



Horden Parish Council

# Horden Parish Council Annual Report 2022/23

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

2022/2023 was a time of change for the country and the parish council, with the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles became our King. Three Councillors left, we thank them for their service to the council, and at the moment two new councillors have joined us so we welcome Cllr J Ward and Cllr J Brown.

Staff from both the outdoor and administration staff have retired or moved onto pastures new, we wish them either a happy and long retirement or success in their new careers.

In June we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the lighting of a beacon in the Welfare Park followed by the Jubilee event also in the Welfare Park. Also in June we raised a flag in the Memorial Park in support of Armed Forces Day. Again in June we lit up the clock in Memorial Park to thank the St John's Ambulance volunteers. Over the summer school holidays the Welfare Park hosted various events for the children of the village. In September, following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II I laid a wreath on behalf of the council and residents of Horden. Also in September I had the honour to read the Royal Proclamation for the Accession of King Charles III. In association with St Mary's Church there was a requiem Mass For the late Queen.

In October St Mary's Church held a service to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Horden Parish Council, this was followed by the Chairman's awards for service to the community, congratulations to all the recipients.

In November we held the annual Remembrance Day parade and service which as usual was well attended by the residents of Horden, and so to December when we held the annual Xmas Tree Lighting Service and I was honoured to lead the lantern parade from the Welfare Centre with Creative Youth Opportunities.

In response to the ongoing cost of living Gemma Rowe succeeded in gaining funding for a " Warm Hub" in the Welfare Centre, my thanks to all members of staff for helping out.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chairman of the council for 2 years and as I hand over the Chairmanship to Cllr F Leadbitter, I would like to thank all members of the council, past and present for their support. I would also like to thank the employees of the council, again past and present for their hard work and dedication to the council and residents of Horden.

**Cllr Bill Morrow**

**Chairman of The Council 2021 to 2023**

## ABOUT US

Horden Parish Council is made up of 15 Councillors and usually meets the first Thursday of every month, with the exception of August.

Your Councillors are:-

Cllr Rodie Bagnall	11 Ash Crescent	Vice-Chairman of Horden Recreation Ground
Cllr Janet Brown	4 Brier Avenue	
Cllr Chris Cain	4 Hudson Avenue	
Cllr David Tait	15 Cornfield Garth	Chairman of Horden Recreation Ground
Cllr Denise Gregory	20 Webb Square	
Cllr Eileen Laing	20 Fairport Terrace	
Cllr Frank Leadbitter	Belmont,Windsor Ter	Vice-Chairman of Horden Parish Council
Cllr William Morrow	120 Third Street	Chairman of Horden Parish Council
Cllr Trish Naisbett	17 Nelson Close	
Cllr Isabella Roberts	33 Ninth Street	
Cllr William Smith	22 Alder Road	
Cllr Alison Turner	5 Yohden Crescent	
Cllr Jackie Ward	1 Handley Street	
Cllr Laurence Williams	13 Nelson Close	
Cllr Francis Winrow	20 Gayfield Terrace	
VACANT		

The Parish Council employ the following Staff:-

Samantha Shippen	Clerk to the Council & RFO
VACANT	Deputy Clerk & Finance Officer
Michelle Hannant	Administration and Finance Officer
Brooke Howarth	Cemetery Administration
Angela Lee	SWC Operations & Events Manager
Richard Hepworth	Outdoor Team Leader
David Lamb	Cemetery Team Leader
Allan Roberts	Gardener / Gravedigger
Joe Hall	Gardener / Gravedigger
Kyle Bagnall	Gardener / Gravedigger
Michael Cain	Gardener / Gravedigger
Callum Lamb	Apprentice Gardener/Gravedigger
Sharon Atchinson	SWC Cleaner
VACANT	SWC Cleaner

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2022/23 Annual Report of the Parish Council. This report has been produced and made available prior to the Annual Assembly to be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 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 any registered elector of the parish to discuss the information provided and to question the Council on its activities during the past year. Any member of the public is welcome to attend this meeting, although only registered electors are able to participate.

Horden Parish Council deliver many services in the village, including the provision of parks, playing fields and recreation areas. The Council manage Thorpe Road Cemetery, is responsible for the Station Road Allotments and manage the Social Welfare Centre.

The Council's aim is to give the residents of Horden information about the Parish Council and the services it delivers in the village, to outline how it deals with current challenges and highlight plans to meet community needs and deliver quality services in the next year and beyond.

Meetings of the Parish Council are normally held on the first Thursday of every month, except August when Council is in recess. Meetings start at 6pm in the Social Welfare Centre. The Agenda for Council meetings is prepared on the Friday prior to the meeting and displayed on the Parish notice board in the foyer of the Social Welfare Centre and also on its website for the public to view.

