

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

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Winter 2006/07

TOP AWARD FOR SKATE PARK

SPROTBROUGH and Cusworth Parish Council has beaten off tough competition from across South and West Yorkshire to win a top community award.

Our skate park on Anchorage Lane collected first prize in the annual Yorkshire Rural Community Council (YRCC) Village Ventures competition, after judges voted it this year's best rural community project.

The parish council collected the **£500** first prize for the project, which was the successful outcome of working with local young people to provide a skate park.

YRCC judges were impressed with how councillors consulted with young people on the type of skate park they wanted and included them in each step of the project, from fund raising, to design and now its management following completion.

Sally Rawlings, chief executive of YRCC, congratulated the parish council saying: "It is fantastic to see so many people carrying



Parish councillor Brian Woodhouse is pictured here with the competition plaque alongside skate park user Liam Shipley, parish clerk Anita Unsworth and Lord Crathorne from YRCC.



Any group that carried out voluntary projects for the benefit of the local community in West and South Yorkshire was eligible to enter, with this year's competition attracting many entries.

Doreen Woodhouse, Chair of Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council, said: "This is a marvellous achievement for the parish council. To win this award in the face of fierce competition from other entries shows that our skate park project is an example of best practice when it comes to involving the community at every stage."

The Village Ventures competition plaque, which is loaned to the winner for a year, currently hangs in the Goldsmith Centre committee room. Pictured above with the plaque are the parish council's Vice Chair Fred Thompson, Chair of Policy and General Purposes Committee Kerry Wood, Chair Doreen Woodhouse and Vice-Chair of Policy and General Purposes Committee, Brian Woodhouse. As Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News went to press, members of Sprotbrough Fracture Factory - the Skate Park User Group - were debating how they wanted to spend the **£500 prize-money**.

out voluntary work for the benefit of their local communities. I am delighted that YRCC can play a part in helping to ensure that this good work is given the recognition it deserves."

Based at Skelton, near York, YRCC is an independent charitable and voluntary organisation working across rural areas of North, South and West Yorkshire and the City of York. It works to help communities improve the quality of life for all people living and working in rural Yorkshire

The Village Ventures competition has been running for over 10 years and aims to highlight and promote voluntary projects in rural areas which benefit the local community.

SPROTBROUGH & CUSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL WISH YOU A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 2007

PLANS FOR A NEW COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE

THE parish council is urging Doncaster Council to quickly hand over a plot of wasteland off Melton Road so work can start on transforming it into a community open space.

The land, plus a cash sum of around **£40,000**, was given to Doncaster Council as part of a planning consent agreement with developers who built new homes at the entrance to Sprotbrough from the High Melton side.

The land and funds are still held by Doncaster Council, though the parish council has for some time been pressing for it to be transferred over so it can be turned into a community resource. The land can be accessed from Melton Road and New Lane and is adjacent to the parish council's New Lane playing field.

The parish council initially looked at the possibility of turning the land into a football pitch, with an on-site changing room to be added at a later date. But specialist consultants who were commissioned to carry out a feasibility study concluded that the proposal was a non-starter because:



The land as it is now, viewed from New Lane playing field.

- an existing overhead power cable would have to be buried underground at considerable cost;
- the land retains water and would need a new drainage system; and
- the subsoil is very rocky and would not support a well drained pitch without thousands of tonnes of topsoil being removed and screened.

In addition, there are enough football pitches in the parish to meet the needs of local teams. Teams from out of the area are now using them for their home games because of the surplus capacity. This prompted parish councillors to ask parishioners for their ideas on how the area could be developed. Unfortunately only 21 residents responded to the survey and no consensus about its future use emerged.

One suggestion, to turn into a bowling green, was discussed by the parish council but turned down as it was not viable because of the high preparation costs and equally high maintenance fees.

Faced with expensive development costs that would have far exceeded the £40,000 allocated to the site, the parish council commissioned Doncaster Council to draw up plans to transform the area into a mix of new trees and grassland, with benches for people to sit and rest. This drawing sets the scene.

The land will need clearing before it can be restored, including removing many self-set trees.

As Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News went to press, Doncaster Council's Neighbourhood Manager for Sprotbrough confirmed that the local authority was prepared to let the parish council acquire the land on a 99 year lease. With the lease would come funding from the £40,000 allocation to pay for the development and on-going maintenance costs. As we went to print, no date had been agreed for the transfer but parish councillors remain hopeful that it is imminent as they want to see the wasteland transformed into a valuable new community resource.



Setting The Record Straight

By Coun Doreen Woodhouse, Chairperson of the Parish Council

THE parish council has considered an article published on the front page of the October edition of Sprotbrough Community Newsletter which conveyed a totally inaccurate and misleading image of both the way the parish council works and the professional manner in which the Clerk to the Council - the senior member of the staff team - carries out her duties. The parish council wish to be totally disassociated from the remarks made. Sprotbrough Community News is an independent publication not linked to the parish council.

Local councils (parish and town councils) are open to public scrutiny and accountable to the electorate in numerous ways. The minutes, the official record of debate at parish council meetings, can be viewed on our website (www.sc-pc.co.uk) and paper copies can be read at Sprotbrough library and on the parish notice board outside Sprotbrough Post Office. In addition, the public have an open invitation to attend parish council meetings. Any elector who is dissatisfied with either the level of service provided by the parish council or its employees should write to the Chair of the Council at the address on the back page of this newsletter, giving reasons for their dissatisfaction. The parish council will then consider the matter.

All parish council decisions, particularly those with financial implications, are scrutinised in detail as part of the external audit process. The auditor has raised no issues.

The parish council will continue to work for the benefit of the local community within the appropriate legal context and framework and have every confidence in the ability and professionalism of the Clerk to the Council, Miss A. Unsworth J.P., in helping to achieve these aims.

Class of 2006 is the best

RIDGEWOOD headteacher, Chris Hoyle, praised the achievements of last year's Year 11 - dubbed the 'Class of 2006' - after they notched up the school's best ever academic performance.

He was speaking at the school's annual presentation of certificates at Doncaster Minster, where the former pupils' examination successes were celebrated in front of their parents and teachers. Referring to his on-going campaign for a sixth-form centre to be created at the school, Mr Hoyle said: "We would have preferred to work with, and benefit from, this year group for at least

another two years. If that choice is ever eventually extended to a future Ridgewood Year 11 group, it will have been achieved through the repeated contributions of young people like those we are here to celebrate tonight."

Of the 251 Ridgewood pupils in Year 11 last year, 214 left the school with 10 or more GCSE and GNVQ passes, including Rachel Froggatt who passed 15.

MORE success - Ridgewood's Director of Engineering, Dr Brian Stones, has collected a top teaching award. Dr Stones, who has taught at the school for over 30 years and was previously Head of Science, was presented with the Ted Wragg Teaching Award for Lifetime Achievement. The award is sponsored by the government's Department for Education and Science Innovation Unit in the north of England. Dr Stones' current role includes responsibility for community links and thanks to his influence more than 70 companies are now in partnership with Ridgewood, supporting its specialist school status.

These figures sum up Ridgewood's Year 11 2006 examination performance:

- 79 per cent of pupils passed five or more subjects at A* - C grades.
- 97 per cent of pupils passed five or more subjects at A* - G grades.
- 99 per cent of pupils passed one or more subjects at A* - G grades.

Wait and see

PARISH councillors have decided to take a 'wait and see' approach before making a decision on whether or not to fund a painting programme at the Anchorage Lane skate park.

Following the advice of Doncaster Council's Playgrounds Officer, councillors are monitoring a painting project at Hexthorpe skate park, which was led by staff from DARTS (Doncaster Arts), who also involved local young people in the design. They want to see how durable the Hexthorpe artwork is before committing funds to a similar venture at Sprotbrough.

CLICK ON US

YOU can follow the work of Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council by visiting our website at www.sc-pc.co.uk.

The agenda and minutes for the various parish council committees are placed on the meetings section of the website and there are various links to other sites, including the local weather forecast from the BBC. You can also email your comments about the site - including any ideas for new pages or suggested improvements - to the parish clerk using the interactive email facility on the 'contact us' page'.

Similarly, if you would like to publicise a local event or community group you are involved with, let us know. Visit the website and use the email link to send your information to us.

