



When you read this I hope all the current flooding problems in our area are over and you have been too badly inconvenienced. With a hilltop parish most of our residents are spared the ravages seen by Prince Charles in Hebden Bridge.

In the past quarter we had our Annual Meeting of Council in May – the meeting at which committeees etc are affirmed for the coming 12 months. Most importantly it is the time when our outgoing chairman gives way for new. This year has seen Jean Crowther step down and be succeeded by Mike Edwards. I must record here how well Jean coped with the busy task on this her first period of office. Well done Jean – I look forward to next time. Mike has been chairman a couple of times before so I expect he will exude confidence in the role.

Since I last wrote your Council has been actively involved in many local as well as other 'big' topics. Here's a summary :

- Planning Applications plus Enforcement action, including a meeting of myself and the Chairman with senior planners
- Asset Transfer
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Grants
- Footpaths (including Diversion Order)
- Waste Bins
- Excess water on road surfaces
- Joint meeting with National Trust & Wadsworth Parish Council re Hardcastle Crags
- Revised Code of Conduct for members
- Possibility of adoption of red telephone box on Hepton Drive

In addition the Council is supporting the Campaign for Better Broadband. This initiative has been strongly supported by Blackshaw Parish Council, but we are aware that the upper part of our parish is some distance from the exchange and therefore in need of significant improvements.

I also need to tell you of the introduction of Dog Control Orders from 1 August 2012. This is so often a subject upon which I pass comment. In summary the orders have Fixed Penalty Notices for infringements and cover :

- **Dog Fouling Order** : will apply across Calderdale's Borough, but not to moorland or woodland. Persons in charge of dogs will be required to pick up after their has fouled, and it is a criminal offence not to do so, in line with what exists today.
- **The Dog On Lead Order** : will apply to some highways, and in all public car parks, allotments, unfenced

children's play areas, in all religious grounds and on school grounds. Dogs will be required to be kept on a lead when being walked in these areas.

- **The Dog On Lead by Direction Order** : will apply to canal towpaths, paths around reservoirs and other watercourses, parks, recreation grounds, some public rights of way, Sites of Ecological or Geological Interest, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and Local Nature Reserves. Dogs will be required to be put and kept on a lead by Authorised Officers if the dog is causing a nuisance to other land users.
- **The Dog Exclusion Order** : will apply to school playing fields, out door fenced children's play areas, tennis courts, bowling greens and skate parks. Dogs will not be permitted to enter these areas.
- **The Dogs Specified Maximum Order** : will apply to various sites in Calderdale, but locally will include Hardcastle Crags. A person will not be permitted to walk more than six dogs in these areas.
- If you have any questions regarding these Orders please contact Customer First on 0845 245 6000 or e-mail dogcontrolorders@calderdale.gov.uk

Finally.....a service of dedication took place at Heptonstall Methodist Church on 17th June. This was in respect of a seat donated by the Council in memory of the late Councillor John Harwood and his late wife Margaret. Both contributed greatly to the well-being of this parish and the Methodist Church. John joined the Council the year before I became Clerk. He served from 1962 to 2005 and was Chairman eight times. The seat is a fitting tribute to his work and the support given by Margaret. It was good to see their children – David and Janet – and families attending the event, and for them to be reassured our thanks are permanently recorded.

Roger M Greenwood
The Clerk
Heptonstall Parish Council