All meetings of the Council are open for the public (although certain exempt items may be held in private session). If you wish to attend a meeting, just turn up. The Council is 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.

Minutes of meetings are available for public inspection at the Social Welfare Centre and via our website. Any member of the public is entitled by law to obtain printed copies of the minutes at reasonable cost. These can only be obtained from the Parish Council Offices at the Social Welfare Centre.

## **REVIEW OF 2022/23**

### **Welfare Park (Registered Charity Horden Recreation Ground 520826)**

The range of events and activities organised within the Welfare Park continue to be popular with the residents of Horden and the surrounding villages. Details of events can be found displayed in park noticeboards.

In summer 2022 we continued to provide a number of "Summer Holiday" and other events, supported by our partners at Creative Youth Opportunities and East Durham Trust.

We were both celebrating and commemorating HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2022, firstly with well attended events to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June, then sadly more solemn gathering to mark Her Majesty's death in September.

A number of local partners and organisations have used the Welfare Park to host their events and activities over the course of 2022 and 2023, these include East Durham Trust, Creative Youth Opportunities, HCWFC and Horden Together. The Council look forward to continued successful partnership working to provide a wider range of activities for residents, whilst fully utilising Council facilities.

The Vintage Tea Room and Heritage Centre, run by volunteers, continues to be a popular attraction in the park. The Tea Room and Heritage Centre are open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am – 3pm in the months of March – October.

During the past year there have been big changes at Horden Welfare Football Ground with the demolition of the grandstand following a successful funding bid to the Football Foundation. The scheme was also part funded by Horden Recreation Ground Charity. 2023 will see further capital work take place at the ground with the installation of a covered seating area to the east of the changing rooms.

We have welcomed Creative Youth Opportunities (CYO), an East Durham based Community Interest Company who use art to enrich the lives of children & young people as tenants in Park House. You will see some creative changes as Michelle and her team of staff, volunteers and children set about transforming their new HQ.

Parish Council staff have continued to deliver a great service in their upkeep and maintenance of the park and sporting facilities. The 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 the staff for their efforts, we are sure you notice the beautiful shrub and flower beds, but also appreciate the relatively litter-free environment.

### **Memorial Park**

2022/23 has been a year of general ongoing maintenance at Memorial Park. Those of you who visit the Park on a regular basis will, we are sure, join the Council in praising the staff for the excellent standards achieved at the park. They have undertaken some significant shrub and hedge maintenance over the winter. We were also pleased to install two commemorative seats near the Memorial Clock just ahead of Remembrance Sunday. With thanks to Councillor Isabel Roberts.

True to village tradition, the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony and Tree Lighting Service were held in the Park in 2022. The attendance for both events was once again excellent, despite the snow at Tree Lighting.

### **Cotsford Park**

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

### **Church Green**

Church Green is the area of grass at the bottom of the Memorial Park opposite St Mary's Church. It provides walkways from Sixth and Seventh Streets to Blackhills Terrace and has a number of seating areas, litter bins and dog bins.

This area was registered by the Parish Council as a village green in 2014, protecting the green from future development.

We have been saddened by the misuse of the Green by people on quad bikes and dumping of tyres, we ask that residents remain vigilant and report any mis-use to police, so we can continue to provide a great service to residents.

### **Maritime Crescent**

The grassed play area at Maritime Crescent in Grants Houses is owned by Durham County Council. The play equipment and mini goals are however, the property of Horden Parish Council.

### **Sunderland Road Playing Fields**

A number of football teams continue to use the football pitches at Sunderland Road. If you have a team that would like to use our facilities, you need to book with us, we will then make sure our car parking and changing rooms are available.

Whippet racing also takes place on the fields on a Saturday morning, in keeping with the tradition of the village.

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

## Thorpe Road Cemetery

During 2022/23 a total of 61 burials took place as follows

	Total	Horden	%	Others	%
All Burials	61	36	59%	25	41%
Full Burials	39	23	59%	16	41%
Ashes	22	14	64%	8	36%

In addition to the sixty one burials, memorial plaques were sold for display on the memorial wall. The Parish Council will consider donations of seats, trees, rose bushes and other items, space permitting.

The cemetery rules of management were revised following a public consultation over the summer of 2022. We also took the opportunity to review our processes for burials, transfers of rights of burials and the installation of memorials with support and training from the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management.

Due to the very hot and dry summer, we experienced more ground shrinkage than usual. During our regular inspections a number of older headstones were identified as unstable and were laid flat. All families were contacted at the last known address, although the majority of letters were returned as unknown. We remind families that older graves may require the permission to be renewed and also that we require any change of address to be notified so we can contact you if there are any issues.

