

Swallow Parish Council

Chairman, Cllr. G L T Baxter's Report for the year ended 31st March 2005

1. **Parish Council Precept**

The 2004/2005 Precept was £3,500 but as can be seen from the copy of the budget included in the January/Spring 2005 issue of the Parish Newsletter, it was necessary to increase the 2005/2006 Precept to £4,500. This will allow for necessary repairs to the fabric of the Village Hall. All other expenditure items were closely scrutinised and only minor increases approved.

2. **Planning**

The proposal to build seven dwellings on the meadow opposite the Church has not yet been finalised.

The site is the habitat of a protected specie, the Great Crested Newt. English Nature has been involved in measures to protect the colony, encouraging the newts to find alternative places to breed, feed and hibernate.

Brocklesby Estates applied to build a house on land between the Forge and Village Farmhouse, Caistor Road but this was refused by West Lindsey District Council.

The new West Lindsey District Council Local Plan is proceeding through its revision procedures.

3. **Village Maintenance**

J W Cousins & Sons (Farmers) Ltd has continued to mow the grass areas of the Playing Field and land adjacent to the Church with care and efficiency. The contract has been renewed for 2005/2006.

The Swallow bus shelter was reroofed but again suffered vandal damage to three windows at Christmas. The culprit has repaid the cost of replacing the windows.

4. **Community Service Unit**

The Unit has recently undergone a series of administrative changes but has continued to come to Swallow whenever possible. The Unit's much valued work has included: -

- i) Site of boys' toilet block, in what is now the Hall car park, was levelled, concreted and dressed to blend in with the area.
- ii) Steps were laid to the green area below.
- iii) Disabled access to the Playing Field was created.
- iv) 10 sacks of bulbs, generously donated by Mr Arthur Baxter of Beelsby Road, were planted.
- v) 25 trees provided free by Lincolnshire County Council were also planted.
- vi) General maintenance work was carried out in gardens, Playing Field and Churchyard.

These are valuable contributions to the Village environment and are much appreciated. The Parish Council is grateful to the hard work and dedication of the CSU Supervisors.

5. **Bus Service (Lincolnshire County Council)**

The Lincoln, Grimsby, Cleethorpes 3 and return service is fully operational. Until bus stops are built at the top of Limber Hill, the temporary morning service into Grimsby and return will be maintained. A footpath linking Swallow crossroads to the A46 will also be constructed.

6. **Wheeled Bins (West Lindsey District Council)**

This service is now fully operational.

7. **Payphone, Cuxwold**

Under BT's nationwide review of the payphone service, the Cuxwold box was scheduled for closure. The Parish Council made strenuous objections to BT, enlisting the support of Edward Leigh MP. It is now being considered as a High Level Complaint & West Lindsey District Council is treating all threatened closures in the District as a matter for concern. Swallow Parish Council has also made a submission to Ofcom, as they are reviewing BT's universal service obligation. Council has also requested the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to consider Listed Building Status for the Giles Gilbert Scott designed kiosk

8. **Trees bordering highways and paths on Sutton's Estates Land**

You will be aware that a number of trees on roadsides in and around Swallow have been felled, having been declared by the Estates to be dangerous or dying. Council & West Lindsey District Council strongly contested the decisions to fell, despite existing Tree Preservation Orders. An independent arboriculturist was commissioned to review all trees bordering highways, roads, bridlepaths and footpaths throughout Sutton's Estates. Some trees will have to be felled in accordance with good husbandry practices but Sutton's Estates have pledged to replant wherever felling is necessary.

9. **Lincolnshire Award of Merit 2004**

We were very pleased to recommend Mrs Mary Dixon for this Award, in grateful thanks for her many years of devoted service to the sick and elderly of the Village. We were proud to see her as a most deserving winner and a framed photograph of the presentation is displayed in the Village Hall.

10. **Donations made: -**

Caistor Yarborough Sports Hall	£50.00
West Lindsey Citizens Advice Bureau	£50.00
British Legion poppy wreath	£15.00

11. **Quality Council Status**

The Clerk to the Council has now received her Accreditation Certificate in Local Council Administration. This is an important step forward in our determination to achieve Quality Council Status in the near future.

12. **Chairman, Cllr. Baxter** thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their commitment and work during the year and also Joe Thompson for making the refreshments at meetings.

Please note the following items of further interest: -

Caistor Library New Opening Hours

Monday	2.00pm to 7.00pm	Thursday	2.00pm to 5.30pm
Tuesday	Closed	Friday	2.00pm to 7.00pm
Wednesday	2.00pm to 5.30pm	Saturday	10.00am to 12.30pm

Tea and coffee making facilities are now available at the Library.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr. Wallace, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator reminds everyone to lock house doors, when working outside in the garden and to be aware of telephone scams offering all kinds of free gifts and holidays. Do not respond to requests to enter telephone numbers, with promises of unknown winnings.

Swallow Website

The website www.swallowpc.co.uk is available to everyone. If you wish to publish an event, provide some local news etc. please contact the Clerk, Veronica Hewins or just logon to see what is happening.