

Clerk's Report

The Town Council office is now in the National Park building. The clerk can be contacted there on Monday and Tuesday mornings. The Town Council monthly meetings are still held in the old Library meeting room on the last Monday of the month.

A new dog bag dispenser has been installed next to the bin on the footpath leading to the Castle and we hope this will help to keep the town clean.

The new streetlights on Castlegate have finally been connected and the Council plans to replace the lights on Bondgate together with a number of other old concrete columns.

Last year the Town Council joined together with the other towns and Ryedale District Council to lease a new street cleaning machine which is known as the green machine. It can be seen at regular intervals cleaning the footpaths and curbs.

The Town Council were sorry to lose Assistant Clerk Susan Bell this year but are pleased to welcome Victoria Ellis. Susan is still helping with the Sports Club.

Really useful phone numbers for Helmsley Residents

Police	0845 60 60 24 7
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Church of England Vicar	770983
Methodist Minister	770300
Roman Catholic Priest	766877
Helmsley Medical Centre	770288
York District Hospital	01904 631313
Malton Hospital	01653 693041
Kirkbymoorside Clinic	01751 431207
Bondgate Dental Practice	770493
Glen Opticians	770929
Edgemoor Veterinary Practice	771166
Helmsley Primary School	770783
Ryedale School	771665
Lady Lumley's School	01751 472846
Train enquiries	0845 7484 950
Bus enquiries (County Traveline)	0871 200 22 33
Helmsley Arts Centre (box office)	771700
(admin)	771109

Annual Report 2011

Helmsley Town Council



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Good news at the library

Helmsley Library is no longer under threat. In response to overwhelming public feeling on this issue, North Yorkshire County Council has decided to continue providing libraries in smaller market towns as well as major population centres, although the mobile library service will still be severely cut back.

There will also still be cuts in paid staff hours but the Town Council is committed to helping recruit local volunteers who, after training, will enable the library's existing opening hours to be maintained or even extended.

There will be scope for new community uses of the library, for meetings, classes and book clubs. If you would like to volunteer, perhaps for an hour or two a week, please sign the list at the library or contact the Town Council office.

Looking forward to the Jubilee

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations will take place from Saturday 2 June to Tuesday 5 June 2012. Helmsley has always celebrated Jubilees in style, and we aim to do so again. The Town Council welcomes your ideas as to how we should do that - would you support a Town Party in the Market Place, for example? And we'll be forming a small committee to start planning and organising. So if you have ideas or you'd like to help, please come to a meeting in the Old Library at the Town Hall on Tuesday 6th September at 6.30pm.

Helmsley Town council

Accounts for 2010/11

Income	
Interest	£ 116
Precept	£ 48,500
Grants	£18,356
Cemetery	£3,238
Misc.	£4,143
VAT	£3,742
	£78,095

Expenditure	
Salaries	£14,795
Administration	£10,031
Grass Cutting Etc	£6,850
Maintenance	£10,422
Grants & Subs	£10,469
Public Lighting	£22,898
Cemetery	£1,876
VAT	£6,656
	£83,997

Balance b/f as at 1.04.10	£60,000
Less deficit for the year.	£5,902

Balance as at 1.4.11 £54,098

Helmsley Town Councillors

Chairman	Cllr. Martin Vander Weyer	770292
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Chris Parkin	770557
	Cllr. Jane Barker	770355
	Cllr. John Buffoni	770714
	Cllr. Ken Claridge	770401
	Cllr. Jake Duncombe	770213
	Cllr. Philip Pearce	770641
Town Clerk	Mrs Dinah Farley	772572
Assistant Clerk	Ms Victoria Ellis	01653 628858

Email: helmsley.towncouncil@virgin.net | www.helmsleytowncouncil.co.uk

Please contact the Town Clerk if you have any queries about the Town Council or need its services.

Your Ryedale District Councillors are

Cllr. Steve Arnold	770904
Cllr. George Hawkins	798231

Your County Councillor is

Cllr. Val Arnold	770904
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Ryedale District Council Offices	01653 600666
Emergency Out Of Hours	01653 697737
N. Y. County Council Office	08458 727374
N. Y. Moors National Park	770657

Helmsley Town Council Office

The office is now at the North York Moors National Park Office.

Opening Hours

Monday 9.30am - 12.30pm | Tuesday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Progress at the Sports Club

As trustee of Helmsley Recreation Charity the Town Council is now moving forward with plans to refurbish the pavilion and make it fit for a wide range of community and sports uses.

The new scheme will provide:

- a new main entrance
- 4 multi-purpose, inter-connecting meeting and activity rooms
- improved toilets, showers and changing facilities
- a larger kitchen combined with bar-servery
- a better view of the pitch.

