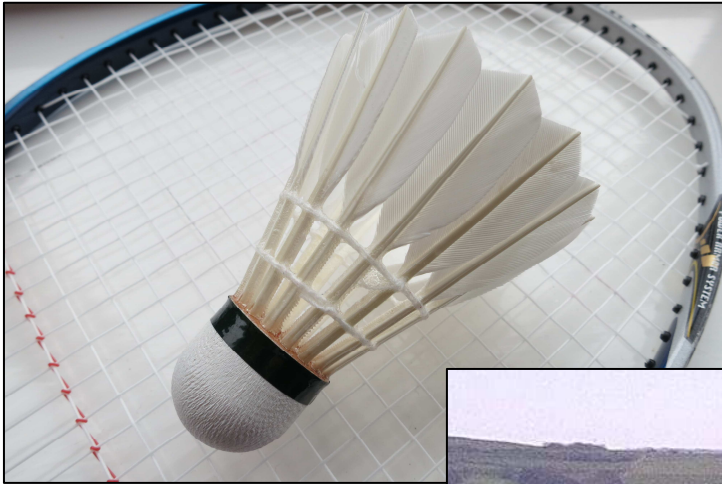




KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 – 2014



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Angela Royle
Clerk to the Council



Rachel Perry
Assistant Clerk

Meetings:

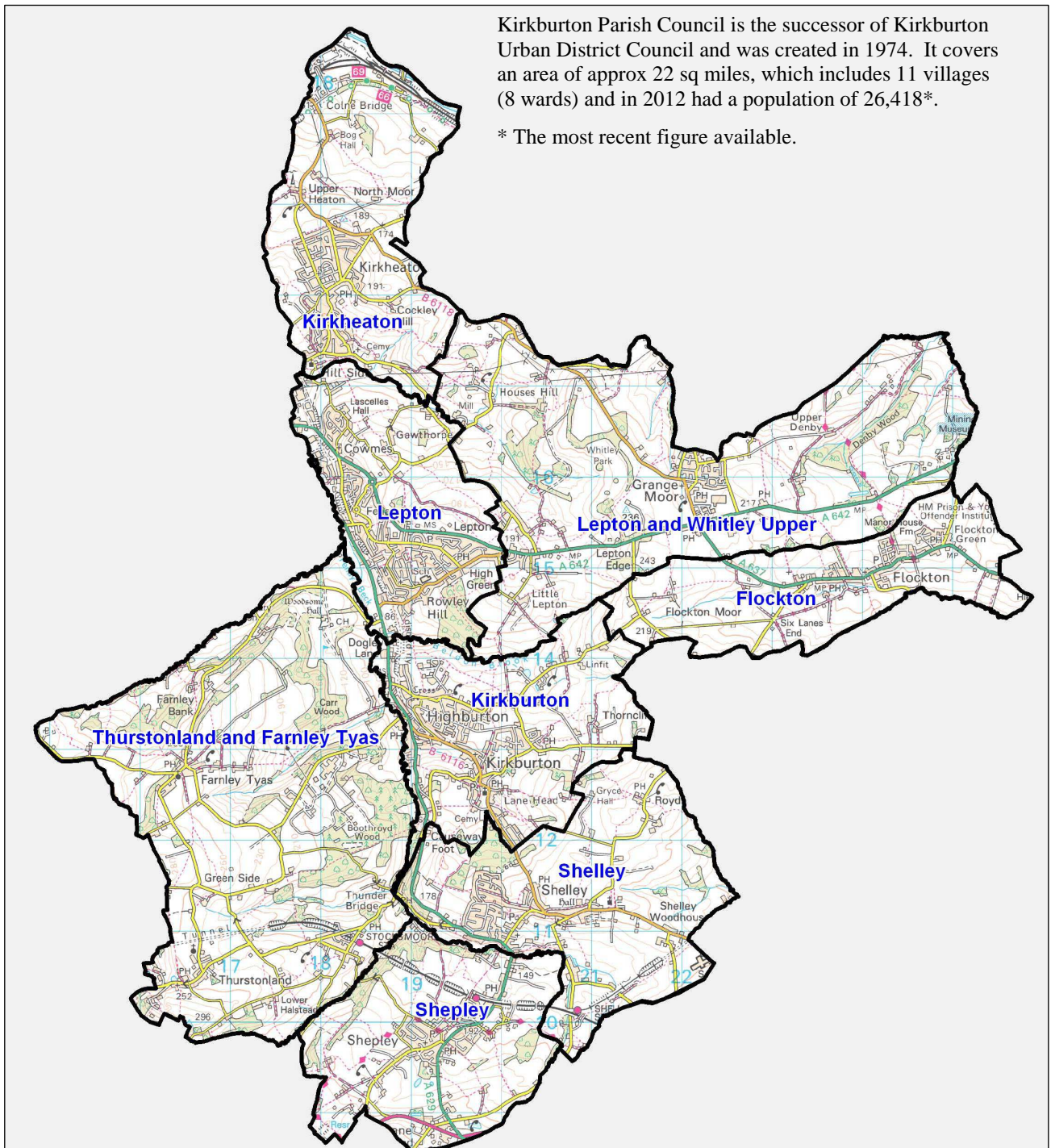
Parish Council meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month, except for May. Committee meetings are called as and when required. A timetable of the meetings has been included on the website, which will be updated as meeting dates are confirmed. All meetings are open to the public and are normally held at 7.30 pm at Burton Village Hall. There is a public participation session at the start of the meeting when people are invited to address the Council on any issue, over which it has a power.

