

THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

“Over the year Councillors have continued to seek improvements to the roads around the village, many works have been carried out including repairing the culvert above Tree World, this work went on for several months causing tail backs, but how interesting to see photographs of the culvert and works. I had not realised how big it was. The potholes have been filled in on the upper and lower reaches of Old Pool Bank. The road markings on the A660 have been repainted, the permanent Speed Indicator Device at the junction of the A660 and Old Pool Bank is proving effective. The police car stand has been built near the junction of Quarry Road and the A660. Speeds have been monitored but not to the satisfaction of the Parish Council and we are still waiting for the ‘Welcome to Old Pool Bank’ signs to be placed”.

“Concerns regarding the crossing on Main Street by the Post Office were raised after two accidents and safety measures are now in operation. The weight and size of vehicles using Main Street and the pollution they cause is still on our agenda. The memorial gardens were enhanced by the silhouette of a soldier placed on the lamp post, a reminder to all, of the sacrifices made for all of us. The Remembrance Day service was well attended as we stood in the pouring rain, we are so grateful to the members of the Police who stopped the traffic. A new bench was placed in the gardens and dedicated and blessed by the vicar Reverend David Wheeler”.

“We have achieved the Parish Council Foundation Award thanks to the hard work of our councillors and John Ryan our clerk. There have been changes of members this year with the resignation of Ailsa Bearpark an extremely hard worker. We had two applicants for the vacancies but unfortunately due to ill health and work commitments they both resigned. But two more stepped forward, one from the village and one from the hamlet of Old Pool Bank, they have both really proved their worth in the months they have been with us. We welcome Belinda Cooke and Barbara Wheeler. Due to the resignation of Steve Morris who was a great asset to the Parish Council, we still have one vacancy which we hope to fill soon”.

“Joanna Rowling and her team have worked tirelessly on the Neighbourhood Plan and it is nearly ready for public consultation. The Greenway is now in the hands of Sustrans as they consult with local landowners. Emma Mifsud has worked hard on the inspection and map of footpaths and we have sent requests to Leeds City Council for some maintenance work on the paths to be carried out”.

“We support the Recreation Ground Management Committee. The members have achieved some excellent work on the grounds and riverside. The Parish Council playgrounds are well used and after the last inspection work was needed to be done. Judy, Emma and Richard are vigilant in keeping an eye on the playgrounds and reporting maintenance works when needed. We have held many meetings regarding planning but have been overruled by higher authorities. It is very disturbing when decisions are made by people who have no knowledge of the area involved, but in my thirty-six years serving on this Parish Council I have seen it all before”.

“The village Post Office has been extended and we congratulate the owners on the foresight. The defibrillator is to be relocated so the old telephone box will be empty and needs a new position. The Parish Council purchased the box for £1.00 some years ago so we need to find a new use for this. The Tour De Yorkshire has once again passed through the village showcasing it to the world. The Pool Feast Committee is gearing up for this year’s event. We still give grant aid to local organisations. I thank my fellow councillors for all the hours they spend on various committees representing Pool. Also, our Leeds Councillors Barry and Caroline Anderson and Billy Flynn for the great support they give us”.

“We are looking for nominations this year for the Honorary Citizen Award”.

“Thanks go to Kieran for keeping the Parish in good order and to our clerk John for his support over the year. We are going through troubled times as a country but the grass roots in Pool-in-Wharfedale are strong”.