



Horden Parish Council Annual Report 2016/17

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About us

Councillors - The Council has 15 Parish Councillors:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Cllr Rodie Bagnall	11 Ash Crescent, Horden	Chairman of Horden Recreation Ground
Cllr Christopher Cain	4 Hudson Avenue, Horden	
Cllr June Clark	73 Cotsford Park Estate, Horden	Vice Chairman of SWC Sub-Committee
Cllr Edna Connor	2 Cedar Street, Horden	Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee
Cllr Douglas Langan	1 Snowdrop Avenue, Horden	
Cllr Darren Meadows	16 Hatfield Place, Peterlee	
Cllr Geoff Robson	Apartment 7, Wesley House, Horden	
Cllr Isabella Roberts	33 Ninth Street, Horden	Vice Chairman of Parks & Cemetery Committee
Cllr William Smith	22 Alder Road, Horden	Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr David Tait	6 Warkworth Avenue, Horden	
Cllr Jean White	23 Blackhills Terrace, Horden	Chairman of Parks & Cemetery Committee
Cllr Elizabeth Wood	12 Roseby Road, Horden	

Staff

The Council employ staff in the following roles:-

Paul Davison	Clerk to the Council & RFO
Gemma Rowe	Deputy Clerk
Kayleigh Scott	Admin & Finance Officer
Colin Muir	Parks & Cemetery Manager
Walter Rudkin	Parks & Playing Fields Supervisor
Keith Bailey	Gardener/Gravedigger
Tommy Basley	Gardener/Gravedigger
Richard Hepworth	Gardener/Gravedigger
Matthew Scott	Gardener/Gravedigger
Allan Roberts	Gardener/Gravedigger
John Tully	Gardener/Gravedigger
Alfie Temple	Gardener/Gravedigger
Joe Hall	Gardener/Gravedigger
David Lamb	Gardener/Gravedigger

Rodie Kyle Bagnall	Apprentice Gardener/Gravedigger
Jordan Hall	Apprentice Gardener/Gravedigger
Alan Atchinson	Social Welfare Centre Manager
Angela Lee	Social Welfare Centre Supervisor
Glynis Atchinson	Cleaner - Social Welfare Centre
Sharon Atchinson	Cleaner – Social Welfare Centre

In addition, the Council also employ casual staff to cover duties for functions in the Social Welfare Centre.

Introduction

Welcome to the 2016/17 Annual Report, this is the full report of the Parish Council; a summary will be published in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

This report has been produced and made available prior to the Annual Assembly to be held on Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 6pm in the Social Welfare Centre. The Annual Assembly is a meeting of the electors of the Parish of Horden and provides an opportunity for residents to discuss the information provided and to question the Council on its activities during the year. Any resident of the village is welcome to attend this meeting.

Horden Parish Council serves the village of Horden including Grants Houses, with a population of around 5,692 residents.

We deliver many services in the village, such as the provision of parks, playing fields and recreation areas; we run the Thorpe Road Cemetery, have responsibility for the Station Road Allotments and run the Social Welfare Centre.

Our aim is to give residents information about the Parish Council and the services which we deliver in the village, to outline how we are dealing with current challenges and highlight our plans to meet community needs and deliver quality services in the next year and beyond.

Horden Parish Council is one of around 10,000 Parish & Town Councils within England, Parish and Town Councils are the first tier of local government and work closely with the other tiers of local government to try to achieve the best for their local communities. During the year we have worked closely with Durham County Council on a number of issues, one of your Parish Councillors, June Clark, is also a County Councillor for Durham County Council.

Meetings of the Parish Council are normally held the first Thursday of each month (except August) starting at 6pm in the Social Welfare Centre. Because of the elections, the meeting in May 2017 will be held on 11th May rather than the first. The Agenda for Council meetings is prepared on the Friday prior to the meeting and displayed on the Parish Council Noticeboard in the foyer of the Social Welfare Centre and also on our website for the public to view.

All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the public (although some items of business may be heard in private session). If you wish to attend the meeting, just turn up.

The Council are happy for the public to give their views or comments during Public Participation, but ask that you notify the Clerk prior to the meeting of the topic on which you wish to speak. If you would like further information, please contact Paul

Davison during office hours.

Minutes of meetings are available for public inspection at the Social Welfare Centre and are on our website. Any registered elector of the Parish is entitled by law to have copies of the minutes for a reasonable cost; these can only be obtained with advance notice from the Parish Council Offices at the Social Welfare Centre.

REVIEW OF 2016/17

1. Welfare Park

The park was awarded a Green Flag and Green Heritage Site status in August for the ninth consecutive year.