Agendas are uploaded to the website at least 4 days before the meeting, and they are also put up on the Council's noticeboards, in the 4 libraries, at some village halls and post offices. The minutes can be viewed online, and are also posted up at the 4 libraries and in Burton Village Hall. It is possible to be included on an electronic mailing list to receive Council / Committee agendas as they are issued. Please send in your email address, if you would like to be included.

The Council is notified of all planning applications in the Parish area, and the lists are normally uploaded to the website on a weekly basis, and sent to the libraries with the agenda. Comments are submitted where appropriate. If the deadline date for an application falls between Council meetings, the Council will make no comment to Kirklees Planning Services. However, Councillors are able to request an additional meeting to comment on a specific application if it impacts significantly on the area, or if there is considerable public concern. Comments can also be submitted under delegated authority in certain cases. Please contact the staff and/or your local Councillor for advice if you need assistance in supporting or opposing a proposed development in your area.

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Chairman's Overview of the Year



As a relative newcomer to the Parish Council, having joined the Council in 2011, it was an honour to be elected Chair at the Annual Meeting in May 2013. My year as Chair has been significantly assisted by the previous Chair leaving the Council in good order and by the support provided by the Vice Chair, Councillor Cass Whittingham, senior Councillors, particularly the Line Manager John Hirst, and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk who kept me on the "straight and narrow". Without their invaluable help I'm sure the year would have been much more exacting than it proved to be!

The year has largely been one of consolidation and the coming to fruition of projects started in previous years.

The Dog Fouling Project, which resulted in the Parish Council siting 21 bag dispensers throughout all the villages, has been well received. Can I thank all the Councillors who regularly supply the bags to these dispensers. Despite the significant impact the Project has made in improving the situation, this is a problem that will not go away and I ask that any incidents of Dog Fouling be reported to the Dog Wardens.

The Youth Engagement Project, culminated in the autumn with the official re-opening event of the refurbished Skateboard Park at Skelmanthorpe. It was touching to see it being commemorated to the memory of the late Charlie White and to welcome his Mother to the opening ceremony. The second Youth Engagement Project, the provision of a shelter in Shelley Park, made progress this year and I look forward to this being completed next year. I would like to put on record my thanks to Councillors Suzanne Triggs and Ian Lumb for their time and expertise used in progressing these projects. It has been a pleasure for the Parish Council to work closely with the three schools in the Shelley Pyramid, and to see the many benefits the many young people have gained from their participation.



