

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO ANNUAL MEETING 2017-18.**

The past year has been a year of change and great sadness. Two of our highly experienced and knowledgeable councillors have resigned, Ailsa Bearpark and Mary Finley, and we thank them both for all their contributions and hard work whilst members of the Council. In June 2017 the very tragic death of a delightful young girl Kate Whalley. She was walking on the pavement on the A660 returning from college when she was hit by a car. We are still not aware of the details of this tragedy but the markings on the rocks are a constant reminder to us all of the loss of a young life. Kate carried a donor card and several other lives have been saved through her generosity. Our sympathies go to her family.

In August Margaret Plasting one of the Honorary Citizens of Pool-in-Wharfedale died she had bravely fought cancer for many years. But this did not stop her working hard for the older people in the area and she had a cheerful attitude and very dry sense of humour. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

We are raising the Precept for the first time for many years to support the Neighbourhood Plan, ongoing work on the playgrounds, Wharfedale Greenway and ongoing budget costs. We continue to fight against housing developments that come without consideration of the impact on the environment, the lack of a road network to accommodate additional traffic, the lack of local facilities and shortage of available school places for children. There is to be a Public Inquiry tomorrow the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

We continue to press for action on Main Street, one of the most polluted areas in the district. We applied for and received two government grants totalling £9,000 supported by funds from the council budget for work on the Neighbourhood Plan. The planning group, councillors and residents hope to complete the plan in 2019. We are grateful for the attendance at the Parish Council meetings of our local Police, with advice and updates on crime in the area and our Leeds City Councillors Barry and Caroline Anderson and Councillor Billy Flynn and we congratulate them on their return to office. We are grateful for the grants this year for our Christmas lights.

We have held several meetings with Leeds Council Highways Engineers regrading road safety issues and have reached agreement for the new speed limits on lower Old Pool Bank and speed indicator devices on the A660. We are awaiting new designated signs for the area of the Hamlet of Old Pool Bank. The Parish Council receives applications for grants from various groups and we hope to hear from them later. 2017 was the year to choose an Honorary Citizen of the Parish and we were delighted to receive several nominations and the person with the highest number was Mr Martin Lee of Park Terrace, Old Pool Bank. I must mention that we are not related. Martin is everything a good neighbour should be, a worthy winner of this award. 2019 is the next year for nominations.

We receive notifications of planning applications in the parish and after consulting with the relevant neighbours we then notify Leeds Council with our comments. Though not always successful as I was disappointed with the Shell Garage decision. We had several site meetings with the Shell representative and promises to meet our requests were totally ignored. The Greenway meetings are going on a pace and Pool to Otley plans look promising. When I was being interviewed by a student at Sheffield

University he mentioned how he was impressed with the website as it had been a great help to him in his research into Parish Councils. As you are already aware the Parish Councillors represent Pool-in-Wharfedale on several outside committees, Pool and Old Pool Bank Village Halls, Royal British Legion, Otley & District Road Safety, RGMC, Jane Whiteley Homes, Leeds Parish Forum, Airport Consultative Committee, Parks & Green Spaces Forum, Wharfedale Greenway, Yorkshire Local Councils Association, Transport Executive and the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

The Tour De Yorkshire, what excitement, thank you to Richard and Gill and Martin Lee for erecting the bunting. The three banners on Main Street look wonderful and are a credit to the designers. The TV coverage was excellent and showed our area to be the beautiful place it is.

I thank me fellow councillors for their work and support, Kieran our Lengthsman for his hard work and where would we be without John Ryan our clerk, he is a constant source of knowledge and expertise and we are fortunate to have him. We have one more year of this term of office and many things to try and achieve. I understand we have two applicants for the vacancies, so onwards and upwards.