Through Durham County Councillors Neighbourhood Budget Fund, funding was secured to provide holiday activities over four days per week during the school summer holidays. As well as the programme of daily events the Welfare Park held its annual Teddy Bears Picnic and Pirates in the Park.

Following the Council's successful legal case to remove Horden Colliery Welfare Association Football Club from the Welfare Park football ground, the ground has been vacant. During 2016, the Parish Council have granted the occupancy of the ground to another Horden football team and football will once again be played on the Horden pitch from July 2017.

Many have enjoyed the various events and performances that took place during the year. Details are always posted in the noticeboards at the entrances to the park and on the Parish Council's website and facebook page. If you have any ideas of activities or events you would like to see or would like to get involved as a volunteer, please contact Colin Muir via the Parish Council Office!



The Vintage Tea Rooms continue to be a popular attraction in the park, ran by volunteers, the Tea Rooms compliment the Horden Heritage Centre, situated upstairs. The Tea Room and Heritage Centre is open to the public every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am – 3pm in the months of March – October.

Through Durham County Councillors Neighbourhood Budget Fund funding was secured to update the outdated Cricket Scorebox. Horden Parish Council paid to install an electricity cable and the funding contributed towards a digital scoreboard, a new roof and solar powered clock which will contribute greatly to the overall look of the Cricket Ground.

The Durham County Councillor’s Neighbourhood Budget Fund also funded a much needed new pitched roof and new guttering for the Bowls Pavilion.

Parish Council Park staff have consistently delivered a service second to none in their upkeep and maintenance of the park and sporting facilities. The staff’s dedication and commitment to excellence ensure that users of the Welfare Park continue to enjoy the amenities at the quality they expect. A special thank you therefore must go to all of the staff for their efforts.

2. Social Welfare Centre

The Social Welfare Centre continues to be used by many residents and community groups. Activities ranging from Brownies to Slimming Clubs all take place on weekdays, whilst the building is used for functions and parties at weekends.



Below is a list of current regular activities held in the Centre:-

Day	Time	Activity
Monday	5pm - 6.30pm	Brownies
	6pm - 9pm	Ju-Jitsu
Tuesday	5pm - 8pm	Slimming World
Thursday	1pm - 3pm	CISWO Social Club
	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Stop Smoking Session
	6pm - 8pm	Girl Guides
	7pm - 9pm	Patchwork Quilters
Friday	6pm - 9pm	Ju-Jitsu
	6.30pm - 11pm	Mechanics Social Club

The free annual Pantomime still continues each year, in 2017 it featured Beauty and the Beast, all Horden school children were invited to attend.

During 2016/17 major work to the building included refurbishing the upstairs gents toilets, new flooring to the downstairs toilets and corridor, vacant office space renovated and in an effort to increase energy efficiency double glazing has been installed to the Lounge and 50% of the building has been upgraded to LED Lighting.

3. Thorpe Road Cemetery

During 2016/17 69 burials took place as follows:-

	Total	Horden	%	Others	%
All Burials	69	46	67%	23	33%
Full Burials	41	31	76%	10	24%
Ashes	28	15	54%	13	46%

In addition to the 69 burials which took place, 3 memorial plaques were sold for display on the Memorial Wall.

Many relatives have donated seats in memory of their loved ones, the Parish Council will, when space is available, consider donations of seats, trees, rose bushes and other items.

Despite building an extension to the cemetery in the early 1990’s the cemetery is continuing to fill at a significant rate. Nearly four acres of adjacent farmland has been purchased in order to extend on the current cemetery.

Plans and designs were considered throughout 2016, with the final plans being submitted to Durham County Council Planning Department and subsequently approved.

A £500,000 loan was secured in 2016 to finance the purchase of the land and to develop the extension through the Public Works Loan Board.

The land purchase and extension will commence in 2017.

If you wish to find out more about the cemetery or making a donation in memory of a relative please contact Colin Muir, Parks & Cemetery Manager on 0191 5863870 (answerphone) or the Parish Council Offices.



4. Memorial Park

2016/17 has been one of general ongoing maintenance at Memorial Park.

As is the tradition within the village, the Remembrance Sunday Service took place in the park in 2016. Remembrance Sunday hosted not one, but three buglers from the Buglers Association of the Light Division and Rifles, and what a sterling job they did.



The December Christmas Tree Lighting Service was well attended and supported admirably by Horden Salvation Army Band for the Carol Service.

Many residents attended these two events which have become regulars in the Parish Council Calendar.

5. Church Green

Church Green is the area of grass at the bottom of the Memorial Park opposite St Mary's Church. It has a number of seats litter and dog bins. This area is registered by the Parish Council as a village green back in 2014, protecting the green from future development.

6. Sunderland Road Playing Fields & Play Area

Many football teams continue to be allocated pitch space at Sunderland Road. Currently there are 7 teams playing on the pitches.

