

# **Swaton Parish Council**

## **Chairman's Report**

**Parish Council Year 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010**

This year has seen the Parish Council remain the same with five Councillors and no resignations or co-options.

Members of the Council have again attended several NKDC 'Cluster' meetings. These are where 13 Parish Councils get together to 'air their views' with NKDC. We have continued to make our presence known !

The Speed Gun and a Speed Sign, purchased by our Cluster have continued to be used regularly by the Police in the area with good results. The Cluster is considering enabling some parishes to make alterations to the electrical wiring in their Village Halls so that the Halls can be run from generators in emergency situations when the local Electricity supply is down. A Rural Transport Survey has also been initiated.

Two litter picks in and around Swaton were organised during the year, resulting in about 20 bin bags full of rubbish being collected from road verges. Thanks must go to Henk Buijs, for organising these. Henk is also paid (a small amount) by the Council (thanks to a NKDC grant) to keep the village clean between Litter Picks. This year Litter Bins have been fitted at each Bus Shelter.

These actions will help our application for a 'Best Kept Village' nomination. We are proud of our village and hope that residents will back us up on this by keeping verges and gardens as tidy as possible ! A lot was learned from last year's competition and this has allowed us to identify areas for improvement.

Vandalism raised it's head in the village. Our noticeboard was damaged twice and has since been repositioned. This cost us all a total of £318 !

Dog fouling continues to be a problem in the village. Please clean up after your pet.

After consultations with the Environment Agency, our 'Early Warning' system has been reprogrammed to give us earlier warning of potential flooding. Negotiations continue about other preventative measures.

After last year's Lighting Review, it was decided that extra lighting is needed around the junction of West End and High Street. This has now been done.

Our Village Newsletter continues. Thank You, Andy !

In all a successful year for the Council. Please contact any Councillor if you have concerns or feel that something needs to change. We will do our best to help.

# **Swaton Parish Council**

## **Responsible Financial Officer's Report**

**Financial Year 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010**

The Council started the year with £3082.60 in the Bank.

We received income of £2422.02 from the Precept, NKDC for S I D Insurance, extra Auditor's charges and Litter Picking, LCC for Grasscutting and NatWest for Bank Interest.

We spent £2978.79 on running the Council and maintaining the village, this included paying our Clerk, Stationary, Postage, Insurance, Training, Subscriptions, Hut Rental, Repairs (of £318.00) due to Vandalism, Purchase of two Litter Bins and Grasscutting.

We finished the year with £2525.83 in the Bank.

This shows a nett loss of £556.77. This is a budgeted loss to bring our reserves down in line with Government directives and recommendations from LALC. We actually budgeted to lose £1025.00 - So are actually £468.23 better off than expected due to efficiencies.

The £2525.83 is carried forward into the 2010 / 2011 year.

Within the Budget for the 2010/2011 year we have planned a further loss of £865.00 to bring Contingencies down to the recommended £700 for Staffing and General Costs plus Reserves of approx. 3 month's running costs.