

# **Pool Parish Council Newsletter**

## **Autumn 2017**

Welcome to our update giving you an overview of the Parish Council's activities including news of events in and around the civil parish of Pool-in-Wharfedale. In this edition, we have included some information about the powers of parish councils which may be of interest to you. The final page is a nomination form for the 2017 Honorary Citizens Award. It's a couple of years since we have given this award and we hope you will take this opportunity to celebrate the hard work of the many people in Pool-in-Wharfedale who make our community a great place to be.

Please do keep us in touch with your news and views by contacting the clerk, email [poolparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:poolparishcouncil@gmail.com) or through our website reporting tool on the home page at [www.poolparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.poolparishcouncil.gov.uk). Contact details for councillors are on the back page of this newsletter.

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### **Tragedy in Pool**

The dreadful news of Kate Whalley's death has rocked the whole community. Our sincere condolences go to her family and friends on their devastating loss. Our fight to get something done about the traffic speeding through the narrow streets in Pool is well documented and has been going on for decades. The parish council has sent the letter printed below to the CEO of Leeds City Council.

*Dear Mr Riordan,*

*I am instructed following a meeting of Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to write to you to express our concerns at the lack of progress on the major traffic issues existing within and around the village. I am sure you are aware of the recent tragic accident on the A660 which resulted in the death of Kate Whalley, a local 18 year-old student, on her way home after sitting final A level examinations.*

*Local Parish Councillors, Leeds City Ward Councillors and residents including Kate's family have all raised concerns about the speed at which cars travel on this road particularly as it meets the dangerous junction with Old Pool Bank Road. Despite raising these and other concerns the Council is left deeply frustrated at the lack of any action from the Highways Department of Leeds City Council. It is appreciated that whilst investigations into the accident continue, little can be said but this should not delay any action to improve safety here.*

*Parish Councillors are calling for the immediate installation of speed cameras to slow down traffic before the Old Pool Bank/Bar House junction. Also, the Parish Council is aware of initiatives being implemented by the City Council at the A660 Bramhope/Church Hill bend following several minor accidents that could be replicated at this junction. Whilst the road conditions may not be the same, the Parish Council is sure some of the remedies would fit.*

*In the last twelve months, the Parish Council has conducted a survey of residents on Old Pool Bank and as a result produced a list of options for dealing with the problems on this road, namely the failure of motorists to adhere to speed limits and the Access Only road signs. Many motorists have been given spot fines by the Police for their failure to adhere to the Access Only signs but significant numbers still use the road to avoid the busy and dangerous junction and at the Dyneley Arms.*

*We understand the Highways Department are considering the options we put forward which would make the junction at Old Pool Bank with the A660 a significantly safer. Nick Hunt has promised to send a questionnaire/survey to all residents in the area as he was concerned that residents' other than those on Old Pool Bank will have a view to be considered. However, despite believing the survey was ready to go we have had no word from Mr Hunt about when he intends to circulate the survey/questionnaire forms. Several e mails have gone from the council and Ward Councillors recently to chase progress but replies have not been received. We can only be left with the impression that traffic concerns in Pool are not a priority for the City Council.*

*For the Parish Council other priorities include the over congested Main Street, this as you may know is a narrow road with small pavements which was never intended to carry heavy goods vehicles and the amount of traffic it does today. The fact that this is one of the most polluted roads in Leeds says it all really and makes the case for action here more urgent. Leeds City Council we believe is keen to clean up the district and make the air we breathe cleaner and pollution free for all, restricting access to heavy goods vehicles would be a good start.*

*However, note needs to be taken of the increased traffic through increased passenger numbers and expansion at Leeds Bradford Airport, also the large Employment Hub proposed by the City Council which will inevitably bring more traffic through Pool.*

*Now, I would suggest, is a good time for Leeds City Council to capitalise on the Governments £1billion roads revolution launched on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 which plans to build scores of bypasses to combat congestion in towns and villages around the country. Pool-in-Wharfedale's bypass has been a talking point for decades, with support, commitment and pressure from Leeds City Council on the Government it could be a reality soon. The Parish Council are equally concerned that a 20mph scheme on Arthington Lane around the local Primary School seems a long way down the priority list let alone completion.*

*The Council considers writing to the Chief Executive of Leeds City Council as a last resort, having appeared to have hit a brick wall with your Highways Department in terms of resolving the outstanding traffic problems. We are all aware of the difficult financial situation the City Council is facing and has faced for years but the resolution of the traffic concerns we press for are not cosmetic or for the sake of making life in the village a little more bearable. We are pressing for serious action to serious problems, Main Street is dangerous and polluted, the Old Pool Bank junction with the A660 is dangerous and has recently been shown accidents at this junction and beyond can lead to fatalities.*

*A 20mph scheme around the school is what everyone would wish for. Arthington Lane which runs in Main Street is also very congested and traffic travels along it often at speed. The Dyneley Arms junction is yet another accident-prone area which we believe the Highways Department is looking at.*

