



Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting May 2015.

The members have had an extremely busy year and I personally thank them for their commitment and hard work. We purchased the red telephone box on Main Street for the going rate of £1.00. We had the box refurbished and were very fortunate to receive a defibrillator which was installed by the Post Office.

The day of the Tour De France was a huge event for the village, a great community effort and a wonderful atmosphere. Banners designed by the children remain in place on Main Street. Councillor Parker was the key member helping to make the day a huge success. We received grants, after much persuasion and hard work to cover all the major costs of the event. A grant was also obtained to build the Memorial Board in the grounds of the cenotaph to commemorate the 1st World War, this was made by Stephen Jefferson a local tradesman.

Each year we ask for nominations from the parishioners for an unsung hero to become an Honorary Citizen. It is always wonderful to read these nominations and for the year 2014 the worthy winner was Mr Peter Wilkinson who has spent many years of dedication on the promotion of the very successful football teams in the village.

The heritage sign at Stocks Hill was in a dangerous condition and using a local craftsman Robert Midgley it is now as good as new. The village stocks have been removed and are in the process of restoration.

We extended the Christmas lights down Main Street and spring bulbs were planted with the help of the school children and volunteers. Extensive work has been done in the woodland on Cabin Road. The work on the lower half of Old Pool Bank this was a Leeds City Highways decision.

The Council owns three play areas in the village these are inspected every six months and updated when necessary. At last the traffic scheme is complete, there are still some hiccups with the speed indicator devices but they have proved very effective.

We supported our local Post Master and Mistress in their fight to retain their premises on Main Street and with the support of our local MP Greg Mulholland and Leeds City Councillor Barry Anderson we were successful. More signs have been put up re dog fouling, this is an ongoing problem and we ask for vigilance from you to report the owners.

The speed of traffic and rat running on the upper regions of Old Pool Bank is a constant headache and we intend to liaise with local police to try and solve the problem.



Members of the Council represent Pool-in-Wharfedale on various outside committees, the two village halls, Otley & District Road Safety, Yorkshire Local Councils Association, Jane Whiteley Homes, Transport Executive for Yorkshire and the new Wharfedale Greenway and Neighbourhood Planning. We also attend training sessions and seminars. In the year 2014 we granted money to the two village halls, Pool Youth Club, Otley Action for Older People and Pool Feast and the RGMC.

We are so fortunate to have John Ryan as our clerk, his experience and knowledge of legal matters is a great help to us all and we really appreciate his support. 2014 was also a sad year as we saw the passing of Harry Wardman an Honorary Citizen, Leeds City Councillor Clive Fox who was a great help and advisor to the parish council. Bernard Bolton and Nigel Long, lifelong residents of the parish and our sympathies go to their families.

We are fortunate to have an excellent Lengthsman in Kieran Newbould. I receive many words of appreciation of the work that he does throughout the parish. We welcome the new members producing the E News and thank Bernard Mitchinson for his many years of service.

We look forward to the opening of the Wharfedale Greenway from Pool to Menston. The Neighbourhood Planning Group are very busy and already have hosted two successful open meetings.

We thank the four members who have retired from the Council Pam Calvert and Lesley Swales for their years of service and Peter Kettleborough and Beatrice Kelley for the short time they spent with the council and for all their contributions.

As I have already mentioned Pool Parish Council members are hardworking and highly thought of in the area and forward thinking. Present members are Judy Davey, Richard Parker, Ailsa Bearpark and Hazel Lee, we are hoping to recruit four more members as our full council should be nine.

We welcome new ideas and we continue to maintain this lovely parish of Pool-in-Wharfedale which we hope will continue to be enjoyed by future generations.