

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2006/7.

The Chairman's report was: *"One of the biggest changes has been the faces at this top table. During the year our Parish Clerk, Opal, resigned and was replaced by Shelagh McIntyre. Shelagh is a MUCH harder taskmaster than Opal ever was. She is making us do things 'by the book' and she is leading us towards applying to be a Quality Council. This can only be an advantage to the Village.*

During the year, Judi Whitely resigned due to pressures of work and was replaced by Andy Dunlop. Later in the year Mark Harper had to resign when he left the Village. Mark was replaced by Stewart Shield. Your Council is now back up to full strength with 7 elected members.

During the year the area between the Northern Bus Shelter and the Church has had a new path and kerbstones and the large puddle at the entrance to Swaton Court has been repaired. The pathways in front of the Council Houses down West End have finally been repaired.

We have also had a meeting with the new man at Lincolnshire Highways who was extremely helpful and agreed to several projects to repair paths, potholes and roads and to do other general enhancements within the village. We have been talking to the Lincs Road Safety Partnership about doing something about the many accidents and deaths at the A52 crossroads. We will continue to press for action.

The Council has employed a new company to cut the grass in the village. This saves YOU about £200 per year and ensures that the grass is cut 10 times per year rather than 7. Unfortunately there has been a glitch (or two) with the start of the new contract. We hope this is now resolved.

It has been agreed to have some form of Sculpture at the Northern entrance to the village. This is a project run by Arts N K and Liz Harborow is liaising with them. More about this in the Parish Council meeting. Arts N K has also provided a wood carving course for villagers.

Our Village Newsletter has again appeared on a regular basis, keeping us all well informed. I would like to THANK Laura for doing this thankless task well. WELL DONE, Laura.

The village now has its own website. This was a Lincs C C project at no cost to the Village. It can be seen at www.swaton.org.uk Suggestions are welcome on it's content and if anyone has any photos of Swaton which they would like the world to see, then please contact me.

Village litter has been a much discussed topic.

There is the possibility of a NKDC subsidised joint venture between the villages of Helpringham, Little Hale, Great Hale and Swaton. In the meantime a privately organised 'Village Litter Walk' is being held on Sunday June 10th. Anyone willing to join in, please see Andy Dunlop or Henk Buijs.

Dog Fouling is STILL a problem with NO solution to date. The joint venture mentioned above could incorporate a Dog Warden, but unless he is in the right place at the right time, he will be ineffective.

During the year we met our Police Community Officer – Patrick Welby Everard. Patrick has been involved to date with Speed Traps in the village, problems with a dangerous dog and at various break-ins and thefts. An asset to the village !

AND FINALLY – We have a New District Councillor – Mr Jim Cook. He is an Independent Councillor who lives and farms in Osbournby. We hope for great things from him !"

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Cllr Richardson, the RFO, reported: *"We started the year with £2057.31*

We had an income from the Precept, Newsletter Advertising and Bank Interest of £2064.86

We spent £1828.16 on running the Council, this included paying our Clerk, Stationary, Postage, Repairs, Insurance, Training, Hut Rental and Subscriptions.

We finished the year with £2294.01 A net gain of £236.70

This is carried forward into the 2007 / 2008 year

Within the Budget for the 2007/2008 year we had to make an allowance for potential costs of elections. We did not have to pay for these – but could not know this until 4 months after the Budget had to be finalised. The Budgeted Precept remained the same for 2007/2008 as the previous year @ £2000.

However, unless unexpected costs arise, it is likely that next year's Precept may be able to be lowered."