

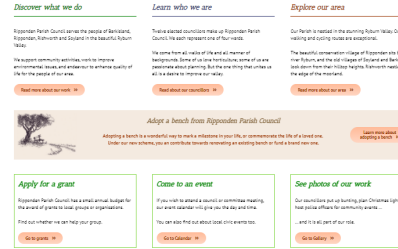
# Councillor Information

Councillor	Ward	Email Address	Attendance Record	(%)	Committees in 2020 * Bold indicates Chairman of cttee
Alex Greenwood	Rishworth	councillor.agreenwood@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	31 of 34	91	COM, ENV, STD, HER, RLOC
Robert Holden (Chairman)	Barkisland	councillor.rholden@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	49 of 57	86	CHAIRMAN — can sit on any cttee. PLN
Peter Hunt	Rishworth	councillor.phunt@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	37 of 37	100	COM, EMP, ENV, PLN, RLOC
Felicity Isott	Barkisland	councillor.fisott@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	29 of 31	94	BLG, COM, EMP, <b>STD</b> , HER, RLOC
Steven McCarley	Ripponden	councillor.smccarley@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	19 of 22	86	BLG, ENV, STD
James Mellor	Ripponden	councillor.jmellor@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	48 of 50	96	COM, PLN
Jane Moran (Vice-Chairman)	Soyland	councillor.jmoran@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	35 of 37	95	BLG, COM, <b>ENV</b> , HER, RLOC
Andrew Naylor	Soyland	councillor.anaylor@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	22 of 38	58	BLG, ENV, STDS, DEP FLAG
Philip Nothard	Rishworth	councillor.pnothard@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	40 of 41	98	<b>BLG</b> , EMP, ENV, STD, PLN
Steven Pickles	Ripponden	councillor.spickles@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	20 of 23	87	EMP, STD, FLAG MASTER
Robert Thornber	Barkisland	councillor.rthornber@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	17 of 24	71	COM, ENV, STD
Nic Winrow	Soyland	councillor.nwinrow@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk	11 of 12	92	COM, ENV, RLOC

\* Committee abbreviations: Buildings —BLG, Communications—COM, Employment—EMP, Environment—ENV, Standards—STD, Heritage Working Group—HER, Relocations Working Group—RLOC, Planning Working Group—PLN.



# Ripponden Parish Council



Though a year like no another, Ripponden Parish Council rose to the challenges posed by Covid restrictions and in effect, business carried on as usual. Meetings of Full Council and all committees were conducted remotely whilst the office remained closed. To ensure the community remained informed about its activities, the Council maximised the opportunity for using social media, significantly increasing its number of 'followers' to over 1000. The website has been upgraded to enable easier navigation and more content. The on-going

refurbishment or replacement of noticeboards has been another valuable means of communication besides the regular articles in 'Go Local' and the publication of newsletters.

Highlights of the year included the Garden Competition with the largest-ever number of entries using photographs for judging purposes; the photographic competition which received over 100 stunning pictures; a socially-distanced Remembrance Service which was available to view on Facebook and the website; a Tractor Parade with Father Christmas on board that



toured the Parish; doorstep deliveries of Christmas Dinners for the elderly; and the completion of four Heritage Walks leaflets depicting the history and points of interest across Soyland, Barkisland, Rishworth and Ripponden.



Various projects were also completed including the resiting of the Krumlin Roll of Honour next to Barkisland War Memorial; the installation of the Convolvulus Ship's plaque at Ripponden War Memorial; the ongoing refurbishment and adoption program for all the Parish benches; the considerable renovation of the Rishworth War Memorial grounds; and the complete overhaul of the turning circle at Rishworth with new planting.

Where appropriate, the Parish Council has worked alongside and supported local community groups during the pandemic. These include the In Bloom and litter-picking groups, sports clubs and groups for the elderly: for example, Barkisland Active Together.

Every aspect of Ripponden Parish Council's work and activities can be viewed on its website [www.rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk) and regular updates appear on Facebook too.



# Council Committee Updates

## Environment Committee

Though many activities were curtailed due to Covid restrictions, the Environment committee was able to complete a number of projects. The 'remote' garden competition proved to be a very popular alternative to the usual format and as well as receiving the largest number of entries ever, the standard was exceptionally high.

The on-going project to refurbish all Parish benches and their adoption scheme continued. Permission was sought and granted from CMBC and English Heritage for the refurbishment of all Parish milestones. A handyman was employed on a permanent basis to maintain and improve all areas of the Parish identified by either Councillors or the public. Summer hanging baskets were provided free of charge to all local businesses.

Although group activities were unable to happen for most of the year, the committee maintained close links with all Parish environmental groups: litter pickers, In Bloom, and the tennis and bowling clubs.

## Standards Committee

The standards committee met once in the year to agree the standing orders that the council will abide by in all meetings.

