



One Voice

Latest News from Kirkburton Parish Council

Volume 6, Issue 3

Spring 2016



Council freezes the Precept

The 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 frozen. For band D Council taxpayers this will mean a payment of £12.64 per year. Some adjustments to the budget were needed to enable this to happen. The main changes are:

- Discontinuation of the Annual Report
- Merging of the Allotment Maintenance & Public Seats into a new Maintenance budget (– £700);
- Civic Functions (– £1,000)
- Community Projects budget to be expanded to include environment grants & environmental projects, eg dog wastebags and the allotment competition (+ £2,000)
- Defibrillator grants (– £1,000)
- Removal of the Environment budget (– £5,000)
- Kirkheaton Churchyard (– £3,000)
- Library / Library Buildings (+ £3,000). It includes support for community groups seeking to take over buildings in Kirkheaton and Shepley, to support the bookdrops in Lepton and the running costs at Kirkburton.

The Council is actively engaged in discussions with Kirklees Council about the future of Kirkburton Library. Both Councils are agreed on the principle that the library building will be transferred to the stewardship of the Parish Council, and the only remaining area for discussion concerns the legal terms of the transfer. The full budget is available to view on the website in the Reports section.

Should the Highburton telephone box stay or go?

As many of you will be aware, the telephone box in front of Highburton Cross has been out of order for some time. When it was working BT confirmed that it had very low usage and asked several times if it could be removed. At the time, the general consensus of opinion was divided. Some wanted to keep it, as it was an important village facility, whilst others wanted it to be removed, as it was spoiling the area around Highburton Cross, which is a Scheduled Monument dating back to the 14th century.



Before taking any actions the Council would like to find out what the current opinion is on whether or not the box is still needed. The outcome of this survey will determine how the Council acts – it will either ask BT to remove it or repair it. Tell us what *you* think.

Christmas Trees in Lascelles Hall and Thurstonland

It has been noticed that the Christmas trees planted in Lascelles Hall and Thurstonland in 2012 have stopped growing and are not as impressive as they once were. Before taking any actions we would like to find out what the residents' views are on the subject. The options are: a) Remove the trees and plant replacements; b) Remove the trees, restore the area and supply cut trees purchased from Kirklees Council; or c) Leave the trees as they are. What do you think? If you live in either of the villages, please let us know what you would prefer the Council to do. Contact us by email, twitter or letter. Include your name and contact details and the name of the village you are commenting on.

Safe Places Scheme

Samantha Jones of Mencap was made very welcome at our January meeting. She made a very interesting presentation on the Safe Places Scheme, which operates for people over the age of 16 who might be vulnerable when they go out. Individuals may have a learning disability, autism or Asperger's syndrome, dementia / Alzheimer's or a physical disability.

It is about giving those individuals help when they are outside and come across unexpected situations, which can confuse them. Businesses are being encouraged to join the scheme and display the Scheme logo, so these people will know there is somewhere they can go for help. The businesses who sign up will receive training in how to help the vulnerable people.



The Parish Council response to the Local Plan Consultation



The Council carefully considered the proposals included in Kirklees Council's Local Plan and made a submission including the following points:

- The inappropriate inclusion of the Farnley Park plan within the Plan – the Council felt this should be withdrawn. Farnley Estates should establish a development plan and lodge a planning application in the usual way, to be considered by Kirklees Council's Strategic Planning Committee.
- Housing types should be more in line with residents' needs. There is an identified need for smaller properties for people buying their first home and older residents looking to downsize. But the developers seem to favour building the larger 4 and 5 bedrooomed houses.
- Concerns were expressed about the ability of the road infrastructure to cope with the resulting additional volume of traffic. Also, the likely deterioration in air quality.
- The Council objected to development in the Green Belt, particularly where it formed a natural boundary between settlements.
- The need for more school places to be provided.
- The need for a multi-agency approach to healthcare requirements, particularly in view of the proposals to reduce facilities in both the Huddersfield and Dewsbury hospitals.

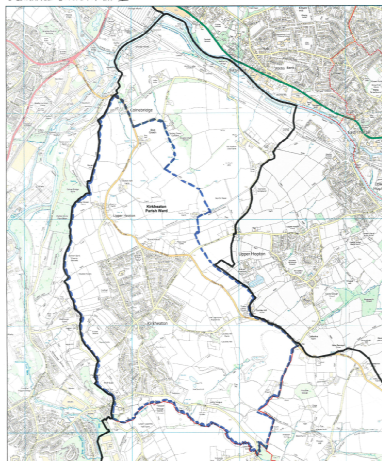
Full details of the response can be found in the January PC minutes, which are available on the website, in the libraries and from the staff on request.