*We realise that to respond to the concerns we raise you will have to contact your officers but we trust you will demand that our concerns are addressed and reports provided on any actions being taken. In recent years the only investment in traffic safety measures introduced have been those supported and paid for by the Parish Council it is time for the City Council to undertake its responsibilities and provide some real investment in our roads to improve safety for all.*

*Finally, the Parish Council is seeking an urgent meeting with your Senior Officers to discuss these issues and is suggesting given the holiday period that attendance at the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm at the Methodist Rooms, Manor Gardens, Pool-in-Wharfedale might be a good way forward.*

*Councillor Hazel Lee*

*Chairman Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council.*

After prompting, a response was eventually received which indicates a speed camera is not permissible as the criteria for installation are not met. You will already have received an update on this matter from Cllr Barry Anderson. There are no plans for a by-pass and no meeting with the Parish Council is yet arranged. A glimour of hope is on the horizon regarding redevelopment of the Dyneley Arms junction but that does not address the real issue of too much traffic on roads that were never built to cope with modern fast vehicles. We will not give up!

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## Pool-in-Wharfedale Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has set up a steering group to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, the following article has been written by Jeremy Griffin, Chair of the group to explain the process.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a legal document developed by the local community. It is about the use and development of land and related social, economic and environmental matters. It allows us to put in place a vision and the policies to influence the future development of our community over the next twenty years. The Pool-in-Wharfedale Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is co-ordinating the preparation of our Plan based on the views and aspirations of our residents. Its aim is to preserve the history and character of Pool-in-Wharfedale and encourage a responsible, innovative, and sustainable future.

You can help by completing the questionnaire that will be delivered to your house in the next few days.

[More info on Neighbourhood Plans - <https://youtu.be/SvAHhrKNVt0>]

### The Process

- The Steering Group is formed with local resident volunteers.
- The Group organises events to engage the villagers.

- The evidence is built to determine the support and opinion of villagers.
- Creation of a Policy Intentions Document (PID)
- **Distribute and consultation prior to full NP creation \*\*\*\* We are here\*\*\*\***
- The Plan is written.
- There is a consultation period of 6 weeks when the Plan is examined by the Local Authorities.
- The Plan is submitted for Independent Examination.
- There is then a Referendum by the community which needs 51% support
- The Plan is in place.

**Current status** - The Policy Intentions Document is being drafted up and should be distributed to the community for consultation late August / early September. We will be holding 3 drop-in events, one in September and two in October to gather feedback and answer queries.

The Policy Intentions Document is designed as a pre-cursor to the full-blown Plan and is designed to ensure that the previously gathered opinions and desires of the community have been fully captured. Consultation will also indicate the degree of support there will be for the final Plan.

## ***What is a Parish Council and what can it do?***

Pool Parish Council was established in 1895 follow the enactment of the Local Government Act of 1894. The Parish records show its work through the last 121 years detailing the development of the community and its many achievements across the decades. A parish council is a civil local authority found in England and is the lowest, or first, tier of local government. They are elected corporate bodies, have variable tax raising powers, and are responsible for areas known as civil parishes, serving in total 16 million people. A parish council serving a town may be called a town council, and a parish council serving a city is styled a city council; these bodies have the same powers, duties and status as a parish council. Parish and town councils vary enormously in size, activities and circumstances, representing populations ranging from less than 100 (small rural hamlets) to up to 70,000 (Weston-Super-Mare Town Council). Most of them are small: around 80% represent populations of less than 2,500. Civil parish councils should not be confused with Parochial church councils which administer parishes of the Church of England.

Their activities fall into three main categories:

- representing the local community
- delivering services to meet local needs
- improving quality of life and community well-being

Parish councils are funded by levying a "precept" collected with the council tax paid by the residents of the parish. Parish councils have unpaid councillors who are elected to serve for four years, unless a casual vacancy arises which may be filled by a by-election or by co-option.

***The powers and duties of parish councils are described below.***

Parish councils have the power to precept (tax) their residents to support their operations and to carry out local projects. Although there is no limit to the amount that can be precepted, the money can only be raised for a limited number of purposes, defined in the 1894 Act and subsequent legislation. The "General Power of Competence" is a new power awarded in 2012 to eligible councils. The exercise of powers is at the discretion of the council, but they are legally obliged to exercise duties.

### ***Duty to provide facilities***

Allotments - Duty to *consider* providing allotment gardens *if there is demand*.

### ***Powers to provide facilities***

Parish councils have powers to provide some facilities themselves, *or* they can contribute towards their provision by others. There are large variations in the services provided by parishes, but they can include the following:

- Support and encouragement of arts and crafts
- Provision of village halls
- Provision and maintenance of recreation grounds, parks, children's play areas, playing fields and swimming baths
- Provision and maintenance of cemeteries and crematoria
- Maintenance of closed churchyards
- Cleaning and drainage of ponds, watercourses and ditches

- Control of litter
- Provision and maintenance of public toilets
- Creation and maintenance of footpaths and bridleways
- Provision of cycle and motorcycle parking
- Acquisition and maintenance of rights of way
- Provision and maintenance of public clocks
- Maintenance of war memorials
- Encouragement of tourism

