

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2013

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Valley Road Recreation Ground

The Parish Council are working hard to improve facilities within this park. The cross scales equipment is to be replaced in early Spring. The toddler sand pit area is being re-levelled. Water-logging in certain areas is being addressed. The benches are being repaired and painted. The Council recently had a Tree Survey done in the park by arboricultural consultants and some pruning and felling is required in the next few months. The proposed Pump Park is being progressed by the Council seeking planning permission for the facility which will allow everyone – public and professional – to be consulted. Council are investigating ways in which the skatepark could be made quieter when in use.

The Clough

Following on from the adoption, by the Council, of The Clough Management Plan, some tree work was undertaken at the end of last year to coppice, prune and fell wood allowing better management of the area and encouraging other species to grow. The Council are also making a start on repairing the stone walls along Slack Lane bordering The Clough. Thanks to all those who volunteer to help, particularly members of the Little Hayfield Advisory Committee.

Grit

The Parish Council provide grit for parishioners use and would ask that that it be shared fairly! Council provide grit for public footpaths and roads only and it must not be used on private property. Although bins are checked frequently, please let the Clerk know if any bins require refilling and it will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Bank Vale

The Parish Council and St Matthew's Church are still determined to progress the purchase of Bank Vale field as a village sports ground but are again being frustrated by diocesan and legal delays.

New Fund to Help Revive Villages

Rural communities are set to benefit from a new injection of funding to help revive their villages through community enterprise.

It comes after the [Plunkett Foundation](http://www.plunkett.co.uk) teamed up with long-term supporters the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to create a new comprehensive support service for rural communities. The service is aimed at communities considering setting up or diversifying community-owned services – like shops and pubs – to help turn the tide on rural decline. It will provide a combination of adviser support, training, feasibility grants of up to £2,000, and opportunities for networking with other community enterprises.

The support is specifically focused at the early stage of a community's ideas, and will help them progress to the next stage. Eligibility for support will depend on communities aiming to raise at least £10,000 themselves through community shares. Support will be given to ensure communities are creating viable and sustainable businesses that engage the whole community.

Rural communities who need support for their enterprises are encouraged to contact Plunkett on 01993 810730 or by emailing info@plunkett.co.uk.

The Parish Council often gets information sent about various grant funds available. If you are looking for funding, you are welcome to contact the Clerk who may be able to direct you to an appropriate source.

Sustainable Hayfield Gets Big Lottery Transport Grant

Villagers may already have heard the good news – announced last month - that Sustainable Hayfield has been awarded funding from the Big Lottery to develop a local Transport Co-operative. The grant has just arrived.

The co-operative's aim will be to help people with combinable journeys (e.g. to work, concerts, sporting fixtures) to form travel groups and share transport, reducing the number of single occupancy car journeys made, cutting household costs and enabling some people without cars to expand their travel options. Key to this will be a website, to be developed.

An early task is to acquire a self-drive community minibus for use by the school and local community and interest groups. To be sustainable, it will need to be financially self-supporting. Discussions are already underway with some groups (e.g. school, some sports groups) about the use they might make of a minibus. Approaches will be made to others known to be interested in using it. In time, use of the minibus will be managed by the planned co-operative, which is intended to be made up of representative village groups likely to use it.

If you'd like to know more about the scheme, or are interested in using the minibus, contact Sustainable Hayfield's Roland Strube (01663 749062 or roland.strube@gmail.com).

Precept

The Parish Council agreed at their meeting on 6th February to set next financial year's precept at a level whereby individual Council Tax property charges will remain the same as in 2012 – 2013. With a slight increase in the Parish Grant (for parks and open spaces) from High Peak Borough Council the Parish Council's overall funding will increase slightly by £714 in 2013 – 2014.

Opening Hours

The Parish Council Office is open on: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.00 – 12.00am.
The Office is generally open during working hours and the public are welcome to visit at any time. However, if you wish to guarantee someone being there, please visit within the hours advertised.

Who is on the Council?

Chair: Mr Andrew Ramwell
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Mrs Jackie Wilson
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Clerk: Sally Fuller
Grounds Maintenance Staff: Trevor Middleton
Contracted Gardener / Maintenance Workers: Graham Hewitt and Chris Wild