



Horden Parish Council Annual Report 2021/22

Contents

Page

Message from the Chairman 3

About Us 4

Introduction 5

Review of 2021/22

Welfare Park 5

Memorial Park 6

Cotsford Park 6

Church Green 6

Maritime Crescent 6

Sunderland Road Playing Fields 7

Thorpe Road Cemetery 7

Social Welfare Centre 7

Station Road Allotments 8

Planning Applications 8

Finance 8

Publicity & Communications 8

Grant Funding 8

Members Attendance at 2021/22 Meetings 9

Members Claims 2021/22 9

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

2021 was an election year and I was proud to be re-elected along with the other Councillors to Horden Parish Council. I also had the honour of being elected as Chair of Horden Parish Council, along with my Vice-Chair Cllr Williams. We welcomed some new Councillors and said goodbye to some long serving Councillors. I would like to thank the Councillors who left for their service to the residents of Horden.

I would also like to thank Kevin Wilkinson for his hard work whilst he was Clerk to the Council, and welcome a new Clerk to the Council, Samantha Shippen. Samantha brings a wealth of experience to Horden as she returns to a post she held previously.

I would like to thank all the staff who work tirelessly for Horden, with a special mention to Gemma Rowe who stepped in the role of Acting Clerk to the Council during the transition of Clerks. The Council also welcomed Michelle to the post of Administration and Finance Officer. We said goodbye to some long serving staff and I thank them, on behalf of Horden, for their contribution to the maintenance of our parks and cemetery and within the admin team.

In 2021 we were still affected by the restrictions due to the Covid virus however due to the sterling work of the admin staff this did not affect us too much. We also provided the car park and Welfare Hall to assist with the vaccination program. There are still challenges ahead with the rising costs associated the running of Horden Parish Council, however I believe that with prudent management we will still be able provide the residents of Horden a cost effective service with the help and guidance of Samantha and Gemma.

**Councillor William Morrow
Chairman
Horden Parish Council**

ABOUT US

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

Cllr William Morrow	120 Third Street	Chairman of Horden Parish Council
Cllr Laurence Williams	13 Nelson Close	Vice-Chairman of Horden Parish Council and Vice-Chairman of Horden Recreation Ground
Cllr Frank Leadbitter	Belmont,Windsor Ter	Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Cllr Alison Turner	5 Yohden Crescent	Vice-Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Cllr Chris Cain	4 Hudson Avenue	Chairman of the Parks & Cemetery Committee
Cllr David Tait	15 Cornfield Garth	Vice-Chairman of the Parks & Cemetery Committee and Chairman of Horden Recreation Ground
Cllr Rodie Bagnall	11 Ash Crescent	
Cllr Denise Gregory	20 Webb Square	
Cllr Eileen Laing	20 Fairport Terrace	
Cllr Darren Meadows	24 Ash Crescent	
Cllr Ian McLean	19 Willow Grove	
Cllr Trish Naisbett	17 Nelson Close	
Cllr Isabella Roberts	33 Ninth Street	
Cllr William Smith	22 Alder Road	
Cllr Francis Winrow	20 Gayfield Terrace	

The Parish Council employ the following Staff:-

Samantha Shippen	Clerk to the Council
Gemma Rowe	Deputy Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Michelle Hannant	Administration and Finance Officer
Brooke Howarth	Cemetery Administration
Angela Lee	SWC Operations & Events Manager
Richard Hepworth	Parks and Playing Fields Supervisor
Tommy Basley	Cemetery Supervisor
Sharon Atchinson	SWC Cleaner
Lisa Ward	SWC Cleaner
Keith Bailey	Maintenance Gardener/General Assistant
Allan Roberts	Gardener / Gravedigger
Joe Hall	Gardener / Gravedigger
Alfie Temple	Gardener / Gravedigger
Kyle Bagnall	Gardener / Gravedigger
Michael Cain	Gardener / Gravedigger

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2021/22 Annual Report. This is a full report of the Parish Council. This report has been produced and made available prior to the Annual Assembly to be held on Monday 16th May 2022 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 past year. Any member of the public is welcome to attend this meeting.

Horden Parish Council deliver many services in the village, such as the provision of parks, playing fields and recreation areas. The Council manage Thorpe Road Cemetery, are 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 copies of the minutes at reasonable cost. These can only be obtained from the Parish Council Offices at the Social Welfare Centre.

REVIEW OF 2021/22

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 July 2021 Horden Welfare Park hosted a 'Mini Gala' event in light of the cancellation of Durham Miners Gala. The event was in partnership with Durham Miners Association and Horden Banner Committee and featured a banner parade around Horden, family fun and live entertainment.

