

Pool in Wharfedale Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Pool in Wharfedale Parish Council held at Old Pool Bank Village Hall, Quarry Farm Road, Old Pool Bank, Pool-in-Wharfedale on Monday 9th MAY 2022 at 7.00pm.

Present Councillor Lee in the Chair
Councillors Cooke, Hill, Mifsud, Parker, Rowling.

Also, in attendance, Parish Clerk John Ryan and Ward Councillors Barry and Caroline Anderson, Mr David Pilbeam (RGMC) and Mr Peter Bone.

1. The Chairman Councillor Lee welcomed all present to the annual meeting.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Billy Flynn.

3. **The Chairman gave the following report to the meeting.**

Once again, a year of ups and downs. Parish Councillors do not get paid for the extra hours they spend working for the good of the parish but I trust they get satisfaction with a job well done. We started our meetings on ZOOM an interesting procedure startling when you catch sight of your self on the screen. But we managed to carry on. When we could meet again we followed the safety rules.

The telephone box settled into its new position on Stocks Hill (quite an expensive move) and we received a request from Lily a young pupil from Pool School to transform it into a library of books for children. Due to the very hard work of Councillor Richard Parker, his joiner and a very generous lady who wishes to remain anonymous the work required was done and the library is now open and used by many of the local children.

Looking at the children's playground by the skate park, which incidentally was opened on the 12th May 2003, it was decided that it needed some refurbishment. The team of Councillors Judy Davey Belinda Cooke and Emma Mifsud spent many hours discussing and then ordering the new equipment. We are currently considering more updates at this and the junior playground beside the school on Arthington Lane. We are raising the Precept to cover some of the expenditure.

After an excellent leaflet, designed by Councillor Rowling, was posted to each household in the parish regarding vacancies on the council (thanks to Councillors Barry and Caroline Anderson) we received a good response and welcomed two new members Andrew North and Marc Hill. They were enthusiastic and had not appreciated the work quietly done by members. Unfortunately, after a few months Andrew North resigned as he and his wife were leaving the area. Councillor Barbara Wheeler also retired due to ill health. So once again we have vacancies to fill.

Our long-standing councillor of 31 years has also retired. Judith Davey, known as Judy, has been a stalwart for the parish council working hard to establish the Memorial Gardens by St Wilfrid's Church, as a member of the Otley and District

Road Safety Committee, the Board member of the Jayne Whiteley Holmes Trust, a guardian of the playgrounds, a founder member of the Wharfedale Greenway Project and a huge support to me as Chairman. We all send her and her husband Trevor our best wishes for the future. The Chairman Presented Judy with a rose bush on behalf of the Council.

We are supporting the residents of Cabin Road and Bar House Row in the laying of a more substantial surface on the first part of the road which is jointly owned by the parish council. The new surface comes with a ten-year guarantee.

I congratulate Councillor Barry Anderson on retaining his seat on Leeds City Council and thank him and Cllrs Caroline Anderson and Billy Flynn on their most generous support, guidance grants and the help they give to Pool.

The Cenotaph is undergoing some remedial work. We can accomplish this due to various grants and the generous donation from a Pool resident. We thank the Company Garden Angels for all their hard work in keeping the parish council areas looking lovely. We are planting a flowering cherry tree in honour of Queen Elizabeth 11 70th anniversary.

Road safety as ever is an issue, the 20 mph areas are in discussion with the City Council so hopefully this will soon be resolved. The problems with the lower half of Old Pool Bank are still a problem but lack of police to monitor the situation has yet to be solved. We continue monitoring planning applications notifying neighbours and send our and their comments to the City Council. All is quiet at the moment with Taylor Wimpey and we are also monitoring the progress of the East of Otley development.

The Neighbourhood Plan is at the moment in an office somewhere in Leeds. Councillor Rowling and her team have spent many hours on this and we congratulate them on their fortitude and wait with anticipation for the final report.

Our hard-working clerk John Ryan has spent many hours on updating our Facebook Page and in keeping everyone up to date on the work of the councillors on the council.

After the storm with very high winds earlier in the year a huge tree was split in two and was causing a danger to three garages. This was taken down immediately. It was part of Cabin Road woodland. We invited some expert advisors to inspect the woodland and they are making another trip to advise us on re planting new trees.

The Parish Council has given various groups grants. Our Lengthsman Kieran Newbould continues to give faithful service around the parish, frustrated at times as he clears away the rubbish only to find some people leaving rubbish again in the same area.

The Honorary Citizen Awards were presented at the Civic Service in October Civic Dignitaries from Morley, Otley, Horsforth and Bramhope. Paula and Gary McNeil. Susan Cliff and Mary and Joost Aartse-Tuyn all worthy winners.

I have personally represented Pool-in-Wharfedale at Civic Ceremonies in Horsforth, Otley and Bramhope. Also, I have mentioned before we have vacancies on the Council if you feel you would like more information please contact the clerk. I have personally served on the Council for 39 years and seen great changes for the good. It is frustrating sometimes but worth every effort we put in. We live in a beautiful area something to be proud of.

I thank John our clerk and all the Councillors for all their hard work and look to successes in the future.

4. **Reports from Organisations in receipt of funds from the Parish Council.**

Reports were received from Pool Village Hall, Old Pool Bank Village Hall, Otley Action for Older People and Pool Cricket who all provided extensive details of how the grants awarded by the Parish Council enabled them to undertake various projects for the benefit of their organisations and the residents of the village.

It was also noted that Pool Riverside Park (Pool-in-Wharfedale Recreation Ground Trust) continues to thrive. Through its Service Level Agreement with the Parish Council it is provided with help in maintaining the grounds, empty dog bins, and the services of the Parish Lengthsman. The grant also helps in keeping foot paths in good condition, maintaining the becks that run across the land and for grass cutting. The Committee feel the grant awarded each year makes a huge difference to their ability to look after the grounds and for which they are very grateful. The Parish Council can be proud that it supports so strongly a popular venue at the heart of the community.

5. **Parish Council Accounts**

The clerk provided information on the financial year 2021-22 which began without an increase in the Precept. Despite this the Council managed to fund a major investment in the Council's main playground. The year finished with a small deficit but overall funds, the main account and special projects account are still healthy particularly for such a small parish council.

The Council continues to support the major projects such as Wharfedale Greenway and the Neighbourhood Plan. In the coming year 2022-23 plans have been put in place to support residents at Cabin Road with the resurfacing of the road, the Cenotaph will undergo significant remedial work and some funding has been set aside for new playground equipment at the early years playground if required.

6. **Parish Council Action Plan**

The Parish Council Action Plan sets out the priorities and major projects for the Council over the year. Councillors reviewed the document and approved the Action Plan for the coming year 2022-23.

7. **Residents Questions**

No questions were received.

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm.