KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023



KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

Contact Details:

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Highburton
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Website: www.kbpc.co.uk

Clerk to the Council: Angela Royle
Administrative Assistant: Emma Booth

Meetings:

Parish Council meetings are normally held at 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Burton Village Hall, except for May. Committee meetings are called as and when required. A meeting timetable is posted on the website, along with agendas and minutes.

Every meeting begins with a public participation session when members of the public are invited to address the Council.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the Council and Committee meetings, except where it is notified that a particular item of business is exempt under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

The photo on the front cover:
The Chairman and Consort with the South Yorkshire Pipes and Drums at Cliffe House following the Civic Service held at St Paul's Church in Shepley.

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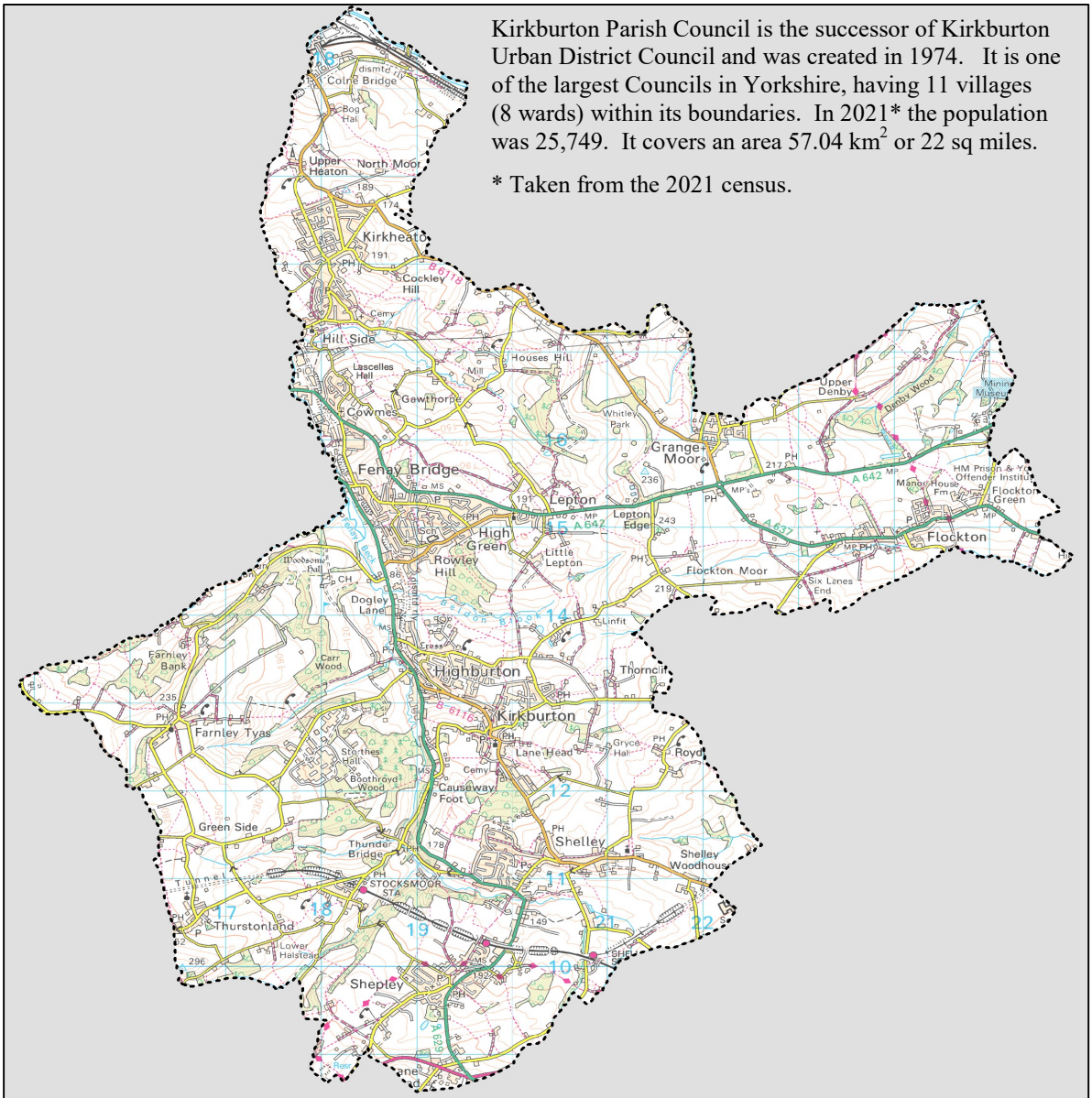
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Kirkburton Parish Council is the successor of Kirkburton Urban District Council and was created in 1974. It is one of the largest Councils in Yorkshire, having 11 villages (8 wards) within its boundaries. In 2021* the population was 25,749. It covers an area 57.04 km^2 or 22 sq miles.