The Fruit Tree Project has now planted almost 600 fruit trees on various public sites around the Parish Council's area. To extend the project further, the Parish Council has agreed to offer some fruit trees to Community Associations for them to sell on to residents. This will not only provide additional funds for the voluntary groups, but will also increase further the amount of food being grown locally. I hope that the Community Associations find it possible to take advantage of this offer. I am grateful to our colleagues in Kirklees, in particular Julian Faulkener and Maryke Woods for their help and advice.



Grange Moor allotments have continued to provide challenges for the Parish Council. The flooding, caused by the significant rainfall in the early part of 2014, created significant problems. However, the Parish Council continues to work with allotment holders to strive to improve the conditions of the allotments. The Councillors have noted and appreciate the work being put in by many of the tenants for the benefit of the community.

The water butt scheme was resurrected during the year. Around 30 householders registered for the scheme and received a free water butt from the Parish Council. This was a small, but welcome, addition to water conservation.

Probably the most pleasing aspect of the year for me is that the Parish Council has found its way to continue the grant funding of many deserving Community and Sporting organisations. I know only too well the day-to-day struggle to make ends meet that are faced by these organisations. This year the applications for Community Grants, for the first time, significantly outstripped the funding that the Parish Council possessed despite the Council making additional funds available by making adjustments to some of the Council budgets. Difficult decisions were made and I thank the Grants/CP Committee for the professional and even handed way with which they dealt with this issue. For those deserving organisations which were not fortunate to receive grant funding there is always the next year's round of grants. You may be more fortunate!

It was, however, particularly pleasing to be able to fund the repair of the historic public clock located on Flockton Green Club. This was originally purchased by public subscription to honour those from Flockton who served and died in World War I.



The financial affairs of the Parish Council are soundly run. However they are subject to increasing pressure resulting from changes to the Government's funding of Parish Councils and also the will of the Parish Council to try to preserve services that are under threat from "austerity" cuts. However, for the year under review there was another freezing of the precept for the third consecutive year. There are, however, likely to be significant further issues for the Parish Council to consider in the future.

I would like to thank the many organisations who made me extremely welcome at their events during the year. I will have enduring memories of all of them. I will particularly remember, despite the rain, the opening of the Skelmanthorpe Skateboard Park and, being a fan of brass band music, the concerts I attended by the Scissett Youth Band.



I held a sponsored walk in October 2013 in aid of the Forget Me Not Trust. Thanks to all who took part in the enjoyable walk, held in fine autumn weather, which helped raise £515 for the Trust. Thanks also to Flockton Green Club who kindly provided the base for the walk.

Finally a couple of thanks. First to all members of the Parish Council who have worked hard, often without recognition, for their communities. Secondly a huge thank you to my wife Sue for her forbearance and unstinting support during the year.

I wish Cllr Cass Whittingham all the best for the coming year as she takes on the role of Chair of the Parish Council 2014/15.

Cllr Steve Beresford



Summary of the Council's Activities and Decisions

The Council, its members and staff have continued to work in the best interests of its residents over the last year. It is encouraging to see that more people are now contacting the Council directly, via Twitter and email. There has also been an increase in the number of people attending meetings and addressing the Council on issues which are important to them.

Honley Show

The Council took a stand at Honley Show, where the Councillors and the Clerk met and chatted to many local residents on a range of issues. The event was also used as an opportunity to consult people on the Environment Plan and request suggestions for new projects, which will be of benefit to local people. If you have any ideas, please let us know – all suggestions will be considered.