MORE SPACE

COUNCILLORS have agreed a £15,000 project to create more parking spaces on the popular Anchorage Lane car park. Doncaster Council has promised money to help pay for the work.

The extra spaces will be created where the playing field's former changing rooms once stood and will also include secure new motorcycle and bicycle stands.

In addition, parish councillors agreed to fence off the Anchorage Lane playing field to stop vehicles being driven on to the football pitches and causing on-going damage to the playing surface. As Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News went to press work had started on erecting the fencing. Doncaster Council has also agreed to provide funding towards this work as well.

SOUNDING OFF IN THE LIBRARY

PARISH councillor Norman Dent caused a stir when he made a musical donation to Sprotbrough library...

Norman, pictured here with librarian Katherine Marriott, gifted a 100-year-old bugle which used to belong to the 67th Doncaster Sprotbrough Scouts to the library, where it is now on display in an upstairs cabinet.

But not before he had a final, unsuccessful, go at trying to play a tune.



Norman first came across the bugle as a youngster when it was kept in an upstairs room at the home of his grandmother, Minnie Dent, in Main Street, Sprotbrough. He's not sure how or why she came to have it, though he recalls that many years ago she used to provide uniforms for the scout group. Norman said: "I first saw it when I was about six and it was many years later, when granny died, that it was passed on to me. I thought it was now appropriate to give it to Sprotbrough library so local people can see a little bit of local history.

"I never could play it", he laughed.

WELL DONE, JORDAN

BIG-HEARTED former Sprotbrough man Jordan Womack has boosted a charity's coffers by climbing one of the world's best known mountains.

Jordan, 25, whose parish councillor dad, Paul, lives at Clifton Drive, completed a sponsored climb of Tanzania's Mt Kilimanjaro, raising £3,000 - including a donation from the parish council - for the Whizz Kids good cause, which provides special electric wheelchairs for disabled children.

The former Richmond Hill and Ridgewood schoolboy, who is now a marketing manager at the London headquarters of supermarket giant Tesco, completed the gruelling 5, 895 metres hike to the summit and back in six days.

The temperature at the top was a chilling minus 27 degrees, but it was all worthwhile as Jordan explained. "Tesco chose Whizz Kids to be their charity of the year for 2006 and so I decided to see what I could do to help with fund-raising. Climbing Kilimanjaro was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life but it's very satisfying to know that as a result of Tesco's involvement, enough money has been raised across the company to pay for specialist electric wheelchairs for nearly 400 disabled youngsters. A big thanks to the parish council for their £100 donation to this good cause as well."



Jordan at the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro, wearing a Doncaster Rovers shirt

CALL FOR EMISSIONS CUT

SPROTBOUGH and Cusworth Parish Council has called on Mayor Winter to consult widely with Doncaster residents to draw up a policy for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in the borough.

In addition, the parish council has written to our constituency MPs asking them to support amendments to the Climate Change Bill which have been proposed by Friends of the Earth. This is to ensure the thrust of the Climate Change Bill, as contained in the Queen's Speech, includes powers to reduce emissions and provide accountability to the people.

PLAYGROUNDS REVIEW

COUNCILLORS Kerry Wood and Brian Woodhouse are currently carrying out a review of the parish council's four playgrounds.

The aim is to see if the playgrounds need a major 'makeover', though the likely cost of such a move would be between £100,000 and £120,000 per site. The parish council would investigate all ways of securing grant money to help fund any agreed modernisation programme.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

For advice on Doncaster Council services that affect Sprotbrough and Cusworth, from community safety, rubbish collection and street lighting to cleaning up graffiti, contact: West Area Support Team 01302 862817

Fishy tale in the Don

A four-page feature in the Yorkshire Post magazine in October highlighted the revival of the River Don. It contained colour photographs taken near Sprotbrough weir, including one of an 11-pound salmon caught by fisheries officers from the Environment Agency as they conducted a routine survey.

Previously there had been sightings of salmon trying to swim upstream and just four years ago an angler became the first person for two centuries to catch a salmon on the Don using a rod and line.

