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# KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Report



Burton Village Hall  
Northfield Lane  
Highburton  
Huddersfield  
HD8 0QT

## 2024-2025

Council clerk: Alex Greenwood  
Assistant: Emma Booth  
email: [clerk@kbpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@kbpc.co.uk)  
Call: 01484 604391

Opposite: Chairman Derek Hardcastle at his Civic Sunday  
at All Hallows Church in Kirkburton.

Parish Council meetings are usually held at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month, except for May, at Burton Village Hall. You can find specific details and agendas on the Parish Council website. All are welcome.

Flockton Kirkburton  
Kirkheaton Lepton Whitley  
Upper Shelley Shepley  
Thurstonland Farnley Tyas



### **Festive Cheer**

We provided eleven Christmas trees across the Parish.

### **Summer Glory**

We put up over a hundred flowering hanging baskets in our villages, with extra funding from Shelley Over 60s and Kirklees Council.



### **A place to grow**

We run two allotment sites where residents can plant, grow and harvest.



### **A time to remember**

We provided eleven poppy wreaths for Parish Councillors to lay at memorials across the parish.



### **Protecting heritage**

We maintain Kirkheaton Churchyard for everyone to enjoy.

## **Chairman's report**

This year has been a time of transition for the Parish Council as our clerk of twenty-four year's standing retired at the beginning of the council year.

My fellow councillors stepped up to help with council work while we sought a new clerk, taking on administrative and financial jobs to ensure the Council continued to provide services for local residents. I thank my colleagues for their extraordinary support and commitment.

As Chairman of the Parish Council, part of my role is to be the public face of the Council. This work takes me to all parts of our parish and across Kirklees.

Amongst other events, I attended the wonderful Highburton Sing, a village tradition resurrected after fifty-five years where residents get together to sing, and Kirkburton Open Gardens, a bi-annual event, where money raised goes to charity.

I also attended the opening of a nature area to commemorate the King's Coronation, opened a new Morrisons Local, and took part in the Remembrance Day parade and laid a wreath on behalf of the councillors and parishioners of Kirkburton Parish.

On Santa's sleigh in Kirkburton and Highburton, I was an elf; we raised money for the pre-school group and first schools. My first civic reception of many was at Mirfield Town Council, and the year ended with my own civic service at Kirkburton Church, for which I am extremely grateful to all involved for making it a special day.

I also unveiled the memorial for local residents killed during the Second World War in the Lepton firework and flare making disaster.

Kirkburton Parish Council prides itself on supporting and encouraging local community organisations. Our small grants programme has gone from strength to strength, funding all manner of wonderful items from safety mats for a playgroup to a bell ringing simulator, compasses for Beavers and new music for a local brass band. I hope this work will continue for many years, and I encourage anyone who has a group like this to apply for a small grant.

I wish my successor all the best for their year in office, and would like to extend my thanks to Cllr Bob Smith for his help with the Chains of Office, to all the Committee Chairmen for their hard work, to my fellow councillors, and especially the support staff of Emma Booth and Alex Greenwood, and a special thank you to Cllr John Cowan for his steadfast support in keeping the Council running throughout the year.

**Cllr Derek Hardcastle, Chairman 2024-25.**



The Parish Council has fifty public seats sited across the parish.

If you see one in need of repair or replacement, let us know.



## Improving our villages

Kirkburton Parish Council runs a **Village Improvement Project** funding scheme where Parish Councillors are able to put forward projects that they feel would be beneficial for their village and apply for funding of up to £500 per councillor.

This year, the Council has funded community fish and chips in Grange Moor, given a grant to develop a Victorian playground, and funded work on a bridge onto Burton Community Field

and the replacement of some fence posts and rails at the Mill Pond.

Village Improvement funds in 2024 to 2025 have also bought daffodil bulbs for Shepley, supported Lepton Mens' Club, given a grant for a leaf blower, helped to replace two timber seats in Farnley Tyas, funded barn owl nest boxes and bee-friendly plants in Kirkheaton, and will fund a public seat in memory of Wilfred Makepeace Lunn in Kirkburton Village.

Kirkburton Parish Council has been working with Lepton Village Preservation Society since the society's inception in 2021.

have been used to purchase three name stone planters and two large mosaics to improve the appearance of Lepton Village centre.

Funds from both the Parish Council's General Grants Scheme and Village Improvement Project scheme

Kirklees Madame Mayor Nosheen Dad unveiled the latest mosaic in late April 2025 (image at the top).