Ryedale District Council has generously agreed to provide £150,000 over two and a half years towards this project but we have to match that with £150,000 raised by our own efforts. Recent local fundraising efforts have already generated more than £11,000, and the Town Council has decided to provide £20,000 from its reserves to help kickstart the project, which should begin with work on the roof before winter sets in.

We will be applying for other grants but we need everyone's help to make this important project happen as quickly as we can once planning permission has been granted. If you'd like to be involved in or have ideas for fundraising events please contact one of your Town Councillors.



Helmsley Archive Project

Work continues on building up our splendid Helmsley Archive of historic photographs and other material, and the Council wants to thank everyone who has contributed memories as well as new items for the collection. We specially thank Jen and Paul Harris who have done so much work to collate for the Archive and transfer it onto the website, www.helmsleyarchive.org.uk, which receives visitors from all round the world.

The Helmsley Archive continues to grow. There are more than 5000 images in the collection and over 2,200 of them are now online. An average of 600 is viewed per day. This increased more than ten-fold during the Ryedale Schooldays exhibition. School photos and images of individuals continue to be the most popular categories.

Regular meetings of Helmsley residents are held in the Town Hall to present and identify images. If you wish to attend, or have any additional photographs that you can lend for scanning, please contact the Town Council.

The Archive was given a grant from the North Yorkshire County Council Area Committee of £800 to purchase an overhead projector and laptop. The Town Council is very grateful for this contribution to what has become a great community project for Helmsley. We can all be very proud of it.

Helmsley In Bloom

Once again Helmsley has entered the Yorkshire in Bloom competition. For the last three years, 2007-2010, the town has won a gold medal. Judging has taken place but the results had not been announced at the time of going to press.

The Chairman of Helmsley in Bloom, David Westhead, would like to thank all the residents and businesses who have worked hard to make the town look so great with all the floral displays, and all those who continue to keep the town such a wonderful place to live, work or visit.

This year the business and resident garden competitions were replaced with a poetry competition for the younger generation.

Thank you to Gill Clark for the donation of a greenhouse for the allotment with which the primary school's garden club is involved. Dorothy, this year's scarecrow made by the Rainbows, watches over the crops and is proving popular with the many tourists who stop and photograph her.

The allium competition was won by Jen Harris.

Your Town Council

- Receives and comments on planning applications from the local planning authorities, Ryedale District Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority.
- Is responsible for the maintenance of a number of open spaces in the town, including the churchyard, the playing field and the children's play area at The Limes.
- Owns and maintains most of the street lighting in Helmsley.
- Is trustee of the Helmsley Recreation Charity which administers the Sports Club and Playing Fields.
- Owns and maintains the statue, canopy and the seats in the centre of Helmsley Market Place, together with various other seats, street furniture and play equipment with the parish.
- Is continuously engaged in promoting and protecting the interests of the community with the various agencies such as the County Council, Ryedale District Council, The National Park Authority and the Police.
- Provides the Christmas Tree and Christmas Lights in the Market Place.
- Has the paths cleared of snow and gritted.
- Owns and runs the cemetery.
- Is consulted by other authorities on issues such as the future of the library and planning policy.
- Has a website www.helmsleytowncouncil.co.uk where you will find more information including the agendas for, and minutes of, meetings.

A 'Retirement Community' for Helmsley

A proposal is in discussion with the North York Moors planning authority for a 'Continuing Care Retirement Community' in Helmsley. It would be sited on the land between the sportsfield and Ashwood Close on the north side of the town. This complex would provide a range of different kinds of residential provision for the elderly, including some County Council-funded 'Extra Care' places reserved for local people from within a half-hour radius. It is still at a very early stage but if it goes ahead, this will be a major development for the town, bringing new jobs and investment but also some disruption and change. Let us know what you think of the idea!

MAG Rally

We have to thank the organisers of the MAG Rally held every year for the Motor Bike enthusiasts for their donation last year of £500 which sponsored equipment for the Helmsley 10k run.

Planning

The Town Council has considered 20 planning applications from North York Moors National Park and 11 from Ryedale District Council during 2010/11. The National Parks granted 16, refused 3, and 1 was withdrawn.

Ryedale District Council granted 8 and refused 1, and 1 was withdrawn and 1 is undecided. The Town Council only objected to 3 of these applications and supported the others.

A 'development plan' is being drawn up by a working party of Ryedale councillors and members of the North York Moors National Park Authority, to earmark sites for new homes and businesses in Helmsley. The Town Council will participate in this process on behalf of the town; the council's basic position on the issues to be discussed was set out in 'The Future of Helmsley', published last year and available on our website.

100 Club

The 100 Club tickets were sold again this year and a list of winners is on the Town Council Noticeboard at the Town Hall.