Whippet racing also takes place on the fields on a Saturday morning, an activity which has a long tradition within the village.

The playing fields also cater for more informal activities such as five-a-side football, permanent mini goals are provided on the fields alongside a small play area for children.

Users of the facilities are encouraged to make use of the ample car parking on the site, rather than parking on the footpath as this eases congestion

on the busy main road.

2016/17 introduced a number of summer events on the playing fields, which were very well received by those living locally.

Development continues on the Pavilion for Phase Two of the phased programme of works. £50,000 has been set aside for a new roof with work commencing in summer 2017.

7. Station Road Allotments

The allotments, situated at the end of Acacia Avenue, are on both sides of the railway bridge. Some of the site is rented by the Parish Council from Castle Eden Estates, the remaining part of the site belongs to the Parish Council. The whole site is rented to the Station Road Allotments Association who manage the site including collection of rents and run the "Garden Hut".

8. Cotsford Park Play Area

The area in the centre of the inner ring of houses at Cotsford Park is a registered village green for which the Parish Council has management responsibility.

2016/17 introduced a number of summer events in the play area. The events were funded by County Councillor's Neighbourhood Budget and delivered by Creative Youth Opportunities.

We received fantastic feedback from all who attended and the events were very much welcomed by those living locally.



9. Maritime Crescent Play Area, Grants Houses

The land at Maritime Crescent is in the ownership of Durham County Council, with the mini goals and play equipment belonging to Horden Parish Council.

10. Planning Applications

The Parish Council are statutory consultees on all planning applications submitted to Durham County Council. This means that the Parish Council have the opportunity to support or object against an applications submitted from within the village. During 2016/17 there were 14 applications considered by the Parish Council.

11. Grants

The Parish Council give many grants and donations to local groups and charitable organisations during the year. Some of the grants are in the form of free or reduced rental use of Parish Council facilities, particularly the Social Welfare Centre. Other grants are in the form of monetary donations. All requests for grants are considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Listed below are the organisations who have received financial assistance in 2016/17:

Banner Committee
Brownies
Butterwick Hospice
CISWO Club
Guides
Horden Regeneration Partnership
Mechanics
Ju-Jitsu
Innovations
Patchwork
Karate
Station Road Allotments
Great North Air Ambulance
East Durham Community Transport
Hartlepool and District Hospice
Durham School Benevolent Fund

12. Publicity & Communications

Each year we produce a financial information leaflet that is sent on our behalf to each household by Durham County Council with the Council Tax demand. This leaflet details the amount we intend to spend delivering services within the parish and the amount we collect from the Council Tax.

In addition we also publish quarterly newsletters each year which are distributed throughout Horden.

Events and activities organised by the Council are advertised in the noticeboards at the Welfare Park, the Social Welfare Centre, locally and via the Parish Council's Website and Social Media. If any residents are interested in submitting information of interest to others in the village for inclusion in the newsletter, please contact the Clerk.

13. Partnership Working

In order to achieve more in the village the Parish Council works in partnership with others. This year those with whom partnerships have been formed include Durham County Council, Horden Regeneration Partnership, Heritage Coast, residents groups, sporting organisations and various community groups. If you think that we could achieve more by working with your group or

organisation please contact the Clerk to the Council.

14. Finance and Funding

During 2016/17 the Council set a budget of £540,687. It is estimated that we spent £638,340 during the year, which includes some expenditure from earmarked reserves on capital projects

The Audit Commission appointed external auditors, BDO Stoy Hayward, have set the audit date for the 2016/17 accounts as 10th July 2017. By law, any interested person has the right to inspect the Council's accounts. Any registered elector also has the right to ask questions about the accounts or challenge an item of account within them. The accounts will be available for public inspection for 20 working days between 19th June - 28th July 2017. If you wish to exercise your right to inspect the accounts, please contact the Clerk to the Council, Paul Davison between the hours of 10am and 3pm on any of those dates stated.

In 2016/17 the Parish Council received funding from Durham County Councillors Neighbourhood Budget Fund for the following projects:

- Horden Holiday Activities £8,492 - activities throughout the 2016/17 school holidays at Horden Welfare Park, Sunderland Road Playing Fields, Cotsford Park Play Area and Horden Social Welfare Centre.
- Cricket Scorebox £5,084 - upgrade current scoreboard with a new roof, digital scoreboard and solar panel clock.
- Bowls Pavilion Roof £8,500 - upgrade damaged flat roof to a new pitched roof and replacement guttering.
- Horden Defibrillators £4,000 - purchase of three defibrillators which will be placed in Horden Cricket Club, Horden Bowls Club, and Station Road Allotments.

