

Calver Parish Council
2018/19 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 2018/19.

Parish Council

Following the resignation of two members of the council in 2017/18, Cllr Helen Watts was appointed to the council to join Cllr Derek Ballard as a co-opted member.

The quadrennial Parish Council elections will be held this year on Thursday 2nd May. Four members of the council have decided that they wish to retire from the council at that time. They will therefore not be putting themselves forward for election/re-election.

- Councillors John Hearnshaw and Pat Howard are both long-standing members of the Council.
- Councillor. Ron Marshall was first elected in 2015, having previously served as a co-opted member for a couple of years. He is currently the Council's Vice-Chairman.
- Councillor Helen Watts joined the Council as a co-opted member a year ago, but is moving away from the village.

All four councillors have served the council and the village with distinction. I wish to place on record both the council's, and my own personal appreciation for their input into the work of the council throughout their various terms of office.

Finance

The Council has set the precept for the new year 2019/20 at £7486. 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 year's precept as follows:

Financial Performance 2018/19.

For the year ending 31/3/19, the Council's total income was £8569, comprising

- Precept £7555,
- Reclamation from DDDC of contribution to Joint Burial Ground (Curbar, Calver & Froggatt £720,
- Reclamation of County Council Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Scheme £105,
- VAT Refund £128 and
- Investment Account Interest £61.

Total expenditure for the year was £7016 comprising:

Staff Costs	3743
Grants	450

Admin/Training	461
Audit and Insurance	735
Burial Ground Maintenance	360
Footpaths Maintenance	165
Bus shelter cleaning	251
Snow clearance	307
Subscriptions to Various Bodies	270
Christmas tree/lights	164
Other costs	110
TOTAL	7016

The relatively mild (and snow free) winter meant that costs relating to snow clearance were low. This has contributed to a £1553 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 2019/20. In this regard, Parishioners proposals for any suggested project which will be of benefit to the Parish would be most welcome.

Application For Designation Of The Area Around 'The Brook' as Village Green

Early in the year, the Council was surprised to receive correspondence from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) regarding an outstanding Village Green application dating back to 2004. Some 14 years after the application was put forward by the Parish Council, it had finally reached the stage where the County Council was about to organise a public enquiry to decide the matter. Following discussions with the Council, Highways Dept, and interested parties, the Council resolved to withdraw the application.

Installation of a Public Access Defibrillators (PAD)

Public Access Defibrillators are a valuable resource in the fight against death from cardiac arrest. The Council owns and maintains a PAD (also known as an AED – Automated External Defibrillator), which is installed at the Spar, by kind permission of Mr Ed White.

The Village Hall Committee owns and maintains the same make and model of PAD, installed at the Village Hall, giving access to a PAD at both ends of the village.

Later this year, the Council, the Village Hall Committee and the Patient Participation Group at Baslow Surgery intend to jointly offer a further programme of free Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training to anyone who wishes to learn what to do in an emergency.

During the last twelve months, the ambulance service has, on one occasion, given access to the cabinets as a result of an emergency call from a villager. Thankfully, neither of the PADs was required.

In the last year, the Council has considered installing a third defibrillator at the Craft Centre at Calver Bridge. However, Curbar Parish Council is unwilling to jointly fund the initiative and the Parish Council decided that the two existing machines offered adequate coverage for the village,

Acquisition Of Former 'Bird Garden' As A Community Resource

Following an unfortunate delay, we now have eleven volunteers who are willing to act as Trustees for the proposed Charitable Incorporated Organisation, 'The Calver Garden Trust'. The formal paperwork, including the Constitution, has been drafted, and significant initial (informal) offers of financial support of up to £8,000 have already been received.

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

In the last few weeks, BT Openreach has installed a new 'fibre' cabinet at the junction of Main Street and Kingsgate. The Council is trying to find out which premises the new cabinet will serve, and will inform residents as and when we find out. It seems likely that some residents in the area around Riverside Drive may soon be able to sign up to a faster service.

Bus Services

During summer 2018, High Peak buses unilaterally, and without consultation, decided to withdraw from its contract to operate the 65 service between Sheffield and Buxton. Fortunately, the County Council was able to negotiate a new contract at short notice with Stagecoach Chesterfield.

The new service has proved to be a big improvement. Service reliability is much better, and the service runs direct from Buxton to Meadowhall via Calver and Sheffield City Centre. The new operator has also reintroduced ticket interavailability with Hulleys service 66 between Calver and Buxton.

The Parish Councils along the route have committed to working collaboratively with Stagecoach to promote the service to ensure its sustainability.

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

Highways

During the year, the Parish Council made representations to the Highways Authority regarding the condition of roads and roadside 'furniture' in the village. In most cases, Highways moved quickly to address our concerns and repairs were forthcoming.

The Parish Council continues to lobby the County Council Highways Department to install traffic lights 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. Since last year's report, we have succeeded in recruiting a suitable replacement contractor. We hope and believe that the problems of the previous year have now been overcome.

Fly-Tipping

During the summer, the Council noted with concern a significant problem with fly-tipping on land next to the lay-by on the Hassop Road. Discussions with Derbyshire Dales District Council (the authority responsible for waste disposal) and the landowner has resulted in removal of the unsightly waste, and measures to prevent a recurrence.

Personal 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 2019