

Calver Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
Annual Report Of The Chairman

I am pleased to present my annual report on the activities of Calver Parish Council for the year 2014/15.

Retirement Of Cllr John White

Cllr White retired as both councillor and Chair of the parish Council following last years annual meeting. I would like to place on record the thanks of the Council and myself to John for his work for the Council and the village. We wish him well for his move to Sheffield.

Finance

The Parish Precept and how this was spent in 2014/15

The Council has set the precept for the new year 2015/16 at £7412, a zero % increase on last years precept. Derbyshire Dales District Council have recently passed on £270 grant in respect of the local Council Tax Support Scheme in addition to this precept sum. The Council will endeavour to use these funds wisely and on local initiatives or for grant funding in support of local groups/organisations. The Council spent last years precept as follows:-

Financial Performance 2014/15

For the year ending 31/3/15, the Council's total income was £8087 (comprising Precept £7394, Council Tax Support Grant £405, VAT Refund £227 and Investment Account Interest £61).

Total expenditure for the year was £7135 comprising:-

Staff Costs	£ 3602
S137 Grants	£ 450
Admin/Training	£ 210
Audit and Insurance	£ 665
Burial Ground Maintenance	£ 360
Footpaths Maintenance	£ 350
Bus shelter cleaning	£ 240
Snow clearance	£ 521
Subscriptions to Various Bodies	£ 452
Other costs	£ 285
TOTAL	£ 7135

Parish Council Representation On Local Bodies

The Parish Council continues to have a representative on the following local groups and bodies:

- Joint Burial Ground Committee
- Village Hall Committee
- Baslow Charities Committee

During the year, we also nominated a councillor representative for the local Police Governance

Committee, and nominated Cllr Judith Canty to serve as a Trustee on the Calver Weir Restoration Project Board.

Co-Optee

Cllr. Ron Marshall was co-opted onto the Council in July to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Cllr. White

Planning

The council discharged its duties as a 'statutory consultee' on all planning applications within the Parish boundaries. Comments made by the council are available to view on the Peak District National Park web-site

Superfast Broadband

The Council's pursuit of the provision of superfast (fibre) broadband for the village finally bore fruit in 2014. Since December 2014, and thanks to the work of the Parish Council and the Digital Derbyshire initiative, Calver residents have had access to broadband at speeds of up to 76Mb/s. For many residents, this is a 40x increase in broadband speed. In terms of broadband access, Calver is now properly in the 21st Century!

Victorian Post-Box

Following the move of Calver Post Office from the Cross to the Spar, it became clear that the old Victorian post box fixed within the wall of the old post office was likely to be scrapped. The Parish Council, in collaboration with Peak Park lobbied very hard to persuade Royal Mail (RM) to go against 'policy' and re-locate the box to the Spar. We were successful in that aim. Indeed, RM took steps to sandblast away 100yrs worth of red paint, which has restored the box to what it must have looked like when it was first installed in the late 19th Century. Thanks to Spar owner Ed White, the box now occupies a prominent position in the wall of the Spar.

Snow Clearance

Unlike last year, this winter saw some significant snow-falls in December 2014 and January 2015. This snow was the first proper test for the Council's new Snow Plan. The Council was generally very pleased that implementation of the plan by the council's snow warden Matt Boyes, assisted by local farmer Mr Thorpe, was prompt and effective, and allowed residents to gain safe access to the main roads serving the village.

Christmas Tree

The Council was disappointed that, for the second year running, it was not possible to place its traditional Christmas Tree at Calver Cross. This was due to a general tightening up of the rules governing the electrical and structural safety of temporary structures such as this. We were, however, able to place a tree at the entrance to the village hall, and the Council will continue to review its options for next Christmas.

Defibrillator

Cardiac arrest is a common cause of premature death. Provision of defibrillators in public places can be an effective way of providing life saving treatment in those minutes before professional help

arrives. The council is actively pursuing the purchase and installation of a defibrillator for the village.

Public Litter/Dog Waste Bin Provision.

During the year, Derbyshire Dales District Council reduced the provision of litter and dog waste bins across the area. The Parish Council was able to influence the eventual provision within the village. Some problems still arose, and the Parish Council was able to resolve those problems with DDDC.

Bus Services

The Council has made every effort during the year to try and ensure that bus services serving the village are protected and, if possible improved. The next few months will be critical as the County Council reviews the subsidies it makes to support rural bus services. The Council will continue to try and protect the services on which many people rely.

Longstone Edge

The council, in conjunction with the 'Save Longstone Edge Group' (SLEG) continues its watching brief on the activities of the mineral rights owners of the land above the village.

Highways

The Council has a good working relationship with the Highways department of the County Council. We regularly report issues affecting the safety of our local roads (potholes/street lighting/obstructions etc). During the last year, a road sign telling drivers that they are entering the village, that disappeared following a road accident around 40 years ago, has re-appeared, and the Parish Council is currently arranging for it to be re-instated.

'The Link'

In recent times, under the editorship of Calver resident Dave Edmondson, the parish magazine 'The Link', has gone from strength to strength. A large proportion of village residents reads it every month, and a short report of the activities of the Council is now a regular feature each month. I hope that residents find it useful. Of course, for those wishing to know more, all of the papers, agendas, minutes etc., are available to read on the Council's web-site (www.calverparishcouncil.co.uk).

Thanks

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Council, and our Parish Clerk Simon Oldham, for their hard work over the last twelve months. My thanks also go to Kath Potter (Parish Council nominee on the board of Peak Park) and Cate Hunt (retiring DDDC councillor) for their input and support.

Jonathan Harris
Chairman
2nd April 2015