



# One Voice



*Latest News from Kirkburton Parish Council*

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## Welcome to Lucy Gardner, our new Assistant Clerk



We are pleased to welcome Lucy to the Council. She has over 15 years' experience of supporting universities, charities and small businesses. She takes a keen interest in local issues as a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and is looking forward to getting involved in the work of our Council. She is currently undertaking training in Council legislation and procedures, and is gradually taking over various aspects of the Council's work and projects. In her spare time, she loves spending time with her family and aspires to be a better amateur photographer.

## Council Budget gives a 3% increase in the Precept

The Parish Council has drawn up its budget and spending plans for next year. As Kirklees Council has maintained the Council Tax Support grant at the same level as last year, the precept (portion of Council tax which funds the Parish Council) will be increased in line with inflation. For band D Council taxpayers this will mean a payment of £12.53 per year. All the grant schemes will continue along the same lines as in the past although the rules are subject to review before the 2015 grant scheme is launched in May. Hanging baskets and Christmas trees will be provided across the Parish and the Council will be looking to increase the provision of defibrillators in its area. There is also some provision to support the 4 libraries, more details are provided below.

## Libraries

As most people are aware, the future of Libraries within the Parish is under threat as Kirklees Council has to identify even more spending cuts in its budget. The Parish Council is aware that libraries are important to people for a whole variety of reasons and wants to help to retain the Libraries within its boundaries if possible. In Kirkburton, Councillors are in negotiation with Kirklees Council to see if it is possible to take over the running of the building so that the Library can continue to be delivered from that site. This will enable Kirklees Council to retain a core Library service within the building which could be delivered with Community help.



**There is to be another public meeting on 26 February at 7.30 pm at the Hub in Kirkburton** to update people on the current situation and to measure the level of public support for this option. Up to, and at the meeting the Parish Council will also be gauging interest in the formation of a "Friends" group to work alongside the Parish Council to help deliver Library services as Kirklees Council withdraws. Please see the website for full details.

It is possible for other community organisations to apply to Kirklees Council for a Community Asset Transfer of the Kirkburton building. Kirklees Council would then consider all applications made and decide which organisation to pass the building over to. This would be separate from the delivery of the actual Library service. Community groups in Kirkheaton and Shepley are looking at taking over the Library buildings in those villages and the Parish Council hopes to be able to support those groups as they take on these significant commitments.

## Defibrillators for the Community

The Parish Council is continuing in its bid to have defibrillators available across the Parish over the course of the next few years. It has agreed to contribute £1,000 towards the purchase of a new defibrillator and cabinet in Thurstonland. In Shepley, the Council has also contributed £440 to the re-location of the defibrillator to the outside of the building and the purchase of a new outdoor cabinet.



The rest of the funding has been provided by the Denby Dale & District Rotary Club and One Community.

Next year there is a budget of £4,000 which could see the installation of 3 or 4 more defibrillators. We are encouraging community groups to provide a contribution to the cost so that our funding can be spread wider and many more areas can benefit from this life-saving equipment. The equipment just needs a building with an electricity supply and a volunteer available to check it on a weekly basis. If you are interested in having one in your village, and can meet those basic requirements, please get in touch.

## Grants News

The Council has approved £12,659 for small annual / clock grants to a wide variety of community groups throughout the Parish, supporting the work of so many volunteers. Letters to individuals will be sent out shortly. The cheques will be issued in April, as the funding comes out of next year's budget.

The Council also approved the following Community Project grants:

- £1,500 Kirkheaton Scouts and Guides towards the costs of holding the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala
- £1,500 Kirklees Local TV to contribute towards the cost of new media equipment to support a media training programme for some of our young people. The grant is subject to confirmation from the applicant.
- £5,444 to Stocksmoor Village Hall Management Committee to contribute to the cost of a new kitchen (*pictured right*).
- £1,973 to All Hallows Church towards the costs of restoring the top of the Church tower.



To support new groups the Council makes periodic awards of start-up grants. The latest beneficiaries are:

- The Friends of Storthes Hall Woods: £100 to purchase litter-picking equipment and to cover some of the initial administrative purchases.
- Yetton Hub: £100 to cover the purchase of crockery, administration and initial speaker fees.