Over the winter/spring a substantial part of the boundary wall has been repaired and upgraded. We are very pleased with the new look.

Early in 2023 some repairs have been undertaken to the water supply. We owe our thanks to Councillor Frank Leadbitter and the team from Station Road Allotments for their assistance in completing this project.

## Social Welfare Centre

The Social Welfare Centre continues to be used by many residents and community groups. Activities include Horden Girl Guides, Horden Residents Association, Horden Regeneration Partnership and Horden Banner Committee to name a few.

The Social Welfare Centre continues to provide office space for Durham Deafened Support and Durham County Council - Horden Together who occupy the first floor of the Social Welfare Centre. Horden Together have a team of staff who are helping to improve the environment in Horden in both practical ways and using their powers of enforcement where necessary. For further information about the work of Horden Together they can be contacted on 03000 263 387.

## Station Road Allotments

The allotments are situated at the end of Acacia Avenue and are on both sides of the railway bridge. The land is part owned by the Parish Council and part owned by Castle Eden Estates and the whole site is rented to Station Road Allotment Association who manage the site on our behalf. We are grateful to the Committee for their work.

## Planning Applications

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications submitted to Durham County Council for Horden. This means that the Parish Council has the opportunity to support or object to any application submitted from within the village. During 2022/23 there were 11 applications considered by the Parish Council.

## Finance

During 2022/23, the Council set a budget of £695,821. It is estimated that the Council spent £768,924 during the year which includes some expenditure from earmarked reserves on capital projects and some additional income from other sources. Details of the Council Budget can be found on the Council's website.

## Publicity & Communications

The Parish Council has its own website <https://horden.parish.durham.gov.uk/> which provides details of meeting dates and times, details of upcoming events and recent publications, there is also a section for agendas and minutes of meetings. The Parish Council also continue to use Facebook and noticeboards as a means of reaching the local community.

Events and activities organised by the Council are advertised in the noticeboards at the Welfare Park and Social Welfare Centre, on the website and also social media sites.

## Grant Funding

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 for the 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 Council a total of £9,371.39 was granted. Listed below are the groups and organisations who received financial assistance in 2022/23:-

Andy's Man Club - £400.08  
 CISWO Ladies Group - £280.00  
 Creative Youth Opportunities - £3,467.28  
 Durham Deafened Support - £1,200  
 Horden Banner Committee £50.01  
 Horden Guides - £1,466.96  
 Horden Residents Association - £366.74  
 Horden Together - £1,200  
 Parkrun - £80  
 Patchwork Quilters - £760.32  
 Salvation Army - £100.

## Members Attendance at Meetings 2022/23

Details:	Rodie Bagnall	Janet Brown	Chris Cain	Denise Gregory	Eileen Laing	Frank Leadbitter	Darren Meadows	Ian Mclean	William Morrow	Trish Naisbett	Isabel Roberts	Bill Smith	Dave Tait	Alison Turner	Jackie Ward	Laurence Williams	Francis Winrow
HPC 12/05/22			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√			√
HPC 09/06/22	√		√			√			√		√		√	√		√	√
HPC 07/07/22	√		√	√		√	√	√	√		√		√	√		√	√
HPC 14/07/22			√			√	√		√		√			√		√	√
HPC 01/09/22	√		√	√	√	√		√	√		√					√	√
HPC 06/10/22				√	√	√		√	√				√	√	√		√
HPC 03/11/22		√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√			√	√		√
HPC 01/12/22		√	√		√	√					√	√			√	√	√
HPC 12/01/2023			√		√	√		√	√				√	√	√		√
HPC 2/2/23	0	√	√	√	√	√		0	√		Aa	√	√	√	Aa	0	√
HPC 2/3/23	0	Ar	Aa		√	√		0	√		Aa	√	√	√	√	0	√
HPC 6/4/23	√	√	√	√	Ar	√		√	√		√	Aa	0	√	√	√	√



### Members Allowances and Expenses Claims 2022/23

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Parish Council's elected Members during the financial year 2022/23.

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Allowance £</b>	<b>Total Payment £</b>
Bagnall	Rodie	500	500
Brown	Janet	Not eligible	0
Cain	Chris	500	500
Gregory	Denice	500	500
Laing	Eileen	500	500
Leadbitter	Francis	500	500
Mclean	Ian	No Claim	0.00
Meadows	Darren	500	500
Morrow	William	500	500
Naisbett	Patricia	500	500
Roberts	Isabella	500	500
Smith	William	500	500
Tait	David	No Claim	0
Turner	Alison	No Claim	0
Ward	Jackie	Not eligible	0
Williams	Laurence	500	500
Winrow	Francis	500	500