Salmon and sea trout are now gathering near Sprotbrough weir every year but can't get any further. The magazine report said that an examination of the fish captured in August found that it was in good health but its scales and fins were eroded, indicating that it had been trying hard to climb the weir to swim upstream to spawn. Unfortunately it could cost as much as £400,000 to construct a fish pass - a series of steps that allow salmon, barbell and other fish to climb over the weir. Government funds are not available but it's hoped that National Lottery and other grant aid could be.

USE YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

A SELECTION of new novels have recently been added to the stock of Doncaster Libraries, all of which can be borrowed through the Sprotbrough branch. They include:

- Redcap, a war story by Brian Callison, set in Cyprus in 1957. Bill Walker, a veteran Royal Military Police staff sergeant is trying to maintain his hard-as-nails Redcap image when really he's a reluctant hero desperate to stay alive. And this aim is endangered when only he knows his commanding officer is a murderous psychopath who has sworn to kill him.
- The Lords of the North, a powerful historical novel by Bernard Cornwell featuring betrayal, romance and struggle, set in an England of turmoil, upheaval and glory. Uhtred, a Northumbrian raised as a Viking, a man without lands, a warrior without a country, has become a splendid heroic figure.

- Piece of My Heart, a detective and mystery story by Peter Robinson. Inspector Alan Banks is investigating the murder of a freelance music journalist who was working on a feature about the Mad Hatters for MOJO magazine. This is not the first time that the Mad Hatters, now aging rock stars, have been brushed by tragedy - as Banks soon finds out.

Sprotbrough Library and Customer Service Centre is open at the following times:

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Monday | 9am - 7pm |
| Tuesday | 9am - 6pm |
| Wednesday | 9am - 6pm |
| Thursday | 9am - 1pm |
| Friday | 9am - 6pm |
| Saturday | 9am - 4pm |

For more information ring Doncaster 782436

On the Cusworth and Sprotbrough beat

COMMUNITY policewoman Lynne Walker said there has been a significant reduction in local crime since April his year.

Speaking at the October meeting of the parish council, PC Walker said there was an on-going local operation to target off-road motorcycling and youth nuisance. She said that during September and October, the police had seized 14 motorcycles and handed out 23 warning notices to riders.

Local 'hot-spots', including Anchorage Lane and the bottom of Newton Lane, continue to be patrolled and this had reduced nuisance complaints, though she did report that youth problems were increasing in and around Sprotbrough Main Street. PC Walker said the area was being targeted and the police want to make it an alcohol free zone, preventing people from drinking alcohol outside. Letters have been sent to the parents of youngsters caught causing a disturbance in the area.

PC Walker also said that the installation of 'drop-down' bollards was being considered to prevent vehicles from parking alongside the telephone kiosk.

Parish councillors expressed their concern at the number of vehicles that race Along Anchorage Lane and Cusworth Lane, though PC Walker said the road policing group had carried out surveys in the two areas and not found any speeding problems. She advised residents to write to the police setting out their concerns.

Sprotbrough Hall brought to Life

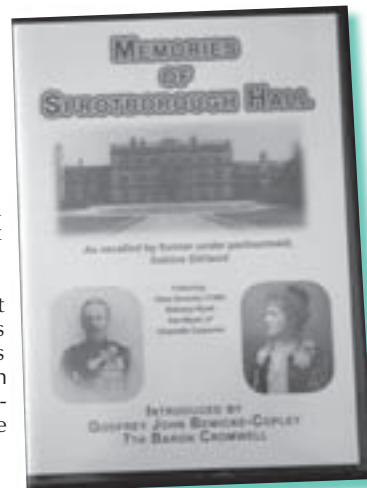
A NEW film depicting life at a long-gone local stately home had its premier in Sprotbrough village.

Around 100 people packed into St Mary's church hall to see the launch of Memories of Sprotbrough Hall, a one hour long DVD made by a group of local history enthusiasts from Swinton.

The film features the recollections of former Hall worker Sabina Stirland, who died recently aged 101. Sabina gives a candid account of working life in the 1920s, when as a 15-year-old under parlour maid she started her chores at 6.00 am and rarely finished before 10.30pm.

The film is introduced by the 7th Baron Cromwell, great grandson of the Bewicke-Copley family - Sprotbrough Hall's last residents - who now lives in Rugby. It features details of the sale of the Hall estate in 1926, when more than 3,600 acres of land raised nearly £60,000, as well as re-enactments, local scenes, internal and external views of the Hall, and many photographs never publicly seen before.

