant towards the work undertaken in the Parish Rooms, which will benefit the whole community as this provides an additional venue for community groups to meet.

The church held a celebration weekend from Friday 13th December to Sunday 15th December, when they held a Christmas Tree Festival with exhibits displayed by local groups and businesses. There was lots of entertainment throughout the weekend including concerts by Kirkheaton Junior School and the Church Youth Groups, Holme Valley Singers, a special church service with guest preacher the Bishop of Wakefield the Rt Revd Stephen Platten and to end the weekend of celebrations carols were sung around the Christmas trees. Very importantly the church will now be open through the week as well as on Sunday, for people to drop in to enjoy the history and architecture, or simply to sit and be quiet, an oasis of peace, with coffee permanently available.



Left to right: Some of the exhibits at the Christmas Tree Festival; Kirkburton Parish Council Chairman Cllr Steve Beresford chats to visitors at the Festival; a Christmas floral display on the font.

..... and Christmas Trees



Christmas spirit continued to spread across Kirkburton Parish Council as Christmas trees appeared in 8 of its villages. With the exception of one tree, which was paid for by Kirklees, the trees were organised and paid for by the Parish Council. They were installed in Farnley Tyas, Flockton, Grange Moor, Highburton, Kirkheaton (*pictured left*), Shelley, Shepley and Stockmoor. The Parish Council also funded the lights on the trees the Councillors planted last year in Lascelles Hall and Thurstonland, as well as the lights over the shops in Lepton Square.

The trees brought some Christmas cheer to the villages and also provided a backdrop for all the local festive events which took place.

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Climate Week: 3 – 9 March 2014

Climate Week is Britain's largest climate change campaign, with half a million people attending over 3,000 events each year. It is about how people can live and work more sustainably. But it's also fun!



Take the Climate Change Challenge or enter the Awards. It's easy for groups of people from schools or workplaces to take part. You could also run an event – half a million people attended all kinds of events last year. For some inspiration and to download information packs visit the Climate Change website: www.climateweek.com

Have you visited our website recently?

The website, now updated at least twice per week, contains all the latest news and information from the Council.

You can instantly access the rules and deadline dates for the various grant schemes, and download the forms. Agendas are uploaded about a week before the meeting. There is also a page devoted to *your* activities – the What's On page. So if you have an event coming up or just want to publicise your group, send us the notice (either by email or post) and we will be happy to include it on the list. One section of the page is devoted to regular events – are yours included? Send us details now for your free insertion.



Allotment Competition to be repeated

I'm sure the allotment tenants will be pleased to know that the allotment competition is to go ahead again this year. Graham Porter has again kindly agreed to act as Judge. There will be a winner and runner-up chosen at each of the allotments, with the winners receiving gardening gift vouchers. If by any chance, you would prefer not to take part, please let Rachel know and she will take your name off the list. Here's hoping we'll get another sunny summer!



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