

Chairman's Report MAY 2016

The Chairman gave the following report :

We started the new four year session with only five councillors but fortunately we were able to co-opt four more. The council members are Hazel V Lee, Joanna Rowling, Ailsa Bearpark, Judy Davey, Richard Parker, Mary Finley, Steve Morris, John Wilson and Gavin Barlow. All new councillors have settled in bringing their various skills and expertise to the meetings.

As well as their duties within the parish they represent Pool-in-Wharfedale on various outside committees. Councillors Rowling, Davey and Morris attend the Greenway meetings. The parish council has made a financial commitment to this project. A safe way to travel from Pool to Menston.

Councillor Bearpark, Parker and Barlow are members of the Recreation Ground Management Committee. Great work has been carried out this year, new information boards etc.

Councillors Davey and Lee are members of the Otley and District Road Safety Committee, providing information to local Junior Schools in partnership with Leeds City Council Road Safety Division. The Councillors and the Road Safety Division help to organise the Annual Junior Schools quiz which is a huge success.

Councillor Parker is the leader of the Pool Feast. Councillor Morris has provided his expertise as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The Neighbourhood Plan Group has organised several public meetings to develop the plan, Councillors Rowling, Barlow and Bearpark form part of the committee with Ward Councillor Barry Anderson. Meetings are Chaired by Councillor Rowling. Councillor Wilson has represented the parish on the British Legion Local Committee and helped generally with his IT skills. Councillors Finley and Morris have been involved in developing questionnaires and survey of residents concerning road safety issues on Old Pool Bank.

Traffic has been one of the main issues over the years, we have in the past paid for traffic calming measures in the village but the volume of traffic just grows and grows. Hours have been spent with public consultations etc. trying to find a solution to Main Street, Old Pool Bank and the Dyneley Arms crossroads, our suggestions are now with the Highways Department.

We are also seeking advice on defibrillators as the one at the Post Office proved to be a life safer this year.

We have been working with the advice of Leeds City Council Woodland Officer on the woodlands we own and will be replanting in the autumn. A big thank you must go to Mr and Mrs Millbourne for the many hours spent clearing the ivy from trees and land surrounding the now demolished garage next to their bungalow.

To mark the Magna Carta anniversary children from Pool School and local councillors with the help of Mr Keith Wilson planted a yew and two oak trees on the River Plantation. Fortunately they were planted on high ground and escaped the floods.

Work has been carried out on the playgrounds this had been delayed due to flooding.

The Honorary Citizen Award this year, with numerous nominations, went to the local milkman Jim Smith and what a worthy winner he was. Councillors, when we look back over the years, we see that our parish has some wonderful unsung heroes who deserve this recognition.

The road side verges have looked beautiful this year thanks to volunteers who have planted the bulbs.

We are very fortunate to have a conscientious Lengthsman in Kieran Newbould who works in all weathers keeping the parish areas tidy. My most grateful appreciation goes to our parish clerk John Ryan for his advice, expertise, wise words and the work he performs for us all, he is a great asset to the parish council.

I thank all parish councillors for your hard work and the hours you spend for the good of the parish of Pool-in-Wharfedale and look forward with confidence to the future, also look at what you have achieved in the past and be proud.

Reports from Organisations in receipt of funds from the Parish Council

Recreation Ground Management Committee (RGMC).

Mr David Pilbeam thanked the parish council for their generous grant which was used for new signage. This was part of a rebranding exercise for the Recreation Ground Trust as Pool Riverside Trust to emphasise that the land is open to everyone and not just people playing sport. Grants received provided for re-signing to include a new name and a professional ecological survey to identify future projects to enhance the natural wealth of the area. The waymarkers funded by the parish council give an introduction to interested members of the public of the history, natural history and geology of the area. The newly rebranded park was opened in early summer 2015.

Pool Village Hall

Mr Tim Robson thanked the parish council for the grant which went towards the refurbishment of the kitchen area which was part of a larger refurbishment of the village hall.

Old Pool Bank Village Hall

The Committee submitted a letter of thanks for the grant received. The grant went a long way towards the cost of providing new furniture for groups using the hall. This year major work will be carried out upgrading the toilets, again the parish council has helped with funding for which the committee are very grateful.

Pool Tiddlers Group

A letter has been received from the secretary of the group saying that the grant from the parish council enabled the group to update its equipment and craft products, which in turn has enhanced the experience for the children attending.

Pool Feast

Councillor Parker gave a short report to the meeting. Thanks to the generosity of Pool Parish Council, Pool Feast 2015 was greatly enhanced by the activities on offer as a result of being able to hire an Inflatable Climbing Wall. This was available to the children as a free activity which enabled the other external activities on offer to charge a reasonable tariff to their customers.

Parish Council Accounts

The Chairman of the Finance Committee Councillor Morris presented his report on the financial year 2015-16. Councillor Morris asked the meeting to note that once again the precept had remained at £38,426.00. The council had not seen the need to raise additional resources through the council tax payer. Income and expenditure for the year had come in largely as forecast in the budget. The expenditure set aside for the Greenway Project £3,000 had not been spent in this financial year but more than likely will be in 2016-17 together with the £3000.00 set aside in the new budget. The Chairman added that the Traffic Loan will be paid for in 2016-17. Also as part of a newly agreed financial strategy funds in the current account will be maintained at 50% of expenditure. The balance will go into the Business account which becomes the Special Projects Fund.

The parish council has healthy reserves of £49,171.48. Planned expenditure for 2016-17 will be covered by income received with no increase in precept.