## Police Crime Commissioner visits Kirkburton



We were pleased to welcome the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Mark Burns-Williamson, to the Council. He gave the Councillors a comprehensive overview on crime statistics on a national, county and local level. In the year to March 2014, the level of crime in West Yorkshire, and in Kirklees in particular, has fallen especially in comparison with other parts of the country. However, his information showed that the perception of drug use in rural areas is considerably higher than the reality. Mr Burns-Williamson answered specific questions posed by the Councillors on local issues and has put the Clerk in contact with various departments to try and solve some of our long-running issues.

# Lepton Welfare Charities

Reg Charity No. 242871

Lepton Welfare Charities is a small Lepton village-based charity, dedicated to offering practical help to those villagers who are in need of financial support and help. Historically, we have sent out vouchers, that can be redeemed at the Co-op and Lepton Food & Wine in the village, at Christmastime. We have also included those whom have been recently bereaved, in order to show them that people are thinking and care about them.

The trustees are very aware of the fact that our charity is not as well known as we would like and would ask that if anyone is aware of any villager who is in difficulty and would benefit from a little help, at any time throughout the year and not just Christmas. Would they please contact either of our Church ministers and we will be happy to help, if we can.

If there is someone you feel may really benefit from some practical support, please contact either: -

Lay Minister Naomi Sharp, Lepton Methodist Church 01484 420644  
Revd Anita Raggett, St John the Evangelist Church 01484 606126

*Please Note. Our constitution only allows us to support those people living within the boundaries of Lepton village.*

## Parish Council Elections – 7 May 2015

**Do you want to make a difference to your community? Then why not become a Parish Councillor.** The next Parish Council elections are on Thursday 7 May. If you are over 18 and live or work in the Parish you may be eligible to stand, either as an Independent or you can approach one of the political parties if you wish. Nomination papers are available from Election Services from 30 March 2015 and the deadline for receipt is 4pm on 9 April. To find out more contact the Clerk or Kirklees Election Services.



## Grange Moor Allotments



The Council is currently making some improvements at Grange Moor allotments. The work includes putting up new fencing at the end of the car parking area adjacent to Plot 19 and at the bottom of Plots 5 and 6. The disused sheds and overgrown area at the top, adjacent to the Garden Centre, are to be cleared and some willow saplings are to be planted. The trench will also see some improvements with the weeds being cleared and the fruit bushes and trees woven together to form a fruit hedge. Some of the plots have been given up and we are looking forward to welcoming new tenants soon. The allotment competition is being re-run in the summer, so let's hope we get some good growing weather!

**Meetings: Council:** 5 March, 16 April. **Environment Committee:** 18 March

**Annual Parish Council Meeting: 21 May at 8.00 pm**    **Annual Parish Meeting: 21 May at 7.30 pm**

- Additional Committee meetings are called as and when necessary. Please see the website for details.
- All the meetings at Highburton Village Hall at 7.30 pm
- The meetings are open to the public.
- All meetings have a public participation session.
- A full meeting schedule & agendas available from website.



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**Annual Parish Meeting:  
Thursday, 21 May at 7.30 pm  
(please note new start time)  
at Burton Village Hall**

Each year the Council holds a meeting for the electorate, when people can come and raise issues with the Parish Council, ask questions about the previous year's activities and make suggestions on issues the Council could take up in the future. The meetings are opened by the newly-elected Chairman, and afterwards everyone is welcome to share the refreshments. So put a date in your diary to join us this year!

**Christmas Trees**

We provided 8 Christmas trees this year and covered the costs of the lights on the two planted trees as well as those for the lights over the shops in Lepton Square. We have received many thanks and compliments for them, which in some villages form the focal point for the seasonal celebrations.

*Photo left: Grange Moor Christmas tree.*



**Seed Sharing Events**



Seed sharing is an excellent way of reducing waste when growing your own vegetables. The seed packets often contain far more seeds than one person can use, and it's always best if you can have a variety of crops growing. If your community group is interested in holding a seed sharing event and would like some help to put it on, please get in touch. We have some contacts in this field and are keen to help you to make your event a success.

**Poppy Wreaths laid across the Parish**

The Parish Council honoured all war casualties from the Parish by supplying a poppy wreath to each village with a war memorial, which were laid by the local Parish Councillors on Remembrance Sunday. Victims of the 'First World War were particularly remembered in the centenary year of the start of the Great War.



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