

Scaldwell Parish Council

Annual Report 2007/2008

Published May 2008

List of Council Members and Officers

Chairman

Mrs Pam Long Orchard House, West End, Scaldwell Tel: 881940

Vice-Chairman

Mrs Margaret Vinton The Old House, East End, Scaldwell Tel: 880359

Mr Michael Alcock The Poplars Farm, The Green, Scaldwell Tel: 881948

Mrs Ann Coward The Grange, High Street, Scaldwell Tel: 880255

Mr Alisdair Tait Stanmore House, School Lane, Scaldwell Tel: 881462

Mr David Watts Scaldwell Manor, Old Road, Scaldwell Tel: 882222

Mr Frank Wiig 9 Pytchley Close, Brixworth Tel: 880165

Clerk

Mr Jonathan Harris Plumb Cottage, High Street, Scaldwell Tel: 881182

Parish Council email: pc_scaldwell@daventrydc.gov.uk

Website: www.parish-council.com/scaldwell

Chairman's Report

This was the final year in office for the existing Parish Council and I am pleased to report that it has been very eventful. We have achieved success on several fronts; we have been awarded Quality Council status - this required a great deal of hard work by our clerk Jonathan, for which we are most grateful. We have also initiated a Village Design Statement, although this has been entirely produced by Christopher and Maggie Angeloglou and their committed team of helpers.

We are also delighted to have secured the playing field for the village through negotiation with Daventry, and this will enable us to apply for funding for some new sports and play equipment.

We have established a parish council web site, which is proving to be a useful resource for many villagers.

As in past years, planning matters have taken up much of our time, as well as responding to the vast number of consultations and surveys which we receive. The other important issue for the village is Highways, and this year our side streets have been re-surfaced, although we are still in discussions with Highways to try to resolve the problems that have subsequently arisen. We are informed that our pavements are due for re-surfacing next and then finally the High Street.

Speeding continues to be a concern, and we have held meeting with Highways to ask for their help in addressing the problem. We also invited the local police to attend our meeting in September to address the village and to discuss their concerns.

Maintaining our village greens is always a high priority for us, and approximately one third of our precept is spent on grass-cutting. We are constantly having to repair damage to the greens and we have now received permission to place posts on the most vulnerable corners.

We have looked at the current level of street lighting and have applied for funding to

replace all the visors which should make a noticeable improvement. If necessary we will also consider installing additional lights on the High Street.

Regular weekly inspections are made of the playing field, and we are currently looking into the best way of dealing with the nettles on the mound. Last year we asked for volunteers to help clear the area, but received very little support so we must now consider employing someone to deal with the problem.

In March, a clean up of the village green and bus shelter was organised and we were very grateful to all those who supported us.

A reminder that the elections for the parish council will be held on May 1st in the Village Hall, and I hope that everyone will take a few moments to cast their vote - we really do need the council to represent the wishes of the whole village.

I would like to end by thanking some of the members of the village who have taken on various responsibilities namely, Olive Wootton our tree warden, and Eddie Cockram our footpath warden. I would also like to thank Frank and Liz Wiig, our Daventry District Councillors, for all the advice and support that they have offered during the year - it has been very much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all the support that they have given me over the last four years - it has been a pleasure working with them, am particularly grateful to Jane , who has been a wonderful vice chairman and an excellent sounding board.

Lastly, I would like to thank Jonathan, for being such a marvellous clerk. He is helpful, diligent and good natured, and has always managed to keep us informed of correct procedures. He has made my role as Chairman so much easier, and I think that we are extremely fortunate to have had him working with us over the last three years.

Thank you.

Pam Long - Chairman of Scaldwell Parish Council

Parish Council activities during the year to 31 March 2008

Meetings

Eight 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 and Parish Council website approximately one week prior to the meeting. District Councillors Frank & Liz Wiig have attended most statutory meetings and have supported the Council in many ways. The Parish Council is also in regular contact with County Councillor Chris Millar. The September meeting was attended by Sgt Mike Grady which gave villagers the opportunity to ask questions on local policing issues.