**They may also provide the following, subject to the consent of the county council or unitary authority of the area in which they lie:**

- Bus shelters
- Signposting of footpaths
- Lighting of footpaths
- Off-street car parks
- Provision, maintenance and protection of roadside verges
- Representative powers

**Parish councils must be notified by the district or county council of;**

- All planning applications in their areas
- Intention to provide a burial ground in the parish
- Proposals to carry out sewerage works
- Footpath and bridleway (more generally, 'rights of way') surveys
- Intention to make byelaws in relation to hackney carriages, music and dancing, promenades, sea shore and street naming

**Parish councils may also exercise the following powers;**

- Creation of a neighbourhood plan
- Guardianship of common land
- Withholding of consent to stop up unclassified highways and footpaths

- Consultation on appointment of governors of primary schools
- Appointing trustees of local charities

### ***Disappearing benches***

You may have noticed some of the benches around the parish have disappeared, they are being refurbished and will be back in commission very soon.

### ***Farewells***

**Margaret Plasting** of Old Pool Bank, passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> August after a long illness. She was an Honorary Citizen of Pool-in-Wharfedale and known for her dedicated work with Otley Action for Older People. She will be sadly missed.

**Richard Baines** funeral was held on 9<sup>th</sup> August in St Wilfrids Church. Richard, formerly of Willow Court, had been very active in the community. He served as a parish councillor, St Wilfrids' Church treasurer, he was an adviser at Otley Citizens Advice Bureau for 18 years.

### ***Footpaths and Pavements***

Pool has many footpaths in and around the parish, many with stunning views over the surrounding area. Working with Leeds City Council parks and countryside department, we walk these routes to check they are in good order. If you notice any that are overgrown or blocked please let us know. At this time of year vegetation from gardens frequently spills over fences onto the footpaths. Please keep an eye on your hedges if they are likely to block the way for passing pedestrians.

### ***Doggie Doos and such...***

Well folks we can't have a newsletter without this subject, you'd miss it, really you would. To all dog owners, please keep up your current high standards of attention to this matter. We are winning!

Please remember to take extra care if your dog goes near any sports areas or childrens' play areas.

The parish council has joined with Pool Riverside Park to pay for a new dog dirt bin next to the Millcroft beck. It has complimented the pathway that was refurbished earlier in the year. The park trustees tell us that wild flower seeds have scattered between the border of the path and the beck. They will take a season or two to come through but should provide a pretty back drop to the cricket pitch which continues to provide a beautiful setting for us all to enjoy.

### **Otley Action for Older People**

This Otley based group hold a Lunch Club at Wharfedale Court every Wednesday from 12 noon to 2.30pm for residents of Pool and Arthington.

Why not come along to enjoy some good company, a main course and pudding followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

Transport can be arranged if needed. If you would like to go along or just get more information about their numerous other services, please phone 01943 463965, you can be sure of a very warm welcome.

### **Contact Essentials:**

Parish Councillors

Cllr Hazel Lee *Chair* 0113 2842573

Cllr Jo Rowling *Vice Chair* 0113 2843350

Cllr Gavin Barlow 0113 2842039

Cllr Ailsa Bearpark 07957 933 285

Cllr Judy Davey 0113 284 2976

Cllr Judith Mary Finlay 07904 853 878

Cllr Emma Gray 07584 634 913

Cllr Stephen Morris 07785 768 553

Cllr Richard Parker 07764 684 023

Clerk to the Council:

JOHN RYAN 07766 547651

11 Avondale Grove, Shipley, Bradford  
BD18 4QT

Email: [poolparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:poolparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Website: [www.poolparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.poolparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Parish Council Meeting Dates**

**All meetings start at 7.30pm and are on the 2nd Monday of the month.**

11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 Pool Methodist Mtg Room

9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 Old Pool Bank Village Hall

13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 Pool Methodist Mtg Room

11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 Old Pool Bank Village Hall

8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 Pool Methodist Mtg Room

12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 Pool Methodist Mtg Room

12<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018 Old Pool Bank Village Hall

9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Pool Methodist Mtg Room

14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Old Pool Bank Village Hall

(Also Annual Parish Meeting 7pm)

Quarterly Finance Meetings are open to the public, dates to be confirmed. Please see notice boards, website or contact the Clerk for details.

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Groups and Organisations

*Archives of Pool*

Pat Lazenby 0113 2842132

*Old Pool Bank Village Hall*

Bookings: Mary Finley 0113 2037393

*Pool Methodist Church & Hall*

Bookings: Ryk Downes 0113 2037575

*Recreation Ground*

Chair: Richard Parker 07764 684023

*Pool Sports and Social Club*

Chair: Peter Wilkinson 07748 954301

*Pool Traffic Group* [pooltraffic@gmail.com](mailto:pooltraffic@gmail.com)

*St Wilfrid's C of E Church*

Susan Ford 0113 2842386

*Pool Village Memorial Hall*

Bookings: Cecily Robson 0113 2843437

*Pool C of E Primary School*

Headteacher: Mrs Sally Fox 0113 2843151

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