Communication



The use of Twitter and the website is growing in popularity. The Council posts messages on Twitter several times per week and forwards on messages from local community organisations and agencies such as Kirklees Council and the Police. The website is updated at least twice per week and sometimes more often. This is all making communication across the Parish easier; hopefully everyone is now more in touch with what is going on and is able to participate in the Council's work more easily. At the same time, the more traditional methods of noticeboards and newsletters are still popular. There is a noticeboard in most of the villages now, thanks to our joint-working with the Kirkburton Area Committee. The newsletter is published on a quarterly basis, and continues to be a very economic way of getting our information out to you. They are also uploaded to the website, where older editions can also be accessed, as well as recent items of news. It is also possible for people to request paper copies of newsletters by contacting one of the staff members.

The website has a Links page, where there are easy links to lots of local organisations with short descriptions. If yours is not there yet, please send the Clerk an email with your website address and she will be happy to put that right.



There is free advertising of community events on our What's On page. Please send us details of your regular and one-off events, and we will post them to the website. That link is often Tweeted also, which ensures that the information is seen by as many local people as possible.

Planning

The Council continues to monitor all planning applications in the area and comment on those which would have a detrimental effect on the area and the residents. The Council welcomed delegations from a number of villages including Farnley Tyas, Lepton, Shelley, Stockmoor and Shepley on the subject of proposed planning developments in the villages. There is a particular concern about the number and size of wind turbines being proposed in our area. The Council supports the local residents' views wherever possible, especially when those turbines are to be sited very close to neighbouring properties, and have a detrimental effect on the views over the Green Belt. However, the decisions as to whether to support or object to these developments are considered on an individual basis taking into account the size, site and location. It is acknowledged that there is also an unwanted cumulative effect of having so many wind turbines within the area, but it is important that the Councillors can be seen to be entering the meetings with an open mind – to do otherwise would disqualify them from taking a decision on the planning application.



Hanging Baskets

For almost 40 years now the Parish Council has provided hanging baskets to most of the villages. 98 were hung last year all across the Parish. It has also awarded grants to community associations to provide additional baskets, on request.

Broadband

The Parish Council worked with Kirklees Council in an effort to bring superfast broadband to parts of the parish. But despite a very high return rate of the postcards, the Dept of Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra) changed the criteria for applying for the Government funding, which had the effect of making the application much more difficult and more expensive. However, we will continue to monitor the situation and will take advantage of any opportunities which may present themselves in the future.

Poppy Wreaths

Following tradition, the Parish Councillors attended the various Remembrance Day Services held at many of the local churches and laid the Parish Council poppy wreaths at the war memorials.

Youth Engagement



The Council continued to work with its younger parishioners to promote local democracy and to encourage them to take an interest and to shape what is happening in their own villages. Representatives of the School Councils from Kirkburton Middle School, Scissett Middle School and Shelley College took part in a forum. Each School Council elected representatives, who worked on two projects: design of a youth shelter for Shelley Recreation Ground and the Official Re-Opening of a Skateboard Park in Skelmanthorpe in memory of one of their fellow students, Charlie White. The project also involved Kirklees Youth Services, Kirklees Leisure Services, local Kirklees Councillors, Kirkburton/Denby Dale Area Committee. Some of the young people came to both Denby Dale and Kirkburton Parish Councils and gave a very professional presentation showing what they have achieved and touched on their aims for the future. All participants have gained a number of transferable skills.



Shelley Village Hall

The Parish Council has been organising the repairs to the drains and the walls at Shelley Village Hall, which were part of the sale agreement. The survey and repair to the drain at the Far Bank side has been completed, and the Council is now occupied with the wall repair. The wall bounding the car park at the top of the property is currently being monitored.