Highways

Since the resurfacing of the side roads the Parish Council has continued to push for remedial action to make the roads safer to walk on in cold weather.

Following requests from the Parish Council the pavements along Old Road and parts of the High Street are to be resurfaced and kerbing replaced.

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

The Parish Council met with representatives from Northamptonshire County Council and

the Police to discuss ways to slow down traffic passing through the village.

Playing field

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

The Parish Council's lease on the playing field expired in March 2008; the Parish Council has negotiated the sale of the playing field from Daventry District Council to the Parish Council for the nominal fee of £1, together with legal costs of around £1275. Having secured the playing field as a long term asset the Council hopes this will give the village more ownership of the field, allowing the facilities and activities on the field to develop as villagers wish.

Village greens

A lot of effort has been put in by villagers to improve the condition of the greens. The paths across the green have been cleared, the wooden signposts replaced, the phonebox repainted and a 'tidying the greens' event organised. The improvements were recognised in an article in the 'Daventry Calling' magazine. The Parish Council has permission from Northants CC to put wooden posts around part of the green to protect the grass from tyre damage.

Planning Applications

Responses have been sent to Daventry District Council for all ten of the planning applications received during the year and, where appropriate, representations were made by the Parish Council at DDC planning committee meetings and site visits.

Street lighting

The Council has recently applied for funding towards replacing the existing street light visors and to install two new street lights on the High Street. The Parish Council pays for the electricity and maintenance costs of the village street lights.

Training

During the year the Clerk has attained training on the New Code of Conduct, the Society of Local Council Clerks National Conference and a workshop by Northants ACRE on developing play areas.

Quality Council Status

In September 2007, Scaldwell Parish Council became only the sixth Council in Northamptonshire and the first Parish in Daventry District to attain Quality Status. The award was presented to the Council by the National Chairman of NALC, Cllr Ken Cleary at NALC's Annual Meeting.

Parish Council Website

This was set up at the end of May (councils with Quality Status are now expected to have websites) and it has proved a very useful way of keeping villagers informed of Council activities. Copies of the agendas and minutes of meeting are available to download.

Welcome Pack

A welcome pack has been created for those new to Scaldwell; a copy is available to download from the website.

Consultations

The Parish Council responded to eleven consultation documents and six surveys from various authorities during the year.

Village Organisations

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

SCALDWELL PARISH COUNCIL Summary Receipts and Payments Account For the Year Ended 31st March 2008

Year Ended 31 st March 2007 £		Year Ended 31 st March 2008 £
	RECEIPTS	
6000.00	Precept	10000.00
6.75	Bank Interest	35.82
279.64	NCC Grant towards grass cutting	290.27
310.00	Football Foundation - goalposts grant	- -
<u>1225.50</u>	Donations towards bus shelter / greens	<u>520.12</u>
7821.89		10846.21
706.29	VAT Recovered	- -
<hr/>	Total Receipts	<hr/>
8528.18		10846.21
	PAYMENTS	
1774.11	Parish grass cutting	2304.12
120.00	Annual Audit fees	246.00
516.31	Insurance	538.00
342.63	Street lighting - electricity supply	460.61
197.40	Street lighting - maintenance	211.40
- -	Hire of Hall for meetings	72.00
1781.09	Clerk salary	2431.79
305.84	Clerk expenses/training fees	129.48
189.00	Annual subscriptions	194.00
200.00	Playing field - annual rent	200.00
- -	Playing field - annual inspection	40.00
625.00	Playing field - equipment	- -
- -	Playing field - purchase costs	1275.00
<u>2346.25</u>	Bus shelter / notice board / greens	<u>531.11</u>
8397.63		8633.51
617.92	VAT Paid	272.67
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Chairman

Responsible Financial Officer

Date