AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 7 January 2008

Present — A Fraser; J Burgess; S Richardson; P Wallace; Cllr C Williams; Cllr D Booth; Clerk

In Attendance — WPC K Taylor (part attendance)

1. Apologies: L Hope-Frost

2. Declaration of Interest:
   Non-prejudicial interests were declared as follows:
   A Fraser – 6. Correspondence, 'Planning' ref Dassett House
   J Burgess – 4.j) Parish Plan.
   S Richardson declared a prejudicial interest in item 4.d) Traffic lights on Church Hill.

3. Confirmation of Minutes:
   Subject to the following addition to the Treetops Farm planning application commentary on p186: "J Burgess abstained from this item.", the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by J Burgess and seconded by S Richardson; they were then signed by A Fraser.

4. Matters Arising:
   a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch (NW) – Warwickshire Police had nothing to report specifically for the Avon Dassett area.
      The next PACT meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 9 January; A Fraser to contact L Hope-Frost to determine if she would be able to attend – Action: A Fraser.
      Further discussions with WPC Taylor took place under item 4.d) below.
   b) Traffic Calming – J Burgess gave feedback from the SpeedAware team visit that took place between 7.00am to 10.00am on 12 December 2007 on the stretch of road between Orchard Lodge and Orchard End. Significantly "90% of vehicles entering the 30mph zone were over the limit, travelling up to 55mph. This volume dramatically reduced to 9% when the flashing SID unit ... was noticed". For further details, please contact J Burgess.
   c) Drainage Issues – J Burgess reported that the following works are due to commence on 11 February 2008:
      - inspecting, repairing and cleaning all village drains;
      - investigating the drain and subsidence between the Reading Room and 4 Hill View and making good;
      - inspecting the drains by the entrance to Avon Carrow and making good.
      - permanently filling all holes in pavements and road;
      - constructing a water bar near to Poppy Cottage.
      J Burgess requested that this list be printed in the Compton Chronicle – Action: Clerk.
   d) Traffic Lights on Church Hill/Repairs to St John the Baptist Church – it was reported that some lorry drivers were ignoring the 2m width restriction and, on one occasion, a lorry was observed passing through a red light. It was recommended that parishioners make a note of any offenders (ideally detailing registration number, company name and date) and report these violations either directly to Southam police or to Parish Councillors so that they may make a consolidated report to the police. J Burgess asked that this message be included in the Compton Chronicle – Action: Clerk.

A Fraser reported that the coupling to the traffic lights had been deliberately disconnected by vandals rendering the lights temporarily out of action. A Fraser made the necessary repairs to the traffic lights.

e) Playground – Compost Bays: following debate, no action was agreed on this item.

f) Reading Room:
Maintenance – no progress. Awaiting Central Networks to fit sheaths to exterior cables prior to commencement of works by Ryan Groves.
Pest infestation – P Wallace and A Fraser to determine best way to eradicate mice from the Reading Room – Action: P Wallace/A Fraser. Once the infestation was resolved, A Fraser volunteered to clean the crockery and cutlery in the Reading Room cupboards – Action: A Fraser.

g) Allotments – S Richardson informed the Council that documentary evidence shows that the cemetery car park is consecrated ground; thus rendering it unsuitable for allotment use. S Richardson to inform interested parties that, at present, it is not possible to provide allotments within Avon Dassett – Action: S Richardson.
It was hoped that other parcels of land may be identified following land searches undertaken within the Social Housing investigations – see item 4.j) below.

h) Dog Waste Bin – Installation to take place on 8 January. (Post meeting note: job complete.)

i) Proposed Bus Shelter by Playground – discussions ensued reference the required design and precise location of the proposed new bus shelter. It was agreed that a site meeting be arranged to determine materials specification, dimensions and location with J Burgess, P Wallace and A Fraser – Action: A Fraser. Once Parish Council agreement had been reached, it was agreed that County Highways' approval would be sought – Action: J Burgess/A Fraser/P Wallace.

j) Parish Plan/Housing Needs Survey –
Parish Plan: J Burgess reported that the second draft had been received from the designers. It was hoped that this design will be approved at a meeting of the Steering Group to be held week commencing 7 January, after which printing and distribution of the Plan will follow. Thanks were expressed to P Wallace for producing a noticeboard for the Reading Room on which Parish, District and County Councillor profiles will be placed; this will satisfy an item on the Parish Plan Action Plan. J Burgess asked all Councillors to provide the necessary information or to give authorisation to use the information provided for the 2007 Fête – Action: All.
A further objective of the Plan was to upgrade village noticeboards; P Wallace to determine requirements – Action: P Wallace.
Following a query from Cllr Williams, J Burgess explained the Parish Council's approach to fulfilling its Parish Plan obligations.
Thought needs to be given to the best forum in which to report Plan activities being carried out by other groups within the community – Action: All.
Housing Needs Survey: A Fraser to contact Charles Barlow (WRCC) to schedule a further community meeting to discuss the next step – Action: A Fraser.
A Fraser had been approached by Charlie Worrall who suggested that the Council may wish to consider the inclusion of social housing alongside his proposed garage development at Lower End. S Richardson stressed that any decisions regarding location of housing – if indeed it was decided to go ahead with a social housing project in the village – would be community-led and not land owner-led. It was agreed that Charlie Worrall should be encouraged to attend future HNS meetings.

