

Scaldwell Parish Council

Annual Report 2013/2014

Published 21 May 2014

SCALDWELL PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

List of Council Members and Officers

Chairman

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

Vice-Chairman

Mr Eugene O'Leary 5 Back Lane, Scaldwell (Tel: 881084)

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

Mrs Ann Curtis Chytil Cottage, High Street, Scaldwell, (Tel: 882954)

Mrs Jenny Lewis Peters Green, Back Lane, Scaldwell, (Tel: 882718)

Mrs Joan Randell Newstone House, High Street, Scaldwell (Tel: 881595)

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

Clerk

Miss Alicia Schofield 2 Paddocks Close, Walgrave (Tel: 780192)

Parish Council email: pc_scaldwell@daventrydc.gov.uk

Parish Council website: www.parish-council.com/scaldwell

Chairman's Annual Report

It hardly seems a moment since reporting at the Annual Parish Meeting last May. Once again it is time to reflect upon the busy workings of the Council. In all our work and activities we are conscious of our role in representing the needs of the village and trying to improve quality of life. My report is a summary of our activities during the year but should you wish to learn more about the role and work of the Council further details can be found on our website or by contacting any of the Councillors or the Clerk.

Meetings and general activities

The Council held 6 statutory meetings during the year including the Annual Parish Meeting. In addition we held 1 extra meeting in June to allow approval of the annual accounts and 1 meeting to consider a planning application. Meetings are held in the Village Hall and we welcome all parishioners to attend. We always provide an opportunity for questions, concerns or comments to be raised.

At our July meeting we were fortunate to be able to meet and welcome our new County Councillor, Caroline Boardman. Councillor Boardman supports us and acts on our behalf regarding the delivery and performance of County Council services.

We are also very grateful to our former Clerk and now District Councillor, Ian Barratt. We congratulate Ian on his election to the District Council. We are pleased to still see him in regular attendance at our meetings, albeit in his new role, and he is proving to be a vital link for us with the District Council. Our grateful thanks also to District Councillors Wiig and Pointer for their continued interest and support.

Parish Councils are under increasing pressure to take on new responsibilities and it is important that we keep up to date with developments and legislation. In order to help us we remain members of the National and County Association of Local Councils and our Clerk is a member of the Society for Local Council Clerks. These organisations offer help and support to Clerks and Councillors and they are our first port of call for advice and guidance. We regularly attend the training courses on offer to ensure that we are kept up to date and continue to operate as a 'Quality Council'.

As a village with a conservation area and with increasing development within the County we are also members of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) and ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England).

We have been represented at the local Police Community Panel meetings and at the Pitsford Reservoir User Group meetings. We also have representation on the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Trust, the Relief in Need Charity and the Thomas Roe Foundation.

Highways

We work closely with our new Community Liaison Officer with County Highways. Cars

speeding through the village has remained one of our main considerations. Often cars mount the pavement in order to pass another car and we recognise that this can be a very dangerous situation. The County Council is of the opinion that parked cars on the High Street are the best deterrent and placing bollards on the pavement could cause accidents, and in some cases they have now been removed from other villages. In consultation with the Community Liaison Officer we have placed another sign warning cars of the narrow road when approaching from Old. We are hoping the sign will act as another form of deterrent to those that speed. Unfortunately we have not been able to come up with any other practical solution at this time but it is an on-going discussion.

We are also very grateful to our Footpath Warden, Diane Kimbell who inspects our footpaths and reports any problems which may arise.

Grass cutting and grounds maintenance

This year we appointed a new contractor and we have been very pleased with the level and quality of service they have provided and we hope you would agree the verges, greens and playing field have looked at their best once again. The grass cutting and grounds maintenance is one of our main items of expenditure each year. Maintaining the service at the level the village has come to expect accounts for approximately 25% of our annual expenditure.

Street lighting

The Council own the street lights and have the responsibility for lighting the village. The electricity is currently supplied by E-ON and we also use them for our maintenance works. The street lighting accounts for just under 20% of our annual expenditure.

Planning applications, statutory consultations and works to trees

In addition to being consulted and responding to a variety of planning applications this year, the Council also received numerous consultation documents from the District and County. Although we are not obliged to respond to all of these, there was work involved in ascertaining if they held any importance or significance to the village and, where relevant, our views were submitted. We are extremely grateful to our voluntary Tree Warden, Dylan Lewis, who continues to provide advice on planning applications for works to trees. We are currently working with him on a tree management policy to establish a defined process for dealing with applications for works to trees and we are intending to put in place an inspection regime for the Council owned trees.

Playing Field

Our Playing Field is a great village asset and the Council work with the 'Friends of the Playing Field' group to ensure it is well kept and maintained for the benefit of all. Regular inspections are carried out by trained members of the group to ensure that the playing field and the equipment is safe. The Council holds regular meetings with key representatives from the group to assist with its care and management and we are extremely grateful to them and all the group members for their hard work. Many of you will have noticed the small groupings of hedging trees recently planted. These were donated to the Council by the Woodland Trust and planted at one of the recent volunteer work sessions. Some of the hedging was planted at the entrance to the area and these trees will provide some screening in future years for the neighbouring property.

A special mention to Georgina Carter and Michelle Wharton who devote so much time to the Playing Field – your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Communications

The Agenda and Minutes of our meetings are displayed on the notice board located on the bus shelter. These are also posted on our website which is regularly updated and includes the publication of the Annual Report as well as providing information on policies, procedures and items we consider to be of interest to the village. We make regular contributions to the village newsletter and notify parishioners of the dates for upcoming meetings. A copy of our Minutes and Annual Reports are also held on file at Brixworth Library.