* Taken from the 2021 census.



Area of Kirkburton: 5601.3 hectares.
Scale 1:60,000.

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Chairman's Overview

I have enjoyed my year as Chair, it has been a pleasure to serve the Parishioners and the various community groups within the Parish.

I would like to thank the Clerk and Administrative Assistant for their support during the year. I would also thank all the Councillors for their support and professional behaviour in meetings. Thanks to Robert Barraclough, my Vice Chair, for his support. Thanks also to my Consort, Dinah Bentley, for the support she has given me attending the civic and community events throughout the year.

It has been an honour to represent the Council at civic events at Meltham Town Council and at the Parish Councils of Saddleworth and Holme Valley. The latter was quite special due to the participation of so many children at Christmas-time. I also attended Lepton Luncheon Club's Christmas Dinner as their thanks to the Council for grant funding this wonderful annual event for so many Lepton residents.

My own Civic Service was held at St Paul's Church in Shepley and afterwards at Cliffe House. I would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of the event for their support, which made it so enjoyable and successful.



It was sad to hear of the passing of our wonderful Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022. We remembered Her Majesty with much love at various services leading up to her funeral. I had the honour as Chair, to be invited to the formal Proclamation of King Charles III on 11th September at Huddersfield Town Hall (*photo right and bottom)*. The additional honour was that due to the long service our Queen gave to the country, I became the first Chair of Kirkburton Parish Council in its 48 year existence, to attend such an occasion.

Finally I would like to pass on my very best wishes to my successor, Cllr Bob Smith, for his year of office.

Cllr John Cowan
Chairman







Summary of the Council's Activities and Decisions

This report covers the Council's activities during the financial year 2022-23. As the country recovered from Covid and its restrictions, the Council started to operate more normally. Representatives from the Kirklees project WOVEN gave a presentation to explain more about the project and some of the Councillors have worked on it with local residents in their villages. We also had a presentation from the Chief Executive of the Welcome Centre, who provided valuable information on their operations following the Council making a one-off donation of £1,500 to the food bank, which supports some of our local residents.

Support to Residents and the Community

The Council has continued to support the various community groups throughout the Parish, both by providing grant and village improvement funding, and also with practical assistance. Many of the Councillors are members of the groups and take part in the work they do. We do appreciate the work done by local groups, all of which are staffed by volunteers who spend many hours working on behalf of their communities. A breakdown of the funding provided is listed later in this report.

The Council represents the views of local residents and groups on issues affecting them whenever it can. Every planning application lodged within the Council boundaries is notified to the Council and comments are submitted where appropriate. We are not opposed to development and modernisation, but we do try to ensure that it is done sympathetically to the mainly rural area, which we all value so highly.

The Council has been in dialogue with the developer working on the site adjacent to Penistone Road in Lepton and put forward a number of proposals to improve the situation for residents and businesses. However, it remains to be seen as to whether or not these will be implemented.

Public Involvement

The Council always encourages the public to have its say on its operations and supports the residents wherever possible. Everyone is encouraged to come to a meeting occasionally to find out what is going on and to make Councillors aware of the issues you are facing. If you have any problems, which fall within the Council's remit, please do tell us about them and we will support you if we can.

There is full disabled access to the village hall, meeting rooms and toilets. If we are aware in advance, we will reserve a parking space close to the entrance. We are grateful to Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association for maintaining this excellent facility for everyone.

Agendas are put up on the noticeboards throughout the Parish, the minutes, agendas and plan lists are on display on the noticeboard within Burton Village Hall. There is an electronic mailing list, so if you would like to receive those documents by email, please let the Clerk have your contact details.

Council Projects

After having a couple of years with projects on hold due to Covid, some of them were resumed:

Fruit Tree Pruning

We held free Fruit Tree Pruning Workshops in Shelley and Kirkheaton, which were popular with the participants. The people who attended are already using their skills to prune the Council's trees elsewhere in the Parish, bringing obvious benefits for the community and the Parish Council.







L-R: Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop in Kirkheaton; BEG puts the flail machine to good use; Planter organised by Lepton Preservation Society.