A number of local partners and organisations have used the Welfare Park to host their events and activities over the course of 2021 and 2022, these include East Durham Trust, GF Community Foundation, 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.

September 2021 saw the return of floodlights at Horden Welfare Football Ground following a successful funding bid to the Football Foundation. The scheme was also part funded by Horden CWFC and Horden Recreation Ground Charity. 2022 will see further capital work take place at the ground with the refurbishment of the Grandstand.

Parish Council staff have consistently delivered a service second to none 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.

Memorial Park

2021/22 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.

In accordance with village tradition, the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony and Tree Lighting Service were held in the Park in 2021. The attendance for both events was once again excellent and an inspiration to see.

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.

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

Many football teams continue to use the football pitches at Sunderland Road. 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. Users are encouraged to use the car parking facilities on the site so as not to cause obstruction to other road users and pedestrians.

Horden Parish Council installed fitness equipment on the playing field in 2020 and new play equipment including swings, roundabout and springers were installed in the play area in 2021 with new boundary fencing, part funded by County Councillor Ian Mclean.

Thorpe Road Cemetery

During 2021/22 a total of 73 burials took place as follows

	Total	Horden	%	Others	%
All Burials	73	49	67%	24	33%
Full Burials	52	33	63%	19	19%
Ashes	21	16	76%	5	24%

In addition to the seventy-three burials, 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 consider donations of seats, trees, rose bushes and other items, space permitting.

In 2021 some additional drainage work was carried on Section N, closest to the boundary wall, and connected to the main drainage system fitted as part of the 2019 Extension, in an attempt to alleviate surface water.

In 2021 the first interment took place in the new extension of Thorpe Road Cemetery. The extension of 3.6 acres of land was purchased by the council in 2017 and it is anticipated to create a further 1,500 burial spaces.

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 in 2021 Horden Together occupied 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.

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 have the opportunity to support or object to any application submitted from within the village. During 2021/22 there were 18 applications considered by the Parish Council.

Finance

During 2021/22, the Council set a budget of £702,858. It is estimated that the Council spent £663,052 during the year which includes some expenditure from earmarked reserves on capital projects. 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 social media 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 Finance and General Purposes Committee. Listed below are some of the groups and organisations who received financial assistance in 2021/22:-

Great North Air Ambulance Service
Horden Guides
Durham Deafened Support
Horden Regeneration Partnership
Horden Residents Association
Patchwork Quilters
Horden Together.

Members Attendance at Meetings 2021/22

Members Attendance to Meetings 2021/22																
Details:	Rodie Bagnall	Chris Cain	Denice Gregory	Eileen Laing	Frank Leadbitter	Darren Meadows	Ian Mclean	William Morrow	Patricia Naisbett	Isabel Roberts	William Smith	David Tait	Alison Turner	Laurence Williams	Francis Winrow	
Annual Meeting 20/05/21		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HPC 20/05/21		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HRG 09/06/21				√		√		√	√	√	√	√		√		
HPC 10/06/21		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HPC 01/07/21	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HRG 01/07/21	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HPC 02/09/21		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HPC 03/09/21		√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HPC 07/10/21		√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	
HRG 07/10/21		√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	
HPC 25/10/21		√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HPC 04/11/21		√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HRG 04/11/21		√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HPC 02/12/21		√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HRG 02/12/21		√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HPC 18/01/22		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HPC 03/02/22			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HRG 03/02/22			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HPC 03/03/22				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HRG 03/03/22				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	

Members Allowances and Expenses Claims 2021/22

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Parish Council's elected Members during the financial year 2021/22.

Surname	Forename	Title	Allowance £	Total Payment £
Bagnall	Rodie	Mr	No Claim	0.00
Cain	Chris	Mr	No Claim	0.00
Gregory	Denice	Mrs	457.73	457.73
Laing	Eileen	Mrs	457.73	457.73
Leadbitter	Francis	Mr	571.93	571.93
Mclean	Ian	Mr	No Claim	0.00
Meadows	Darren	Mr	457.73	457.73
Morrow	William	Mr	457.73	457.73
Naisbett	Patricia	Ms	457.73	457.73
Roberts	Isabella	Mrs	526.33	526.33
Smith	William	Mr	571.93	571.93
Tait	David	Mr	No Claim	0.00
Turner	Alison	Ms	No Claim	0.00
Williams	Laurence	Mr	457.73	457.73
Winrow	Francis	Mr	457.73	457.73