



# KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**For immediate release**

**7 May 2020**

### **Kirkburton Parish Council Meetings now on-line**

In early April the Government issued emergency legislation to allow Parish Councils to meet remotely. Kirkburton Parish Council had been working on introducing remote meetings for some time in anticipation of this change in legislation. The Parish Council was therefore in a good position to introduce remote meetings very quickly.

Three Committee meetings, which had to be cancelled in March, due to the pandemic were held over the period 9 to 17 April and a remote Parish Council meeting was held on 30 April.

The use of remote meetings has enabled the Council to move its business forward. In particular, the remote meetings have allowed the approval of 8 grants to assist village clubs and organisations deliver projects to improve their facilities and funding for 13 projects, promoted by Councillors, as part of the Council's Village Improvement Fund.

### **Emergency Donations Fund**

Additionally, the Council agreed to set up an Emergency Donations Fund to provide funds to the local organisations which are providing services to Kirkburton Parish Council residents during the COVID-19 crisis. The first four £1,000 donations were agreed for Kirkwood Hospice, Forget-me-Not Children's Hospice, Denby Dale Centre and Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Cllr Steve Beresford, Chair of the Parish Council said, "It is gratifying to see the Parish Council taking advantage of technology to overcome the current difficulties with regard to holding face-to-face meetings. I believe we are one of the first Parish Councils in the district to hold meetings online.

I am also pleased that the Parish Council has stepped up and is providing some financial assistance to these very worthy causes. I know that a lot of local people are volunteering their time and expertise to help, so it's great that the Parish Council can also play its part."

Parish Council meetings will now be held virtually on the first Thursday of the month from 4 June. The public are able to join in and contribute at the start of the meeting, and can listen to the rest of the debate should they wish, in a similar way as at conventional meetings. Details for the public to attend these meetings will be provided on the Council's website.

Although the office is currently closed, the Clerk is still working from home and can be contacted by email. Information is also available from the website: [www.kbpc.co.uk](http://www.kbpc.co.uk)

– ENDS –

*Notes for Editor: Kirkburton Parish Council consists of 11 villages: Farnley Tyas, Flockton, Grange Moor, Highburton, Kirkburton, Kirkheaton, Lascelles Hall, Lepton, Shelley, Shepley, Stocks Moor and Thurstonland. It has been in existence since the local government re-organisation in 1974.*

*Prior to 4 April 2020 Parish Councils could only meet if members were physically present in the same room. This was repealed by the Coronavirus Act 2020. Members are now able to use various apps on laptops, tablets and phones to take part in meetings until May 2021.*