

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.