k) Website – no progress to report.

l) Procedures –
Health & Safety: professional assistance may have to be sought to carry out a Health & Safety audit after which it is hoped that a Health & Safety 'model' could be applied to fit Avon Dassett's needs. Following debate it was agreed that it would be useful to see how

other Parish Councils approach this matter; to this end S Richardson agreed to make enquiries with Harbury Parish Council – Action: S Richardson.
Parish Council Briefing Events 2008: J Burgess planned to attend a WALC training session on 2 February. No other training was identified by Councillors at this time.
Code of Conduct Training: S Richardson noted that a presentation on the new Code of Conduct was due to be held at the Parish Liaison meeting on 13 February; A Fraser to contact Liz Mansfield to determine if this is a training session – Action: A Fraser.

5. Council Report:
Cllr Williams reported that:
- the District Council was working towards setting a Council Tax increase of no more than 3.5%; figure to be confirmed.
- WRCC will no longer conduct the Best Kept Village competition. 'Best Village of the Year' is a replacement competition with a revised set of judging criteria.
Cllr Booth reported that:
- the County Council is looking to set a Council Tax increase of between 3.5% and 4.5% with a figure of 3.9% likely; again, this is to be confirmed. Adult Social Services will once again be a priority. £0.5m will be provided to reduce the risk of flooding on the county's highways.
- he has an interest in tackling truancy/youth behaviour and in 'green' power/power saving issues within the county.

6. Correspondence:
'Decorum' – Standards & Ethics Issue 4 – newsletter including a statement regarding breaches in the Code of Conduct by (former) Councillor Kevin Martin – circulated to all Parish Councillors.
Speed Limit Review Consultation A and B Class Roads – WCC document passed to J Burgess.
Warwickshire Firefighters' Families' Fund – confirmation that any donations would go to the families of the individuals who lost their lives in the Atherstone fire, and also towards a memorial. (Details of how individuals may make donations have been placed on village noticeboards.) P Wallace requested additional time to consider whether the Parish Council should make a donation. Item to be included on next agenda – Action: Clerk.
WCC Responsive Services & Empowered Communities – considerations made by S Richardson and J Burgess that Avon Dassett Parish Council supports Option One of this document, with a review after 12 months, were concurred by the Council. (Please contact the Clerk if you wish to view this document.) Clerk to respond to WCC – Action: Clerk.
Banbury Citizens Advice Bureau – it was agreed not to make a donation to this organisation.

Planning – provisional planning meeting set for Thursday 24 January 2008.
Consent was given to Sarah Rutherford for tree works at Dassett House.
It is understood that planning permission is required for the smoking den at The Avon and that the owners have been contacted by SDC regarding this matter.

7. Financial Statement:
Balances at close of business on Monday 7 January 2008:

Current account	£239.08 credit
Deposit account	£11,634.88 credit

Cheques to be issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay & expenses)	£106.75
b) W Sherriff (coffee morning expenses – Dec & Jan)	£15.39
c) SDC (training)	£45.00
d) M W Jones (mowing)	£55.00

e) A Sheasby (mowing cemetery car park x 3) £105.75
f) Npower (Reading Room electricity) £212.69
g) SDC (dog waste bin) £188.00
h) Warwickshire Training Partnership (J Burgess WALC training) £25.00

The payment of cheques was proposed by S Richardson and seconded by J Burgess.
The Clerk confirmed that precept documentation had been completed and sent to SDC.

8. Any Other Business:
   a) M40 motorway bridge – J Burgess informed the meeting that Gez Romano has issued an order for signs to be erected either side of the motorway bridge warning of the uneven road.
   b) C113 Dassett Road (known locally as Farnborough Lane) – J Burgess reported that road edges had deteriorated and required further patching. Clerk to contact County Highways. Action: Clerk.
   c) Parking Layby by playground – whilst the Parish Council is grateful that works have been undertaken to improve parking facilities at the playground, it was felt that an appropriate border was needed around the edge of the hard-standing to prevent the encroachment of grass on the parking area. D Booth volunteered to contact WCC to ascertain if works were complete to specification. Action: D Booth
   d) J Burgess enquired if her request for further information regarding agricultural planning processes had been provided by SDC? Clerk to chase SDC Planning Department for a response.
   e) A Fraser asked the Council if permission could be granted for the future burial of Mr George Randerson – a resident of Tysoe - in Avon Dassett Cemetery? Given the Randerson family's connections with this village, the Parish Council agreed that, upon the event of his death, permission is granted to inter George Randerson at the Avon Dassett Cemetery. A Fraser to notify George Randerson – Action: A Fraser.

9. Questions from the Public: None.

10. Date of Next Meeting:
The next meeting will be held on Monday 4 February 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.
Meeting closed at 9.20pm.