- Copies of the DVD cost £10 each (plus £1 for postage and packing) from Bridge Street Productions Limited. Tel: 01709 581667. Or from the Spar supermarket on Main Street, Sprotbrough.



Remembering the fallen

PARISH councillors laid a wreath from the parish council at Sprotbrough's annual remembrance service, paying their respect to the more than 20 local men who died in the two world wars.

Pictured are councillors Brian Woodhouse, Norman Dent and Doreen Woodhouse alongside Sprotbrough's war memorial, in the grounds of St Mary's Church.



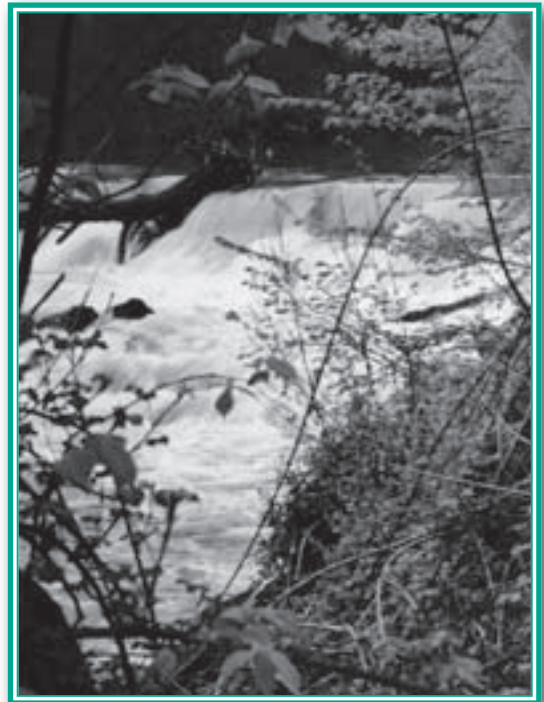
Setting out a 10 Year Vision For The Don Gorge

A NEW partnership has come together to preserve and enhance an area of outstanding natural beauty which runs through our parish. The Don Gorge Strategic Partnership, which was launched in October by Doncaster Council's Deputy Mayor Coun Margaret Ward, intends to manage the Gorge by using their combined expertise to achieve a number of key aims over the next 10 years.

Their objectives are set out in a new 'blueprint' for the area called the Don Gorge Strategic Management Plan, which was developed by Don Gorge Project Officer Rachael Cranch in consultation with key local organisations. The plan focuses on four important areas:

- Visitor management, access and recreation;
- Areas of geological, archaeological and heritage interest;
- Management of the river and banks; and
- Species and habitat management.

Representatives from British Waterways, Environment Agency, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Lafarge Aggregates, Don Gorge Community Group, and Doncaster Council were the first to sign the plan, underlining their commitment to making it happen.



The plan sets the way forward until 2016, though it is hoped that the framework will be used indefinitely now it has been adopted by the partnership. Rachael said: "This is a positive step forward for all the partners involved and for the future of the Don Gorge."



Locally, the role of the community-backed Don Gorge Community Liaison Group is to:

- disseminate information from the strategic partnership meetings to the community via local press, parish councils, events and other appropriate means; and

- carry out consultation with the community, obtain feedback and through their representative, report back to the strategic partnership at the quarterly meetings.

You can contact the liaison group via the secretary, Kevin Lennox (01302 851830), chairman, Bernard Pearson (01302 857291) or Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council (01302 788093).

- If you would like more information about getting involved with practical conservation volunteering in the Don Gorge, contact Doncaster Council's West Area Ranger on 01709 864897.



At Your Service...

YOU can keep in touch with the work of Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council by going along to one or more of our committee meetings:

Parish Council

The full Council meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the Goldsmith Centre, with the exception of March and September when it meets at Scawsby Community Centre. No meeting is held in August

Planning & LA 21 Projects Committee

Meets on the third Thursday of the month, usually at 7pm, though times sometimes vary.

Finance Committee

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, July, September and November at the Goldsmith Centre. Starting time usually 7pm but this can vary depending on the agenda.

