

Scaldwell Parish Council

Annual Report 2006/2007

Published May 2007

List of Council Members and Officers

Chairman

Mrs Pam Long

Vice-Chairman

Mrs Jane Jones

Mr Michael Alcock

Mr Dave Farmer

Mrs Jacky Partridge

Mrs Margaret Vinton

Mr David Watts

Clerk

Mr Jonathan Harris

Chairman's Report

This has been another busy year for the Parish Council, and the introduction of the Local Government White Paper sees an increasing role for us in local issues. We welcome any opportunity to become involved in decisions affecting our area, and this is one of the reasons that we are taking steps to gain 'Quality Council' status.

Our activities of the past year are summarised in our Annual Report which is attached, but Minutes of Meetings are always available for inspection from our Clerk, or at the Brixworth Library. We are currently working on a Scaldwell Parish Council website, and will notify you of details as soon as they are available.

The current Parish Council are now into the last year of our four year term, and next year will see a new Council elected. We would urge anyone who is interested to attend one of our meetings over the next year and see what is involved. We welcome parishioners to attend our meetings and there is always an opportunity to raise issues or ask questions. Alternatively, you may feel free to contact any of the Councillors if there is a matter which you would like to discuss.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to express our gratitude to Olive Wootton our tree warden, and Eddie Cockram our footpath warden. We are also extremely grateful to Frank and Liz Wiig, our Daventry District Councillors who attend most of our meetings and have offered their advice and support throughout the year. I would also like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their time and their hard work, and finally I would like to thank Jonathan, our excellent Clerk, who works efficiently and tirelessly to keep the Parish Council running smoothly. We congratulate him for passing the 'CiLCA – Certificate in Local Council Administration'.

Pam Long - Chairman of Scaldwell Parish Council

Parish Council activities during the year to 31 March 2007

Meetings

Thirteen Council meetings were held during the year. All meetings are open to the public. Notice of meetings and the agenda are displayed on the bus shelter notice board approximately one week prior to the meeting.

Highways

Following requests from the Parish Council, Northamptonshire County Council have agreed to resurface East End, West End, School Lane and Back Lane during the current financial year. It is hoped the main road will be resurfaced next year along with improvements to the pavements.

A 'No Through Road' sign should soon be erected at the end of Holcot Lane to help prevent unauthorised vehicles using the bridleway.

Playing field

New goalposts were purchased with the help of a grant from the Football Foundation. The Council is planning to improve the play area equipment. With grant assistance it is hoped to a) install safety surfaces, b) improve / repair existing equipment and c) install new play equipment.

Weekly safety inspections are carried out by Councillors and an Annual inspection is undertaken by Wicksteed.

The Council will be negotiating with Daventry District Council to gain a longer lease on the playing field. The current lease expires in March 2008.

Village greens

To protect their future, the six main pieces of land comprising the village green have been registered under the ownership of the Parish Council with Land Registry. The Council is attempting to register the two small triangular pieces of land at the west end of East End and Holcot Lane under the Commons Registration Act to protect their future.

To improve the general aspect of the greens grass is being collected once cut and the paths across the greens will be cleared.

Damage to the greens caused by vehicles have been reported to the companies concerned. Compensation has been received from Stagecoach; this money has been spent on repairing the damaged areas.

BT payphones have agreed to repaint the phone box. The wooden signposts will also be repainted.

Bus shelter

Following consultation with villagers, restoration was carried out and a new notice board made. A plaque was erected in memory of Kath Frankland.

Planning Applications

Responses have been sent to Daventry District Council for all sixteen applications received during the year.

Scaldwell Parish Council has made representations at several DDC planning committee meetings; on each occasion the decision has been favourable.

Mill Lane

Following a large amount of effort and pressure from the Parish Council, a stop notice and enforcement order was issued by DDC to prevent the illegal car sales continuing in Mill Lane Barns. The Council is looking into obtaining 'Quiet Lanes' status for Mill Lane to protect it from future excess traffic and unwelcome development.

Power cuts

Central Networks were requested by the Council to investigate the frequent power cuts in the village; as a result a fault was found and subsequently repaired.

Street lighting

The Council is budgeting to allow for future investment in street lighting for the village; the visors will be gradually replaced to enable brighter lighting from existing lamps and, in the long term, the Council hopes more street lights can be installed. The Parish Council pays for the electricity and maintenance costs of the village street lights.