Summary of Accounts 2013-14	£
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
Total Income	133,240
General Running Costs:	42,906
Administration including employment costs, insurance, meetings, office equipment, postage, service review, stationery, telephone/internet.	
Rent and VAT (to be reclaimed in full)	8,015
Civic Governance:	5,876
Audit, conferences, chains of office, civic functions, legal & professional advice, training.	
Public Information:	1,528
Advertisements, annual report, newsletter, noticeboards, shows and website.	
Grants:	30,125
Small annual grants to 47 non-profit organisations within the Parish; Grants for: Clocks, Community Projects, Emergency, Environment, Start-Up.	
Donation to Forget Me Not Hospice – Chairman's Fundraising	515
Village Projects:	22,219
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments, Dog Wastebag Dispensers, Fruit Trees, Gardening Workshops • Christmas Trees and Poppy Wreaths (Hanging baskets were paid for in the last financial year) • Kirkheaton Churchyard • Public Seats • Shelley Village Hall • Youth Engagement 	
Total Expenditure:	111,185
Allocated Reserves (To cover costs of projects in progress:	55,542
General Reserve: (At the bottom of the range permitted by the Audit Regulations)	31,580

Although the level of income is at the same level as for the last five years, the way the precept was collected was changed by the Localism Act. This had the result of collecting £19,040 less than in previous years. This year the shortfall was covered by a Kirklees Council grant, which meant the Council could keep the precept at the same level as last year and maintain services.



Annual Small Grants Awarded 2013-14

In total, £11,948 was paid out in April 2013 as annual small grants for a whole range of projects, covering the full range of interests and age groups. Start-up grants of £100 each were paid out to Grange Moor Community Association and Shepley Scouts. Emergency grants were in higher demand than usual with 3 being paid out to Kirkheaton Scouts & Guides (£750) to help with costs for a new lease; Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association (£750) towards a new cooker and Kirkburton Pre-School (£710) towards a new boiler.

Annual small grants of £250 are available to community/not-for-profit organisations every year. It is also possible to take a larger amount, but the maximum total is £750 over 3 years, including the year of application. It is important to note also, that grants cannot be awarded retrospectively. Forms become available at the beginning of September and can be downloaded from the website. The deadline for submitting applications is 31st October 2014. Late applications are automatically refused, without any exceptions.

Small Annual Grants Cheques Issued in April 2013			
Flockton	£	Shelley	£
Flockton Cricket Club	475	10 th Pennine East Rainbows	250
Flockton Football Club	500	Shelley Over 60's	250
Flockton Green Club	200	Shelley PCC	200
Flockton Pre-School	750	Shepley	
Flockton Youth Group	300	Shepley Badminton Club	250
Kirkburton		Shepley Band	250
All Hallows Church, Kirkburton	200	Shepley Bowling Club	250
Burton Out of School Club	250	Shepley Croquet Club	250
Highburton Brownies	250	Shepley Football Club	250
Highburton Playgroup	250	Shepley Good Companions	200
Kirkburton Junior Football Club	224	Shepley Junior Cricket Club	650
Kirkburton Senior Citizens Support Group	200	Shepley Spring Festival	250
Kirkheaton		Shepley Tennis Club	250
Kirkheaton Cubs	250	St Paul's Church, Shepley	200
Kirkheaton Brownies	250	Thurstonland/Farnley Tyas	
Kirkheaton Guides	250	Farnley Tyas Community Group	250
Kirkheaton Rainbows	250	Farnley Tyas PCC (St Lucius' Church)	200
Kirkheaton PCC	200	Farnley Tyas Women's Institute	250
Kirkheaton Women's Institute	220	Stocksmoor Village Association	250
Lepton		Stocksmoor Village Hall	250
Lepton Highlanders Girls Football Club	250	Stocksmoor Villages Twinning Association	250
Lepton Luncheon Club	250	Stocksmoor Women's Institute	250
Lepton Pilots	250	St Thomas' Church Thurstonland	200
Lepton PCC	200	Thurstonland Rainbows	200
		Thurstonland Village Association	100

We now have a range of grant schemes available, designed to cover most eventualities: Annual Small Grants, Community Project, Emergency, Environment, Public Clocks and Start-Up Grant schemes. Full details of the rules and criteria can be found on the website. It is also possible to download the application forms. In all cases, applications must be submitted by the deadline or they will be automatically refused. If you require a grant and need any help or advice, please contact the staff, who will be happy to help you prepare the appropriate grant application.