East Durham Area Action Partnership, Holiday Provision funded £939.99 for healthy lunchboxes for the Pirates in the Park Event.

15. Strategic Plan

In December 2016, the Council continued a formal process of planning for the next 5 years and beyond. Much has been achieved in the past five years and the Council wish to continue to improve services whilst concentrating on keeping increases to a minimum.

Please see pages 9 and 10 for details of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan.

	PROJECT	2017	APPROX COST 2017	2019	APPROX COST 2019	2021	APPROX COST 2021
Allotments	NO PROJECTS IDENTIFIED						
	SUB TOTAL:		£0		£0		£0
Cemetery	CEMETERY EXTENSION	HIGH	£500,000				
	SHIPPING CONTAINERS (2)	HIGH	£0				
	JOHN DEERE RIDE ON MOWER	HIGH	£0				
	GRAVE SHORING	HIGH	£0				
	GRAVE SHORING			MEDIUM	£1,200		
	TRANSIT VAN			MEDIUM	£10,000		
	WATER PUMPS/STRIMMERS			MEDIUM	£1,200		
	CEMETERY LODGE - EXTERIOR PAINT/RAIN GOODS			MEDIUM	£6,000		
	CEMETERY LODGE - NEW BATH- ROOM			MEDIUM	£2,250		
	JOHN DEERE TRACTOR					MEDIUM	£26,000
	2.5 TONNE TRAILER					MEDIUM	£3,000
	JOHN DEERE RIDE ON MOWER					MEDIUM	£10,000
	LAPTOP					LOW	£500
	CHAPEL OF REST - PVC WINDOW REPLACEMENT					MEDIUM	£12,000
	CEMETERY LODGE - NEW KITCHEN					LOW	£5,000
	SUB TOTAL:		£500,000		£20,650		£56,500
Sunderland Road	PAVILION REFURBISHMENT	HIGH	£50,000				
	BUNGALOW - FRONT DOOR/FENCE REPLACEMENT			MEDIUM	£2,000		
	BUNGALOW - DRIVE RESURFAC- ING					LOW	£3,000
	SUB TOTAL:		£50,000		£2,000		£3,000
Play Areas	PLAY EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	MEDIUM	£10,000	MEDIUM	£10,000	MEDIUM	£10,000
	SUB TOTAL:		£10,000		£10,000		£10,000
SWC	GENTS UPSTAIRS TOILET REFUR- BISHMENT	HIGH	£2,700				
	DECORATING (First Floor)	MEDIUM	£5,000				
	DECORATING (Ground Floor)			MEDIUM	£5,000		
	LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT			LOW	£9,500		
	SUB TOTAL:		£7,700		£14,500		£0

	PROJECT	2017	APPROX COST 2017	2019	APPROX COST 2019	2021	APPROX COST 2021
Welfare Park	AMBULANCE HOUSE - REPLACE WINDOWS	HIGH	£12,000				
-	BOWLS PEDESTRIAN MOWER			MEDIUM	£6,800		
-	TOP LINE MARKER (2)			LOW	£1,400		
-	PUSH MOWER/STRIMMER			LOW	£1,500		
-	PARK HOUSE - NEW BATHROOM			MEDIUM	£2,250		
-	BOWLS TEA ROOM - CEILING REPLACEMENT			MEDIUM	£7,000		
-	WORKS BUILDING - BURGLAR ALARM			MEDIUM	£3,000		
-	CRICKET PAVILION - FLOOR REPLACEMENT			MEDIUM	£10,000		
-	PUSH MOWER/STRIMMER					LOW	£1,800
-	TRAMPOLINE					LOW	£1,200
-	BOWLS PAVILION - MENS TOILET REFURBISHMENT					MEDIUM	£7,000
-	GRANDSTAND ROOF - ROOF REPLACEMENT					MEDIUM	£50,000
-	SUB TOTAL:		£12,000		£31,950		£60,000
Memorial Park	BURGLAR ALARM AND OUTSIDE LIGHT	HIGH	£3,500				
-	MEMORIAL REFURBISHMENT			MEDIUM	£10,000		
-	INTERIOR CAGE STRENGTHENING			LOW	£2,500		
-	ROTIVATOR/STRIMMER					LOW	£1,800
-	SUB TOTAL:		£3,500		£12,500		£1,800
Administration	ELECTIONS	HIGH	£8,500				£9,000
-	PROPERTY CONDITION SURVEYS	HIGH	£5,000				
-	LITIGATION APPEAL COSTS	HIGH	£8,000				
-	LAND REGISTRY PLANS	HIGH	£4,000				
-	ELECTIONS					MEDIUM	£9,250
-	SUB TOTAL:		£25,500		£0		£9,250
-	TOTAL:		£608,700		£91,600		£140,550