Finance

The year saw a return to ‘normal’ levels of income and expenditure as the Playing Field grant funding concluded. We were able to make 2 small donations; a contribution to the Club for the bonfire and firework evening and a contribution towards the repair of the collapsed sections of church wall. These donations were part possible due to a compensation payment from our bank following our formal complaint of poor service.

Finally – I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all their hard work during the past year and especially my Vice Chairman, Eugene for all his support and commitment. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our Clerk, Alicia whose efficiency, skillful organisation and extensive knowledge has made my role as Chairman quite effortless. With Alicia as our Clerk I feel totally confident that we are following Best Practice, operating within Government guidelines, and will continue to maintain our Quality Parish Council Status. Thank You.

Pam Long.

SCALDWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Summary Receipts and Payments Account
For the Year Ended 31 March 2014

Year Ended 31 March 2013		Year Ended 31 March 2014
£		£
	RECEIPTS	
11800.00	Precept	11800 .00
16.80	Bank Interest	24.59
280.73	NCC Grant towards grass cutting	280.73
5249.75	Grants and donations	3558.34
<u>0.00</u>	Bank compensation	<u>328.02</u>
17347.28		15991.68
<u>11139.92</u>	VAT Recovered	<u>191.69</u>
28487.20	Total Receipts	16183.37
	PAYMENTS	
1680.00	Parish grass cutting	2359.81
545.00	Annual Audit fees	345.00
1080.75	Insurance	1057.51
712.51	Street lighting - electricity supply	710.07
226.05	Street lighting - maintenance	235.60
95.00	Hire of Hall for meetings	120.00
2280.99 (230.19)	Clerk salary gross (<i>of which HMRC</i>)	2028.36 (410.47)
205.78	Clerk expenses	279.88
0.00	Training/training expenses	549.00
168.50	Annual subscriptions	190.91
2299.66	Playing field - inspection/maintenance	111.06
18325.30	Playing field - equipment	0.00
0.00	Grants to village organisations	600.00
195.00	Clock	201.00
210.00	Bus shelter / notice board / greens / trees	0.00
806.03	Election	0.00
15.00	Signs - Neighbourhood Watch	0.00
0.00	Other (compensation)	128.02
<u>29075.76</u>		<u>8916.22</u>
3600.43	VAT Paid	751.73
32676.19	Total Payments	9667.95

SCALDWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Bank Receipts and Payments Summary
For the Year Ended 31 March 2014

Year Ended 31 March 2013 £		Year Ended 31 March 2014 £
18256.89	Balance Brought Forward at 01.04.13	14067.90
<u>28487.20</u>	Add Total Receipts	<u>16183.37</u>
46744.09		30251.27
<u>32676.19</u>	Less Total Payments	<u>9667.95</u>
14067.90	Balance Carried Forward at 31.03.14	20583.32
Funds are represented by:		
500.00	Current Account - Royal Bank of Scotland	500.00
<u>14779.61</u>	Deposit Account - Royal Bank of Scotland	<u>20127.32</u>
15279.61	Held at bank at 31 March 2013	20627.32
1211.71	Less unrepresented cheques at 31 March 2013	<u>44.00</u>
14067.90	True balance	20583.32

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972: The limit for this council for the year ended 31 March 2014 was £1,765.94 (ie 253 electors multiplied by £6.98). 1 payment was made of £500.00 as a contribution towards the repair of the collapsed boundary wall to the churchyard.

VAT refund: monies claimed and owing for VAT 2013/14 from HMRC £751.73.

Unrepresented cheques: total £44.00 (787, Northants ACRE £35.00 & 789, Eugene O'Leary £9.00)

SCALDWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Assets Register (held at original cost value)
For the Year Ended 31 March 2014

	£
Bus shelter	2546.86
3 teak seats	1446.81
1 waste bin	58.05
Children's swings	320.78
Children's slide	2467.48
Cricket strip	1915.25
Parish clock	10203.70
Lamp outside church	2468.52
Street lamp	730.80
5 street lamps	3965.80
Street lamp on pole	793.15
9 street lamps and poles	858.25
4 street lamps and house brackets	381.45
Bench (playing field)	569.21
2 goal posts and nets	616.88
Notice board (bus shelter)	556.50
Sensor light to village hall	87.48
2 dog waste bins	694.27
Sign (for village hall /playing field)	568.80
Jungle climber	7089.00
Monkey bars	438.00
2 bay junior swing	2836.00
City rota bouncer	2535.00
City air rider	1517.00
Lakeland table	384.00
Sleeper step	90.00
Embankment ramp	896.00
Log walk	48.00
Inclusive orbit	3454.00
Safer grass	2574.00
Wetpour	2162.00
Raised edging boards	588.00
Terram	223.00
Cushion fall/loosefill	1617.00
Small fort	4160.00
Log train	753.00
Logs	1987.00
Playsand	3335.00
Terram	186.00
U tube metal	2676.00
Wobble board	505.00
2 cradle seats	196.00

Cricket nets	269.68
Sign (for village hall /playing field)	119.89
Willow tunnel kits	301.00
Roll over bars	238.00
Safety grass	234.00
Cableway	4250.00
Bespoke table	785.00
Multi sports system, round closed goal, goal post	3610.00
Flymobile roundabout	1481.00
Rock n bowl dish rotaplay	1675.00
Cockerel 3 way bouncer	1032.00
Sit in spring mobile	871.00
Monmouth litter bin	330.00
Topsoil	1190.00
Outdoor sports gym equipment	3434.40
Notice board (playing field)	858.00
Field gate and kiss gate	1000.00
Sculptures	3000.00
Garden tools	59.00
Shed	330.00
Cycle stands	168.00
Neighbourhood watch signs	15.00
TOTAL	96750.01

Signed
Chairman

.....
Responsible Financial Officer

.....
Date