



One Voice

Latest News from Kirkburton Parish Council

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Summer 2012

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman 2012-13



Cllr Richard Burton was elected as Kirkburton Parish Council's new Chairman at the Annual Meeting last Thursday evening. Cllr Burton has been a member of the Council since 1995 and has served in a variety of roles as well as representing his home village of Lepton.

Cllr Richard Burton said "I'm pleased to be elected to the post of Chairman for the second time. The Council has achieved an awful lot over the past year at the allotments, in Kirkheaton Churchyard as well as introducing new projects such as the 1000 Fruit Tree project and the youth engagement initiative. I hope that we will have another active year and all the Councillors will work together for the benefit of the community."

Cllr Steve Beresford was elected into the position of Vice Chairman. Cllr Beresford is an active member of the Council and particularly involved with environmental projects. He also works closely with groups in his own village of Lepton. He said "It's quite an honour to be elected into the Vice Chairman's position and I hope that I will do it justice. I'm looking forward to working alongside Richard over the next year."



Chairman's Diamond Jubilee Sponsored Walk
On Saturday 23rd June 2012
Leaves St John's Church car park in Lepton at 1.30pm

Come and join in the fun!

The past and present Chairmen are joining together in a sponsored walk for the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice and Parkinson's UK. It starts and ends at St John's Church in Lepton, covering approximately 7 miles. The route takes in some beautiful countryside and views in this rural area. Come along and join in the fun, and help the charities at the same time.

Further details and sponsorship forms are available from the website.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Across the Parish



Council awarded over £4,000 in grants to village organisations across the Parish to contribute towards the costs of village celebrations and street parties. Some of the grants are to be used for longer-term commemorations of the event, such as trees and plaques. We look forward to receiving your photos after the Jubilee. The Council has sent formal congratulations to Her Majesty for her outstanding achievement and our thanks for her commitment to us all over so many years.



Summary of Annual Report (covering the period 01.04.11 – 31.03.12)

The full report is on the website, also available from public sites around the Parish & on request from the Clerk.

Summary of Accounts 2011-12	£
Precept (Parish Council portion of Council tax)	122,000
Allotment Rents	222
Refund of VAT	1,796
Shelley Village Hall Rent	4,500
Other items	2,931
Total Income	131,449
General Running Costs:	41,738
Administration including authorised travel costs, employment, insurance, office equipment, postage, stationery, telephone/internet.	
Rent and VAT (to be reclaimed in full)	10,266
Civic Governance:	29,206
Audit, conferences, chains of office, civic functions, main 4-yearly elections, legal/professional advice and fees*, meetings, Quality status, subscriptions, training. *Includes legal subs for 2 years.	
Public Information:	2,688
Advertisements, annual report, newsletter, noticeboards, Honley Show and website.	
Grants:	40,089
Annual small grants to 55 non-profit organisations within the Parish; community projects, environment, emergency and special grants.	
Village Projects:	31,323
Allotments, public seats and other environment projects	4,495
Christmas trees, hanging baskets (covered in last year's accounts) and poppy wreaths.	5,019
Kirkheaton Churchyard	20,995
Shelley Village Hall	814
Total Expenditure:	155,310
Funds for agreed projects currently in progress:	36,988
General Reserve:	30,299



Pictured above (left to right) Grange Moor allotments, Lepton Youth Club and Farnley Tyas Bowling Club.

The first year of any Parish Council term is an interesting time and this year was no different, especially as there were 11 new Councillors. We have made good progress with many ongoing projects and new ones have also been introduced. We were also pleased to welcome Rachel Perry, our Admin Support Officer who took over after Sandra Harling retired.

Meetings: Council: 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August, 6th Sept. Committee meetings to be timetabled as required.

- All the meetings at Highburton Village Hall • A full meeting schedule available for download from the website
- The full meeting is open to the public. • All meetings have a public participation session at the start.



A significant amount of work has been done at Grange Moor allotments: remedial works to address the drainage problems were undertaken, which appear to be working despite the rainy Spring. We have also planted lots of fruit trees as part of the 1000 fruit tree project – as well as providing additional fresh produce, it is hoped that the trees will also help with the drainage problem too. A series of fruit & vegetable growing workshops are currently taking place at Grange Moor (*photo left of the group exchanging info and tips*). These have been provided free of charge to all our allotment tenants, and are proving very popular.

Fruit trees have also been planted in Stocksmoor. The planting days at both Grange Moor and Stocksmoor generated a terrific feeling of community spirit as residents/tenants and Councillors worked together on lovely sunny Saturday mornings. We are now looking forward to the harvest. More trees are to be planted in the autumn at various other sites in the Parish. If you know somewhere suitable, please let us know and we will consider including them,

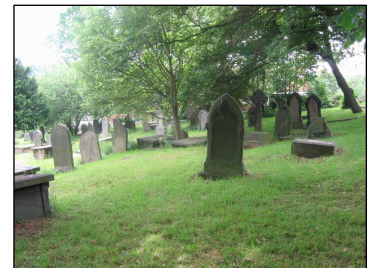
but it should be noted that planting can only take place if the community is prepared to help with the planting and future maintenance of the trees.



Council now has a new website and a Twitter account, which hopefully will mean we can engage more easily with residents, particularly the younger age groups. If you are a voluntary community/sport group in the Parish and would like a link to our website, please let us know and we'll put it up for you. There is also an opportunity for advertising your events free of charge on the website – please send details to the Clerk.



Work has continued at Kirkheaton Churchyard, where repairs have been carried out to part of the boundary wall in the older section, and to the path and small walls in front of the Colne Bridge memorial. The Council has also kept the grass trimmed and carried out some essential work to the trees. A new sapling was planted in the spring to replace some of the old trees, which had to be felled.



New doors for Kirkheaton Scouts & Guides HQ.

The support to community organisations through the grants schemes has continued: a total of £44,839 was awarded in grants to a wide range of organisations supporting all kinds of projects, as well as just lending a hand to keep small groups functioning, and providing a valuable service to their villages. A selection of projects supported are shown throughout the newsletter.

Hanging baskets, Christmas trees and poppy wreaths were also provided to all of the villages. It is interesting to note that all of this happened without any increase to the precept (portion of Council tax which funds the Parish Council). Employment costs remained at less than 25% of the expenditure.

The Council also continued to represent the interests of its residents on issues such as planning, highways and bus services. We were pleased to secure some improvements to the recent planned bus timetable changes by contacting Metro and the bus companies.



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Council is also working with EPIP to bring additional funding into this area for a number of projects. The Parish Walks project is now almost complete and there is a new project is underway at Farnley Mill. A historical website is under construction and the digitization of records continues, so there is more to come in the future.

The Council ran a school poster competition to publicise its campaign to reduce dog fouling in the area. We recognise that this is not a new idea, but it's only by all of us standing up against this behaviour that we have any hope of an improvement. We had many super entries – the winners were presented with gift tokens and their schools also won garden centre vouchers. 12 dispensers are to be installed in all the villages/centres. Please see the website for full details.



Above are photos of Lepton Youth Club (sailing & potholing), Shepley Good Companions, and Flockton 1st School's allotment.

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