Parish Walks Review



As many will be aware, some years ago the Council developed a series of 10 circular walks – one in each village. This year Councillors completed a comprehensive review of them, updated the routes where necessary, replaced missing waymarkers and produced new maps. They are available free of charge in libraries, post offices, shops and from the Council office. Two volunteer-led walks were held in Shepley and Thurstonland. It was hoped to hold walks in Flockton and Kirkburton as well, but we were unlucky with the weather.

There is a dedicated website: www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk, where you can download a route map for each of the 10 circular walks, and find out a little about the villages and their history. All the walks are circular ones varying in length and difficulty.

Noticeboards / Website

We also have 3 other websites. The main www.kbpc.co.uk is the official site, which is updated regularly with news of recent Council decisions and projects taking place. You can also find your local Parish Councillor and check which ward you are living in. The other two are maintained in conjunction with Denby Dale Parish Council. One is an archive of historic documents and materials: https://denbydalekirkburton.past-view.com which has lots of old photographs and documents relating to the two parish council areas. If any local history group would like to contribute photographs of local interest to the site, or wish to have a link to their website, please let us know.

The tourist website: http://www.denbydale-kirkburton.org.uk provides lots of local information useful to anyone visiting this area as well as local residents and helps to support local businesses.

We have a number of noticeboards throughout the parish and have installed an extra one in Flockton by the Club on Barnsley Road. Community groups are also welcome to display their posters free of charge. Please pass your notices to the keyholder.

Poppy Wreaths



Inkeeping with tradition, the Parish Council provided 11 poppy wreaths which were laid by the local Parish Councillors across the area on Remembrance Sunday. The war memorial at St James' Church in Flockton is pictured right.

Christmas Trees

A Christmas tree was provided in each village (10 in total), one of which was paid for by Kirklees Council. As always they were popular and in some villages formed the backdrop for Christmas festivities.

The Council also paid for the lights over the shops in Lepton Square and part-funded the new lights installed through Lepton Village with Village Improvement Funding.

Hanging Baskets



Hanging baskets are another popular expenditure, bringing lots of summer colour to the villages. We put up a total of 94 baskets across the Parish Council area, some of which were grant funded by Kirklees Council.

Shelley Over 60's and Yetton Together raised the funds for extra baskets in Shelley and Kirkheaton, making the displays even more impressive. We are grateful to all of the residents and groups who made this possible.

Dog Waste Bag Dispensers

Free dog waste bags were supplied in Lascelles Hall, Lepton, Stocksmoor and Thurstonland, which were filled by Councillors.

Allotments



We would like to thank all of the tenants for looking after their allotments and also for doing lots of extra jobs free of charge in the communal areas. We welcomed new tenants during the year at both Shepley and Grange Moor. In Shepley the Council carried out some maintenance work and cut back the branches overhanging memorials in the adjacent Methodist Churchyard, whilst the usual maintenance was carried out at Grange Moor.

Kirkheaton Churchyard



The Churchyard is maintained by the Council as it is a 'closed churchyard'. As well as cutting the grass, the Council is also tackling the Japanese Knotweed in the lower section of the graveyard and monitoring the trees and walls. We are grateful to the volunteers from the Church, who also carry out routine jobs, which all help to keep it looking nice and tidy.

We are aware that the Churchyard is valued as an open space for all local people and not only the church-goers. They can often be seen there taking exercise and enjoying the wildflowers throughout the seasons. A local historian has 'mapped' the graves so family historians can locate their ancestors' graves easier. The information is on www.kirkheaton.info.

All the sites where the Council has a responsibility received an annual risk assessment inspection, and any issues raised were addressed.

Finance

Summary of Accounts 2022-23	**£**
Precept	144,778
Allotment Rent & Deposits	905
Shelley Village Hall: Ground rent and insurance costs	1,875
Hanging Baskets: Grants + purchases by Community Groups	4,967
Bank Interest	2,036
VAT Refund	4,180
Total Income	**158,741**
General Running Costs:	
Administration including employment costs, insurance, meetings, office equipment, photocopying, postage, rent, stationery and telephone/internet.	**55,675**
VAT (to be reclaimed in full)	**4,963**
Civic Governance:	
Audit, bank charges, chains of office, civic functions, elections, legal/professional advice and fees, poppy wreaths, subscriptions and training.	**5,309**
Public Information:	
Advertisements, noticeboards and websites.	**1,613**
Grants:	
Small annual grants to 53 non-profit organisations within the Parish; Clock Grants, General Grants, Jubilee Grants and Village Improvement Funding.	**60,665**
Miscellaneous:	
Allotments, Christmas trees, dog waste bags, eco-grants, fruit tree workshop, hanging baskets, Kirkheaton Churchyard, parish walks, support to Kirkheaton Library and a donation to the Welcome Centre.	**25,386**
Total Expenditure:	**153,611**
Allocated Reserves To cover costs of projects in progress, but not yet completed:	**79,082**
General Reserve:	**50,675**