Policy & General Purposes Committee

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, excluding August and December, at the Goldsmith Centre. Starting time between 7 and 7:30pm.

The minutes and agendas of all meetings can be viewed on our website - www.sc-pc.co.uk. In addition, posters advertising details of the meetings, plus agendas and minutes, are on display at Sprotbrough library, on parish council notice boards, plus Thorpe Lane post office and retail outlets. If you would like to attend a parish council meeting and have difficulty using public transport, the Dial-a-bus service may be able to help. Ring them on Doncaster **360600** for more information.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

THREE local residents have joined the parish council to replace three of the four councillors who recently resigned. Carolyn Taylor, Mary Wimbury and Paul Womack have been co-opted to serve until the next full election of all 17 parish councillors in May 2007, leaving one vacancy. The vacancies arose following the resignations of Paul Dent, Pat Dent and Peter Watkiss in East Ward and Liz Jones in Central Ward.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council

A vacancy exists for a RELIEF PART TIME CARETAKER/CLEANER

for the **GOLDSMITH CENTRE**, 259 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough.

The above position is to cover for the Caretaker & Assistant Caretaker during holidays and will be for a minimum of eight weeks a year. In addition, cover for any staff sickness may be required. The work involves some late night and weekend working. The rates of pay and conditions are in accordance with nationally agreed. Local Council scales.

Applications are welcomed from all sections of the community who should be aged over 18. Please apply by letter stating suitability for the post and giving the names and details of two referees.

Further information on this post may be obtained from:
A.Unsworth, Clerk to the Council or
T.Hinds Deputy Clerk to the Council
at the above address or by telephone on (01302) 788093.

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News

IF you have a friend, neighbour or relative who lives in the Sprotbrough and Cusworth area but does not receive a copy Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News please let them know they can pick up a copy from Sprotbrough Library, Sprotbrough Post Office, The Goldsmith Centre, Scawsby Community Centre or from your local parish councillor. Past copies can be viewed on our website: www.sc-pc.co.uk

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

CENTRAL WARD

PAT BARTLETT
72a Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, DN5 7QL
Tel: 310575

PAUL WOMACK
51 Clifton Drive, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NL
Tel: 785208

CUSWORTH WARD

PAT HAITH
43 St Paul's Parade, Cusworth, DN5 8LJ
Tel: 562015

STEPHEN PLATT
39 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ
Tel: 782928

JACKIE MARSDEN
41 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ
Tel: 561462

BRIAN WOODHOUSE
159 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JN
Tel: 783710

STADIUM WARD

TREVOR ASHMAN
53 Wroxham Way, Cusworth, DN5 8JY
Tel: 785429

DOREEN WOODHOUSE (Chairperson)
159 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JN
Tel: 783710

EAST WARD

CAROLYN TAYLOR
6 Nottingham Close, Scawsby, DN5 8PH
Tel: 785222

MARY WIMBURY
199 Melton Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NU
Tel: 07958 521344

KERRY WOOD
23a Marlborough Ave., Sprotbrough, DN5 8HA
Tel: 783043

MALCOLM WOOD
119 Tennyson Ave., Sprotbrough, DN5 8EU
Tel: 786864

● One Vacancy

PARK WARD

NORMAN DENT
1 Melling Ave., Sprotbrough, DN5 8EQ
Tel: 784218

FRED THOMPSON (Vice Chairperson)
3 Farcliff, Sprotbrough, DN5 7RG
Tel: 852488

STONECROSS WARD

ALLAN JONES
38 Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, DN5 7QG
Tel: 858075

STEPHEN SWIFT
58 Westmorland Way, Sprotbrough, DN5 7PW
Tel: 817992

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

ANITA UNSWORTH
Goldsmith Centre, 259 Sprotbrough Road,
Sprotbrough, DN5 8BP
Tel: 788093 (answerphone/fax outside office hours)

DEPUTY CLERK

TOM HINDS
(Goldsmith Centre address)

EDITOR

IAN CARPENTER
Tel: 782603

Meetings of the parish council are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Goldsmith Centre, starting at 7.30pm, with the exception of March and September when they are held at Scawsby Community Centre at the same start time. No meeting is held in August.