



### **PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2017-18**

Parishes are the smallest areas of civil administration in England and provide the statutory tier of local government closest to the people. Parish Councils are an essential part of the structure of local democracy and have a vital role in acting on behalf of the communities they represent.

Parish Councils have a wide range of powers. They also have the power to raise money through taxation, the precept, which is the parish council's share of the council tax.

Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Councillors have considered the aims of the council for the year ahead and produced a summarised Action Plan which details the key objectives it hopes to achieve during the year. This is a working document and subject to change.

Objective	Actions	Progress	Budget (The Budget for 2016-16 can be found on the Parish Council website)
Parish Woodland	The council owns approximately 3 hectares of woodland situated on the north facing slopes of lower Wharfedale between the A660, Old Pool Bank, Cabin Road and a public bridleway/footpath Grid Ref SE 240444	The woodlands are inspected on a regular basis the last being June 2016. It is recommended that the woodlands are inspected annually and that work identified in June be undertaken in the autumn of 2016	The Amenity, Trees and Hedges budgets cover on going and proposed maintenance work.



Parish Playground / Skate Board Park	Playgrounds are professionally inspected each year and work identified is carried out immediately	Over the last six months several repairs have been undertaken with some swing seats being replaced. The annual inspection is due in September/October 2016. The council has identified the need to upgrade some equipment in the longer term and has included the priority within its financial plan.	The amenity budget covers these expenses. The Financial Plan is looking to identify funds for future investment in play equipment.
Neighbourhood Plan	The parish's main objective is to develop a Neighbourhood Plan that will give the local community direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of the local area	A number of meetings have been held with the local community to develop ideas and priorities for the area. The next stage will be to engage professionals to draw up the plan for wider consultation with the community.	Initial funding has come from the Special Projects Fund. Grant funding will be sought for the professional development of the plan.
Traffic issues around the village	Traffic and congestion problems continue to cause concern in and around the village	Recent surveys have been carried out by the parish council concerning Old Pool Bank. A number of potential remedies to ease problems have been put forward to Leeds City Council. To date no plan has come forward to alleviate the problems. The Council continues to push for action.	Leeds City Council Highways Department is the responsible agency for carrying out improvements to road networks. The Parish Council is also in correspondence with Leeds Council about the significant rise in passenger number at the Airport and the knock-on effect of travellers going to and from the Airport.



Wharfedale Greenway	The Wharfedale Greenway vision is to create a new attractive and convenient traffic free green route that links the communities of Otley, Pool-in-Wharfedale, Burley-in-Wharfedale and Menston for everyday journeys by bike or on foot to railway stations, schools and shops and to encourage recreational journeys of every kind, for visiting friends, taking casual walks or rides in the locality.	Sustrans have managed the project to date and have produced an estimated cost to create a design and delivery report. The cost will be split amongst the four Parish/Town Councils and subject to all parties agreeing this division.	All Parishes have agreed the project. Pool have set aside the required contribution part of which will be paid in September 2016 so that work can progress. Funds are set aside in the Special Projects Fund.
Christmas Lights	Over the last few years the Parish Council has invested in improving Christmas Lights on Main Street with annual increases in the budget made available.	The Council continues to look for further improvements by providing more lights which, have been well received by the village.	The Council looks to support the budget available by seeking financial contributions from other sources.
Grants to Local Organisations	The Parish Council provides grants to local organisations which submit applications within a set policy and timetable	Several grants have been made available in the financial year 2016-17.	A significant budget is set aside each year to which local organisations and groups can apply.
Council Website	The Council website provides a comprehensive set of information about the council, its activities and policies.	The website is updated regularly, draft council minutes are put on the website as soon after each council meeting as possible.	The website contains the current budget for 2016-17, monthly financial schedules and



			information regarding current audits.
The Local Council Award scheme	The Parish Council is seeking the to achieve the Foundation Award which demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.	The Council is currently undertaking a review of its policies, procedures and plans to ensure they are up to date and in line with good practice.	The Council will make a submission when it is satisfied it can meet the requirements laid out in the Reward Scheme.