The general reserve is legally required to be maintained to cover unexpected emergencies which may arise during the year. The full Receipts & Payments Statement is on the website and copies are available on request.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grants



To help the local communities celebrate the unique occasion, the Council introduced a new grant scheme and awarded £300 to each of the following groups: Farnley Tyas Community Group; Kirkheaton PCC; St Bartholomew's Church, Grange Moor; Lepton Highlanders Sports and Social Club; Shelley Community Association; Stocksmoor Village Hall Management Committee and Thurstonland Village Association. Grants of £150 were awarded to: Home from Home; Kirkchair; Yetton Together; Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association; Shepley Village Association and Shelley Over 60's. *Below is a selection of photos of the events, as well as one of Farnley Tyas' Christmas production.*







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Sadly, only a short time after the Jubilee celebrations Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed on. The Chairman attended memorial services and the Proclamation in Huddersfield. He also signed the Remembrance Book in All Hallows Church in Kirkburton and laid flowers on behalf of the Council.

Small Annual Grants Awarded



53 small annual grants and clock grants were awarded, totalling £15,258. The groups were spread across the whole of the Parish and covered all interests and age groups, including playgroups, Over 60's, musical groups, various sports and environmental clubs, for items such as musical instruments, new toys, camping equipment, help with running costs, PPE, benches for spectators, etc. Photographs of some of the items funded by the grants can be seen throughout this report. *Left: Farnley Tyas WI make festive candles.*

Eco Grants

Council introduced a new scheme to assist schools take part in the Eco Schools programme. We have awarded grants of £500 each to Flockton First School (*photo below left)* and Kirkburton First School. The scheme is continuing but the maximum grant has been reduced to £350 per school. Full details of the scheme and how to apply can be found on the Council's website.

Public Seats

We replaced an old seat in Thurstonland with one dedicated to Hannah Louise Smith, funded by her parents (*photo below right)*. We also provided a new seat by the petanque court in Shelley (*photo below middle).* There are around 50 Parish Council seats across the area, so if you come across one in need of repair or replacement, please let us know and we will look into it.







Village Improvement Funding

Ten projects were funded through the Village Improvement Funding. Under this scheme local Councillors are able to put forward projects, which they feel would be beneficial for their village. The following list shows a breakdown of how the funding was used:

Cllrs P Cunnington / M Wheelhouse / Grange Moor Community Association	2,000	Towards the renovation of the Miniature Park.
Cllrs R Armer & R Bray	764	Purchase & installation of a new seat by the petanque court on Shelley Recreation Ground.
Cllrs R Barraclough / A Cooper / Farnley Tyas Community Group	400	Towards the publicity for the Christmas production.
Cllr Munro / Almondbury Business & Community Assn	1,000	To contribute to the costs of extending the provision of Christmas lights in Lepton.
Cllrs P Brook / C Walters and Yetton Together	1,300	To convert the existing flowerbed by the bus terminus into one which can withstand drought and to repair a wall at the Orchard in Epsom Way.
Cllrs D Knight / P Taylor and Burton Environment Group	569	To purchase a brush cutter for maintaining the open community areas in Kirkburton & Highburton.
Cllrs S Beresford / R Burton and Lepton Community Link	1,750	Information board & fees for a memorial stone in memory of 8 people who died in the fireworks factory during the Second World War.
Cllrs B Armer / R Bray and Shelley Magazine Association	559	New computer and subscription to Microsoft 365.
Cllrs D Knight / P Taylor and Burton Environment Group	536	To purchase the materials needed to build a new crib for Kirkburton.
Cllrs A Booth / D Hardcastle and Kirkburton History Group	2,000	Towards the production of a new stained glass window in memory of the late HM Elizabeth II.
TOTAL	**10,877**	







Clockwise:
Lego Club at Kirkheaton Community Centre;
Stocksmoor WI's trip to Renishaw Hall;
Kirkheaton Cricket & Bowling Club

