

Calver Parish Council
2017/18 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 2017/18

Parish Council

The Council was very sorry to receive the resignations of two councillors during 2017/18. Cllrs. Patti Wootton and Marlene Denton both retired before the end of their elected terms on health grounds. Both councillors have served the council and the village with distinction. Cllr. Denton was the longest serving member of the council, and a former Chair of the Council. I would like to place on record both the council's, and my own personal appreciation for their input into the work of the council throughout their terms of office. We all wish them the very best for their future health.

In line with the requirements of Local Government legislation, the council has co-opted Derek Ballard as a replacement for Cllr. Wootton. We hope to co-opt a replacement for Cllr. Denton very shortly. The two co-optees will serve on the council until the next Parish Council elections in 2019.

The current membership of the Council therefore comprises myself (Jonathan Harris) as Chairman, Cllr. Ron Marshall as Vice-Chair and Cllrs. Judith Canty, Beatrice Carman, John Hearnshaw, Pat Howard, and Derek Ballard as members, with one vacancy.

Finance

The Council has set the precept for the coming year (2018/19) at £7555, .
The Council will endeavour to use these funds wisely and on local initiatives or for grant funding in support of local groups/organisations. In summary, the Council's Income and Expenditure for 2017/18 was as follows:

Income

For the year ending 31/3/18, the Council's total income was £7920 (comprising Precept £7535, VAT Refund £346 and Investment Account Interest £39).

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £7001 comprising:

Staff Costs	3632
Grants	300
Admin/Training	210
Audit and Insurance	709
Burial Ground Maintenance	360
Footpaths Maintenance	0
Bus shelter cleaning	245
Snow clearance	825
Subscriptions to Various Bodies	254
Christmas tree/lights	358
Other costs	108
TOTAL	7001

This has resulted in £919 excess in income over expenditure. The Council is therefore in a healthy financial position, although it is prudent to keep a reasonable level of reserves.

The Council will shortly be identifying its spending priorities, and would like to spend some of its reserves on appropriate local project(s) during 2018/19. In this regard, parishioners proposals for any suggested project which will be of benefit to the Parish would be most welcome.

Installation of a Public Access Defibrillators (PAD)

As I reported last year, Public Access Defibrillators are a valuable resource in the fight against death from cardiac arrest. In 2016/7 the Council purchased a PAD (also known as an AED – Automated External Defibrillator), which was installed at the Spar, by kind permission of Mr Ed White.

In a companion initiative, the Village Hall Committee has purchased the same make and model of PAD. This was installed at the Village Hall during 2017/18, giving access to a PAD at both ends of the village.

During 2017/18, the Council and Village Hall Committee jointly offered free Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training to anyone who wished to learn what to do in an emergency. In total, around 70 local residents have undertaken the training.

Thankfully, neither of the PADs has been used in earnest since they were installed, but their presence is reassuring.

Acquisition Of Former 'Bird Garden' As A Community Resource

The last Annual Parish Meeting expressed support for an initiative to acquire the former 'Bird Garden' in Calver in order to restore it as a community resource.

The Council decided that it would not be appropriate for the Council itself to acquire the land. However, it would support the establishment of a Charitable Trust to take forward the project. We therefore called a public meeting in November last year to assess the level of support that there is in the village. I am pleased to say that there was sufficient interest to allow for an application for registration of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to be made.

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
- Calver Weir Restoration Trust
- Police Governance Committee
- Samuel and Elizabeth Wild Almshouse Trust'.

Planning

The council continued to discharge 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.

Calver Parish Council Web-Site

Our web-site continues to be available at

<http://calverpc.co.uk>

Parishioners can sign up for e-mail updates at the site.

Superfast Broadband

As far as I am aware, and since the further upgrades by BT, superfast broadband availability and speeds in the village remain good.

Parishioners may be interested to know that the various mobile phone networks have upgraded their masts on the Calver Peak transmitter. This means that wireless superfast broadband is now also widely available in the village. All of the mobile phone companies now offer 4th generation (4G) speeds, which are, in some cases, better than those available from BT's 'fixed line' offer.

Snow Clearance

The Winter of 2017/18 has produced more snow than in recent years, resulting in increased expenditure by the Council on snow clearance etc.

Some parishioners residents have expressed concerns that the Parish Council has not done enough to keep village roads and footpaths clear of snow and ice. I (and the Council) believe that this criticism is unfair.

Responsibility for keeping major routes clear and safe is the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council. The Parish Council has no legal obligation to treat the village roads. However, we have, for some years, undertaken to manually grit the key junctions onto the main roads around the village. We also pay a local contractor to plough and grit the residential areas. Most other local authorities DO NOT provide this service.

However, ploughing and gritting residential streets is not easy. Timing is everything. Plough too early and the snow falls again. Plough too late and the snow will become compacted. Parked cars can also get in the way. Most of all, salt and grit work best when there is a lot of traffic to mix the salt with the snow. Our residential streets are simply not busy enough to do this. This last winter, the salt provided by DCC to grit our roads has been white, not brown. As a result it has not always been obvious when grit has been spread. Rest assured, it was!

Other than around the older people's bungalows on Smithy Knoll Rd., the council does not try to clear or treat footpaths. To do so would be prohibitively expensive. Residents are, however, encouraged to clear in front of their own properties. For public areas, you can use the grit provided in bins around the village. However, please do not use on private property, drives etc – you should provide your own for this!

The Council's snow plan is available on our web-site

<http://calverpc.co.uk>

Click 'Calver Parish Council' then

'The Council' then

'Policy Documents' – Snow Plan

Bus Services

Despite my somewhat pessimistic comments at last year's Annual Meeting, the County Council's review of bus service subsidies has not resulted in the large scale culling of services to and through Calver.

The 65 service between Sheffield and Buxton via Calver and the 275 Sheffield to Bakewell via Bamford and Calver both continue much as before.

The 66 service between Chesterfield and Buxton is also still running, albeit that it now involves a change at Baslow.

The Council will continue to monitor potential service changes, and make representations where appropriate.

Highways

The Parish Council continues to lobby the County Council Highways Department to make further safety improvements to the road signage and layout at Calver New Bridge, on the A625 between Calver and Curbar.

Footpaths

The council has responsibility for maintenance (grass cutting and undergrowth clearance) of public footpaths within the parish boundaries. We have recently had difficulty in recruiting a suitable contractor, and some of our footpaths have become very overgrown. We have now appointed a contractor, and we hope to get things back under control shortly.

Thanks

Finally, I would once again 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 Cllr. Kath Potter (Derbyshire Parish Councils nominee on the board of Peak Park), Cllr. John Tibenham (Derbyshire Dales District councillor) and Cllr. Jason Atkin (Derbyshire County Council) for their input and support.

Jonathan Harris Chairman, Calver Parish Council,
8th April 2018