Thank you to the members of the public, who attended the meeting to share their views on this subject with the Council. It's always good to hear your views.

Meetings: Council: 3 March and 21 April; **Environment Committee:** 17 March

NB: Please note the change to the April Parish Council meeting date

- Additional Committee meetings are called as and when necessary. Please see the website for details.
- All the meetings are 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 & minutes are available from the Council website.



The black line denotes the boundary for the Kirkheaton Parish ward, and the blue dotted line is the area to be covered in the Plan.

Kirkheaton Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has applied to Kirklees Council to designate a neighbourhood area for the purposes of producing a neighbourhood development plan in Kirkheaton (part of the Kirkburton Civil Parish and encompassing the ward of Kirkheaton excluding the areas of Battyeford and Colne Bridge to the north-north east of the ward). A six week publicity period is taking place from 15 January to 26 February to invite comments on whether the proposed area represents an appropriate neighbourhood area.

To view the Neighbourhood Area Application and find out how to make a comment, please see the Consultation tab on the website. Copies are also available at Civic Centre 3 and Kirkheaton & Kirkburton libraries.

Allotment Competition

Mr Graham Porter, a renowned gardening expert and former gardening columnist of the Huddersfield Examiner, came along to the Council's October meeting to make the presentations to the winners and runners up of the two competitions held in 2015, which he had judged over the summer.

This year's winners were: Grange Moor: Carol Austin (winner); Lynne Willis and Linda Gilbert (joint runners-up). Carol Austin also won the prize for the most improved allotment at Grange Moor. Shepley: Margaret Scott (winner) and Raymond Horn (runner-up). The category of Most Improved Allotment was a new category this year, introduced at the request of the tenants. The winner, Carol Austin, has turned the plot around from a very overgrown and unloved piece of land to the best one on the site. We will be repeating the popular allotment competitions this summer. Tenants will shortly be receiving full details of the marking criteria and will be given the opportunity to opt out if they wish.



Photo (left to right): Roz Pering, Lynne Willis, Graham Porter, Malcolm Gilbert, Cllr Pamela Brook (Parish Council Chairman), Linda Gilbert, Carol Austin, Raymond Horn and Cllr Bernard McGuin (Environment Committee Chairman).

Grants News

The Council was pleased to approve £12,800 in small annual grants and clock grants to 48 organisations throughout the parish for a whole variety of purposes and to all age groups. The Council receives many kind letters of thanks from community organisations and groups, who rely on the grants to continue their good work.

A Community Project Grant was awarded to Growing Works for £1,000 to contribute to the costs of providing activities for vulnerable and disadvantaged families at Cliffe House in Shepley.

Start-up grants were awarded to support new groups needing help to get going. The latest beneficiaries are Kirkheaton Knitting Group for £100 to contribute to venue rental costs and Stocksmoor Table Tennis Club for £100 towards hall hire costs and replacing equipment. Defibrillator grants of £850 each were also awarded to Grange Moor Community Association and Lepton Community Link



Lepton Luncheon Club's Christmas Lunch 2015 supported by a small annual Parish Council grant.



Chairman, Cllr Pamela Brook, unveils Lepton's Defibrillator. November 2015

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Christmas Trees



The Council has again marked the festive period with eight Christmas trees plus lights on two planted trees and festive lights over the shops in Lepton Square. The eight trees stood proudly during December and into January in Farnley Tyas, Flockton, Grange Moor, Highburton, Kirkheaton, Shelley, Shepley and Stocksmoor. Planted trees were decorated with lights in Lascelles Hall and Thurstonsland.

Poppy Wreaths laid across the Parish

Poppy wreaths were laid at war memorials and church services across the Parish in November 2015 to honour the nation's war dead in Remembrance Sunday services. The Parish Council supplied 11 wreaths, which were laid by the local Parish Councillors.



Volunteers step forward in Kirkburton



The response for volunteers to keep the Kirkburton Library open has been positive but more are needed. Anyone with a few hours to spare a month or a week is asked to call in at the library and collect a volunteer leaflet. You will be able to shadow

library staff to help you decide what type of role is best for you, or you may prefer to be involved in helping out at events planned during the year.

There are several events coming up soon. Please see the Council's What's On page on the website or pick up a leaflet from the library.

This item has been included at the request of the Friends of Burton Library. If you would like to write something about your local community group, please send it to Lucy Gardner. Please be aware that contributions are restricted to not-for-profit and non-political organisations within the Parish. The Council reserves the right to edit all contributions.

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