We receive many emails, letters and cards of thanks for grants, which is always nice. We have reprinted below the one received from Lepton Highlanders Junior FC. We also received a handmade Easter Card from the children at Kirkburton Pre-School as a thank you for helping have their boiler repaired. It is these kinds of tributes which make it all worthwhile.

The Highlanders say 'Thanks!'

Over the last few years the Lepton Highlanders have applied to the Kirkburton Parish Council for a small grant, and over this period they have managed to secure a total of £750 which has gone towards the start up costs in getting new teams formed. This has been spent primarily on equipment and training courses for new coaches and has been critical in being able to start new teams up for the community. As a result each season Lepton has been able to start up new age groups for the 6 and 7 year old's in the local community and it has been fantastic to see them go from strength to strength.

Alasdair McKenzie is the manager of the Under 7's team who has benefited from some of this funding "The heart of what we do is to make football available for the children in the local community and to help them build a life long love of the sport, starting up a new team for the young players is not easy so having the right equipment they can use and funds to train new coaches is absolutely critical to how we can make this happen, so on behalf of the Highlanders we would just like to say a massive Thanks!!"

Community Project Grants		£
• Shelley First School to help develop an area into a sensory/remembrance garden		1,000
• Lepton Highlanders Cricket Club to contribute towards the cost of new nets		5,000
• Stocksmoor Village Hall Management Committee for lightweight staging		1,546
• Flockton Green Club to repair of the public clock		3,675
• Shepley Bowling Club towards the cost of a new shelter / viewing hut		900
• St Pauls Church, Shepley to improve the paths & disabled access to the parish hall		3,000
Total Spent		£17,121



The Environment

How was the Environment Budget spent?	£
• Fruit and Vegetable Growing Workshops	500
• Allotment Competitions at each of the allotment gardens	116
• Water Butts distributed to residents	929
• Dog Fouling Project includes providing wastebag dispensers & bags	2,095
• Thurstonland Village Association: Plants and shrubs for the recreation ground	175
• Kirkburton & Highburton Comm Assn: Low energy light bulbs for the village hall.	550
• Burton Env Group: To commission a plaque to cover Highburton Christmas tree socket instead of the existing litter bin.	620
• Annual subscriptions to the CPRE, Milestone Society and Rural Action Yorkshire, all of whom provide valuable information and support to the Committee.	79
Total Spent:	£5,069

Some of the funding has been put into the allocated reserves to fund on-going projects and grants which will be paid out after the year-end.

Environment Grants



Whilst the Environment Committee is keen to carry out various projects within the Parish, which are of benefit to the local residents, it is equally enthusiastic to see community groups progressing their own projects and support these via the environment grant scheme. The main criteria is that they must meet at least one of the aims in the Environment Plan. *Photo shows hanging baskets in Kirkheaton paid for by an environment grant.*

The Plan provides more detail of the Council's Environment Aim. The public were consulted last year specifically on this aspect of the Council's work and although the consultation is officially closed, the Committee would still like to hear from any residents or community groups on this subject, particularly if anyone has any ideas for useful projects which have so far been overlooked. There is a questionnaire available to download from the website if people prefer, but letters / emails are equally acceptable. Both the Environment Plan and the Council's Aims & Objectives can be downloaded from the website.