# Supporting wellbeing

Our **General Grant** scheme provides funding to local organisations and volunteer associations whose work benefits the local area or offers opportunities and activities for the people of our parish.

In 2024-25, the Parish Council funded . . .

- sixty chairs for Stockmoor Village Hall
- replacement pads for the Shelley Community Association defibrillator
- some replacement windows and catches for Burton Village Hall
- replacement furniture for Shelley Cricket Club
- an interactive healthy eating session for Thurstonland First School
- the replacement of a ceiling for the Kirkheaton Scout and Guides Association
- a wall mosaic for Lepton Village
- the room rent for an elderly exercise class
- a good quality microphone for Kirkheaton Popular Music Choir
- a "Come and Play" workshop for Shepley Band
- the repair of parking areas and the construction of a ramp to a fire door
- a replacement battery for a defibrillator in Farnley Tyas
- entertainers and the provision of tea and cakes for a Dementia support session
- thirty pairs of hand grips to support elderly grip strength
- a replacement noticeboard in Shelley
- the unblocking of sewer pipes for Kirkheaton Cricket and Bowling Club
- the repair and restoration of a historic grave in Farnley Tyas
- a new battery and pads for a defibrillator in Kirkburton
- the clearing of churchyard space for new burials in Flockton
- new batteries and pads for a defibrillator in Kirkheaton
- some festive lights in Lepton
- new defibrillator pads in Shelley and an information leaflet.



## Your Parish Councillors

**Cllr Bill Armer**  
**Cllr Robert Barraclough**

**Cllr Dominic Black**  
**Cllr Ray Bray**

**Cllr Charlotte Bright**  
**Cllr Pamela Brook**

**Cllr Richard Burton**  
**Cllr Maria Carthy**

**Cllr Ian Carthy**  
**Cllr Andrew Cooper**

**Cllr John Cowan**  
**Cllr Derek Hardcastle**

**Cllr David Knight**  
**Cllr Pauline McGleenan**

**Cllr Alison Munro**  
**Cllr Bill Rowlands**

**Cllr David Pearson**  
**Cllr Bob Smith**

**Cllr Maureen Sykes**  
**Cllr John Taylor**

**Cllr Peter Taylor**  
**Cllr Claire Voyce**

**Cllr Edward Voyce**  
**Cllr Clare Walters**  
**Cllr Marjorie Wheelhouse**



# £300 goes a long way

In 2024 to 2025, we helped a wide range of local community groups and associations with all manner of costs: from new band music to compasses for Beavers.

We also run a small grants programme that offers grants of £300 to help local groups cover the cost of anything they need to run their organisations.

## Our small grants went to provide and help fund . . .

archive storage for a Flockton group  
speakers for the Flockton WI  
new music for a brass band  
instrument servicing for a youth band  
venues for the WI  
the improvement of open spaces in Kirkburton  
craft items for an Out of School club  
safety mats for a playgroup  
books for a guitar and ukelele group  
equipment for women's football  
insurance for a community group  
equipment for senior footballers  
help for SEND children to play football  
the improvement of a pentanque surface  
outdoor learning equipment  
a ringing simulator for bell ringers  
a meeting place for a craft group  
room hire for a dementia group  
room hire for chair exercise group

room hire for local knitters  
a website for local history  
room hire for Library Friends  
a festive party  
insurance for a community centre  
running costs for Library Friends  
running costs for village events  
a festive meal for a Luncheon Club  
running costs for a Mens' Club  
help for local Rainbows  
running costs for a Preservation Society  
equipment for a Friendship Cafe.  
seeds, plants and tools  
equipment for a cricket club  
plants and help to maintain land  
food and medication for hedgehogs  
a festive party for over-60s  
a garage for Scouts  
running costs for Cliffe House Friends  
road safety for school children  
running costs for a Veterans club  
speakers for a naturalists society  
activities for a toddler group  
running costs for a band  
room hire for a wildlife group  
the restoration of a bowling green

a mini lawn mower for a croquet club  
equipment for a junior cricket club  
new items for a preschool  
four stoves, five space hoppers  
and 20 compasses for Beavers  
a projector for Scouts  
equipment for a tennis club  
room hire for a village association  
community events for the WI  
running costs for a local magazine  
speakers for a Yorkshire studies group  
web hosting for a local group  
venue hire for the WI  
outdoor learning facilities  
cross-cultural activities for a Twinning Association  
web hosting for a village group  
safety signage for a village hall  
ground equipment for a cricket club  
running costs, flower bed maintenance, defibrillator maintenance, newsletter printing, and bank charges for a village association.