The council also has a planning committee that meets fortnightly to look over and comment on any planning applications from across the parish. In the last year this committee has looked at over 100 planning applications

## Communications Committee

Our committee has achieved many objectives this year, despite the challenges of lockdown. To support and encourage local health and wellbeing, Councillors Moran, Issott, Greenwood and Clerk Roberts created four local heritage walks, a spooky Halloween walk, and a dementia lockdown support leaflet. We also advertised our new bench adoption scheme, published a calendar to raise money for charity, promoted the Soyland livestock safety appeal, published newsletters, created a Ripponden card, installed new noticeboards and publicized our new landmark birthdays project. And to recognise those people who exhibited extraordinary community spirit during the last year, we created a "local lockdown heroes award".

Our biggest success, however, was the Santa tractor parade event to replace the annual Christmas lights switch-on, and Councillor Issott's Christmas dinners to the elderly initiative. Councillors Hunt, Winrow, Moran, Greenwood and Issott put up Christmas flags across the Parish for the first time, and we funded the livestream of the local Christmas service for children to watch from home.

You will have also seen our parish-wide flag and bunting displays for both Yorkshire day and VE day, courtesy of Councillor Hunt, Pickles, Moran, Issott and Greenwood, including a lovely donated balloon arch for Jubilee Gardens. And in accordance with government guidelines, we also managed to hold a small Remembrance Sunday event.

Over the next twelve months, we hope to get back to full speed. Keep your eyes peeled for new projects, event and ventures!

## Employment Committee

Following the initial recruitment of Samantha Roberts as Clerk and RFO, the Council has navigated through the unusual year of the pandemic with ease. Feedback from the parish has been extremely positive in how the Clerk has been available at all times to support any queries. The relationship with both CMBC and other parishes has significantly improved throughout the past 12 months.

## Building Committee

Due to the impact of the pandemic and the need to work remotely, it has allowed us to accelerate the plans to consider alternative premises to better support the parish as a community hub. The parish terminated its current premises and subsequently added additional cost savings to allow spending in other areas. Plans can now commence reviewing alternative premises in time for a return to physical or hybrid meetings whilst investigating opportunities to create a community hub.

# Looking at the year ahead

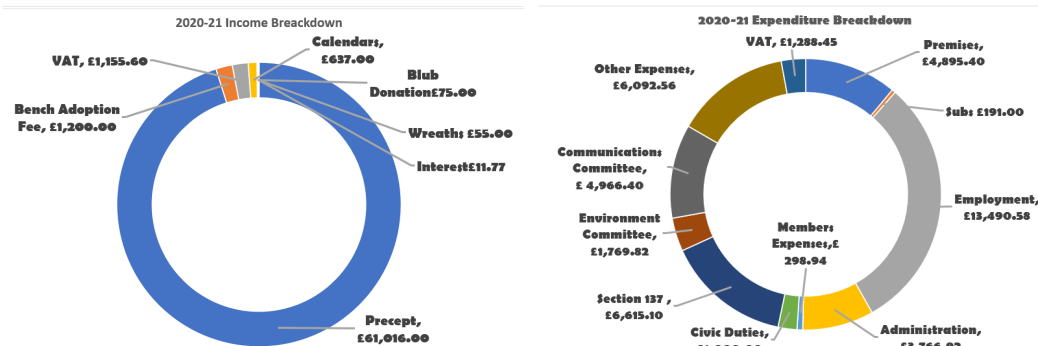
2021- 2022 is the year of the environment for Ripponden Parish Council. Next year the focus of the council will be to increase biodiversity in the local area by enhancing our green spaces. Councillors have already been out and about in our local parks looking for opportunities to plant trees and create wildflower meadows. There are also plans to create a nature and wildlife trail linking our parks to teach our young residents about the wonderful species of plants and animals in the parish whilst adding an element of fun as they find the hidden stone and wood carvings. You will also notice as the year progresses the introduction of educational displays in our parks.

2020-21 is not only about the environment, as a Parish council we have placed a bid for the asset transfer of Ripponden Library which we hope will be successful this year. There are many plans in the making should we be successful such as moving our headquarters to the library, hosting local groups and guest speakers.

We all know that 2020 was a difficult year for many and the events that we would normally have run had to be carried out differently. As a council we are hoping 2021 will allow us to run events such as Remembrance Sunday as we have in the past and bring back the Coffee with a Councillor. But don't worry we will be writing to Father Christmas asking him to join us on our tractor parade again!

## Financial Report

In line with legislation the Council has conducted both internal and external audits. The reports can be found on our website. Accounts are also published on our website and can be requested at any time from the Clerk. Details of the public review of the accounts will be published on our website and on our Facebook page.



Any unspent income is allocated to 2021-22 projects allowing us to accomplish more projects while maintaining the current precept request. The council through fiscal care has maintained the precept request at the same level for the last three years while providing a greater service to the residents.

Contact Ripponden Parish Council via Facebook, through our website [www.rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk), by email at [clerk@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@rippondenparishcouncil.co.uk) or telephone us on 07918 693383