New Public Seats



The rolling programme of maintenance and replacement for the many seats which are dotted all over the Parish Council area continued. New seats were provided in Houses Hill at the request of the Yetton Together group and at Town Top, Kirkheaton (pictured left). Seats in Shepley, Highburton, Kirkburton and Lascelles Hall were also refurbished. We find this service is of great benefit to people, and especially the walkers, who are sometimes very surprised to find a Parish Council seat in a very remote country lane. In order to manage the cost, we do a few seats each year and move the programme across all the villages to try and make it fair. But if there is a seat in particular need or in a

dangerous condition somewhere, it will be sorted out as soon as possible, obviously depending on available budget. If you know of a seat somewhere in a poor condition let us know and we will look into it. Of course, not all of the seats in this area belong to the Council, some of them are Kirklees' seats.

Fruit & Vegetable Growing Workshops

The second series of workshops took place last summer and were enthusiastically received by the attendees. Holme Valley Gardening Network again provided the Tutors and equipment. The subjects covered were chosen by the participants and included subjects such as fruit tree pruning, pests and insect control and information on growing particular crops. Individual tenants also received advice specific to their plots and there were opportunities for participants to exchange advice and tips. There was a visit to the Royds Avenue allotments in New Mill to look at how that allotment garden was managed and see how other allotmenters operate. The course was provided free of charge to the Council's tenants.

Allotment Competition



The allotment competition was repeated due to its popularity the previous year. The plots were judged by Graham Porter, former Gardening Expert of the Huddersfield Examiner. He had a tough job deciding on the winners and runners-up, as all the entries were of such a high standard. After much deliberation, he announced the following winners:

Each winner received a rosette, first prize winners each received a gardening centre voucher for £20 and the

runners up each received a gardening centre voucher for £10.

As there has been so much enthusiasm for the competition, the Council has already decided to run it again in the summer of 2014 for the third consecutive year. We are looking forward to an even higher standard of gardening from you all!



Parish Walks

The Parish Council has taken over the responsibility for the series of 10 Parish Walks and the supporting website, which were established in co-operation with EPIP and Denby Dale Walkers Are Welcome. Each is a self-contained circular route taking in some beautiful scenic viewpoints with a bespoke guidestop. The routes and leaflets can be downloaded from the website: www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk. There is also a small potted history of each village the walk passes through, and an insight into some of the characters who were around many years ago.



Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Flockton		
Jimmy Paxton	7 Park Side, Flockton, Wakefield. WF4 4AD	01924 848445
Maureen Pitts	23 Barnsley Road, Flockton WF4 4DP mopitts@hotmail.co.uk	01924 848832
Kirkburton		
Norman Berry	Whinny Ghyll, 165 Penistone Road, Kirkburton Huddersfield HD8 0PH Norman.berry@kbpc.co.uk	01484 602922
Derek Hardcastle	The Manse, 95 Penistone Road, Fenay Bridge, Huddersfield. HD8 0LF derek.hardcastle@kirklees.gov.uk	07779 628147
Peter Pankhurst	30a Birkhead Close, Highburton, Huddersfield. HD8 0GS peter.pankhurst@talktalk.net	01484 604094
Vacancy		
Kirkheaton		
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Peter Cunningham	67a Highgate Avenue, Lepton HD8 0EE p.s.cunnington@gmail.com	01484 602499
Sharon Dunford	106 Rowley Lane, Lepton, Huddersfield. HD8 0EH sharon.dunford@yahoo.com	07792 930758
John Hirst	5 Sycamore Close, Lepton, Huddersfield. HD8 0EP Jhirst8@hotmail.com	01484 324065
Lepton and Whitley Upper / Grange Moor		
Cassandra Whittingham	32 Bedford Avenue, Grange Moor, Wakefield. WF4 4EL casswhittingham@googlemail.com	07813 184469
Ben Wightman	98 Lascelles Hall Road, Lascelles Hall, HD5 0BQ Ben.wightman@kbpc.co.uk	07881 408317
Shelley		
Helen Barraclough	4 Tinker Lane, Lepton, Huddersfield. HD8 0LR hebclough@googlemail.com	07979 646092
Lynn Parsley	27 Cleveland Way, Shelley, Huddersfield HD8 8NQ lynn@theparsleys.me.uk	01484 604780
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