Training

The Clerk has attained the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) and has attended training courses on Planning, Risk Assessment and the Freedom of Information Act. The Chairman attended workshops on the Local Government White Paper and Northants Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Quality Council Status

The Council is continuing to obtain the necessary requirements to attain Quality Council Status; most of the requirements have already been met by the Council. Quality Council status should give the Council more power and influence over local issues. At present there is only one Quality Parish Council in Northamptonshire.

Complaints

The Council issued a Refusal Notice under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 following a request for information that was considered by the Council to be vexatious. An appeal against this notice has been made to the Information Commissioner. Two Councillors have been reported to the Standards Boards, one on two occasions; each case has been dismissed.

Consultations

The Parish Council receives and has responded to many consultation documents from various authorities such as Northamptonshire County Council.

Village Organisations

The Parish Council has representatives on several local charities and village organisations.

Summary Receipts and Payments Account
For the Year Ended 31st March 2007

Year Ended 31 st March 2006		Year Ended 31 st March 2007
£		£
	RECEIPTS	
4300.00	Precept	6000.00
21.50	Bank Interest	6.75
273.09	NCC Grant towards grass cutting	279.64
200.00	NALC Clerk training bursary	- -
- -	Football Foundation - goalposts grant	310.00
<u>- -</u>	Donations towards bus shelter / greens	<u>1225.50</u>
4794.59		7821.89
215.44	VAT Recovered	706.29
<u>5010.03</u>	Total Receipts	<u>8528.18</u>
	PAYMENTS	
1514.77	Parish grass cutting	1774.11
246.00	Annual Audit fees	120.00
515.17	Insurance	516.31
584.82	Street lighting - electricity supply	342.63
204.96	Street lighting - maintenance	197.40
72.00	Hire of Hall for meetings	- -
1188.98	Clerk salary	1781.09
491.81	Clerk expenses/training fees	305.84
150.00	Parish Clock	- -
179.50	Annual subscriptions	189.00
200.00	Playing field - annual rent	200.00
40.00	Playing field - annual inspection	- -
193.00	Playing field - equipment	625.00
600.00	Election	- -
<u>- -</u>	Bus shelter / notice board / greens	<u>2346.25</u>
6181.01		8397.63
164.19	VAT Paid	617.92
<u>6345.20</u>	Total Payments	<u>9015.55</u>

Receipts and Payments Summary
For the Year Ended 31st March 2007

Year Ended 31 st March 2006		Year Ended 31 st March 2007
£		£
3045.45	Balance Brought Forward at 1.4.06	1710.28
<u>5010.03</u>	Add Total Receipts	<u>8528.18</u>
8055.48		10238.46
<u>6345.20</u>	Less Total Payments	<u>9015.55</u>
1710.28	Balance Carried Forward at 31.3.07	1222.91
These Cumulative Funds are represented by:		
500.00	Current Account - Royal Bank of Scotland	500.00
<u>1210.28</u>	Deposit Account - Royal Bank of Scotland	<u>722.91</u>
1710.28		1222.91

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31st March 2007

At 31/3/07 the following assets were held at replacement value:

Bus shelter	2179.33
3 Teak Seats	1563.59
1 Waste Bin	105.04
Lamp outside Church	2112.30
Children's Swings	1104.49
Play Trail Climbing Frame	5878.63
Children's Slide	1623.59
Cricket strip	1790.66
Two goalposts & nets	525.00
Bench on Playing field	487.07
Parish clock on church	8731.20
12 street lamps attached to poles/houses	979.20
1 street lamp on wooden pole	678.70
6 metal street lamps	<u>4072.19</u>
	£ 31830.99

At 31/3/07 the following lease was in operation:

Lessor	Purpose	Annual Lease	Year of Expiry
Daventry District Council	Recreation ground	£200 payable pa	2008

There were no current liabilities for the year ending 31/3/07.

Section 137 payments: S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables Parish Councils to spend up to the product of £5.44 per head of electorate for the benefit of people in the area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. The limit for this Council in the year ended 31st March 2007 was £1398.08 . There are 257 electors. No money was spent under S.137 during the year ending 31/3/07.

Signed

Chairman	Responsible Financial Officer	Date
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