General Grants	£
Jubilee Grants as itemised on Page 8.	3,000
Elevate in Shelley: Venue costs	733
Shelley Conservation Group: Purchase of tools	508
Stocksmoor Village Association: Replacement defibrillator pads	225
Shelley Educational Foundation: Clearance of derelict land for public use.	2,360
Kirkburton Senior Citizens Support Group. Towards the Christmas Lunch & Old Folks Tea	740
Kirkheaton Cricket & Bowling Club: Replacement of existing windows with bi-fold doors & installation of electric shutters	4,000
Shelley Community Association: New defibrillator batteries.	313
Thurstonland Endowed (VC) 1st School: Towards improvements to the Early Years playground.	500
Farnley Tyas Women's Institute: Towards replacement defibrillator battery.	123
Stocksmoor Village Hall Management Committee: To improve the access and bring it into line with equality legislation.	4,000
Denby Dale Centre: Towards the cost of providing the community pantry delivery service	3,471
Yetton Together: Towards cost of providing a Warm Hub on 2 days per week at the community centre	1,750
Shepley Band: Towards the cost of coach hire	500
Kirkburton History Group: Towards the cost of cataloguing, preserving and storing a large historical archive covering this area.	4,000
Friends of Kirkheaton Library: Towards the cost of refreshments for the children attending the Lego Club	450
Grange Moor Community Association: Towards the Lunch Club project	500
Shelley Scouts: Towards camping equipment needed to take part in the DoE award and the Kings Scout Award.	2,412
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association: Towards the purchase of a new stage.	1,000
The Cabin: Replacement laptops for the staff.	750
Burton Out of School Club. Purchase new equipment.	700
Shelley Brownies: Rental costs for 2023.	500
TOTAL	**32,535**

The following article was submitted by Grange Moor Community Association. If you would like to submit an article about your group or project, please send it to the Clerk at clerk@kbpc.co.uk The Council reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Grange Moor Community Fish & Chips

The Community Fish & Chips, part of the Lunch Club Project, was originally launched in January 2020 with the aim of bring residents together over shared meal. However lockdown prevented the project from continuing as planned, so it was adapted and became a Fish & Chip delivery service. Originally this was to be a one-off, but it proved so popular with the residents, the project was continued and expanded. We reached the milestone of delivering the 1,000th delivery in March. It is made possible by having so many willing volunteers, grant funding from Kirklees Community Plus and the Parish Council, and by the support of Grange Moor Fisheries, for which we are very grateful. The photos below show Joyce Stead, our oldest resident, recipient of the 1000th meal delivery (left) and Jeff and Judith Booth, recipients of the 500th home delivery (right).





The recipients include the elderly and frail residents, who find it more difficult to get out but this way they can still be included in a village activity. We also invite residents to "nominate" some other person or family who they feel would appreciate the delivery of a hot family meal and this has allowed us to include many more residents than we expected to do when this was set up. The project is fully funded by grants, fund-raising activities and donations, so there is no cost to residents.

In particular we are really grateful to Kirkburton Parish Council, our local Parish Councilors and The One Community Foundation, for their regular and continued support by way of grants.

We welcome donations to supplement the money we raise ourselves to help to maintain this fantastic service to our residents. Please contact us through our website: www.grangemoormatters.co.uk, Facebook and by e-mail: gramoorca@btinterent.com





Hearts made by Flockton WI and Farnley Tyas WI Birthday celebrations.





Parish Councillors 2022-23

Cllr Bill Armer
Cllr Steve Beresford
Cllr Ray Bray
Cllr Richard Burton
Cllr John Cowan
Cllr Simon Duffy
Cllr David Knight
Cllr Tricia Moores
Cllr Jimmy Paxton
Cllr Bob Smith
Cllr John Taylor
Cllr Clare Walters

Cllr Robert Barraclough
Cllr Anne Booth
Cllr Pamela Brook
Cllr Andrew Cooper
Cllr Peter Cunnington
Cllr Derek Hardcastle
Cllr Andrew McCaig
Cllr Alison Munro
Cllr Janet Roebuck
Cllr James Spivey
Cllr Peter Taylor
Cllr Marjorie Wheelhouse







Clockwise: Flockton's handmade quilt, Chairman & Consort at Lepton Luncheon Club's Christmas Dinner; Sunset over Shelley Cricket Club after the Platinum Jubilee celebrations; Members of Stocksmoor Village Association at the village Jubilee celebrations and 'Bag It & Bin It' notices produced by members of Stocksmoor Village Association.

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