

Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 13th May 2013

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1. APOLOGIES: None

Present at Meeting: Alastair Whetstone, Chris Campbell, Trevor Gill, David Hutt, Daniel Robertson, Councillor Chris Williams, Clerk

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS : None

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Accepted by all Parish Councillors. Signed and dated by David Hutt.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Community

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

No report from Neighbourhood Watch.

b) Playground (including inspection). The Clerk confirmed that the second company had let the Parish Council down and that she had obtained quotations for the work to be undertaken.

Clerk presented the quotations and the successful quote came from Liz Cheshire of ROSPA. The winning quotation offered a special rate of £65 plus VAT, with an inspection in approx 3 weeks with the proviso that BDPC agreed to an inspection in order to make the special rate viable. **ACTION: Clerk to confirm placement of contract with Liz Cheshire of ROSPA. Clerk to inform BDPC that contract will be placed with Liz Cheshire.**

Roads

Traffic, Roads and Drains: Discussion took place on the state of the road as a result of the flow of water. Councillor Chris Williams confirmed that the road would have to be closed for the repairs to be made and it takes 3 months for the public notices to take place. It is therefore likely that the repairs would be during the summer.

Discussions followed on the soap box derby and the safety of the road for the event. Trevor will contact Patch to ask him to fill in the holes so that the road is safe for the event in June. John Graeme Miller is organising the soap box derby. **ACTION: Trevor Gill to contact Patch Byrne and request that the road is filled prior to the soap box derby if possible.**

Environment/Maintenance

c) St John's: Nothing to report

d) War Memorial: Update on repair: the repairs will be complete before the next meeting. **ACTION: Alastair Whetstone and Daniel Robertson to repair war memorial prior to June meeting of ADPC.**

Communication/Administration

5. COUNCIL REPORTS

1. **County Council Elections** – The main issue that has been occupying me and other County Councillors has been the election on 2nd May 2013. I am very pleased to report that I retained Kineton Division which includes the parish of Lighthorne. The turnout this year was some 20% lower than four years ago at 38.1%. Whilst the Conservatives in this area gained three seats, overall in Warwickshire the results of the election were such that the Conservative party will still retain the administration but not in overall control. The new Leader of the County Council will be Cllr Mrs Izzi Secombe of Stour and the Vale Division. We have already received information from central government that the spending review to be announced in June will require a further saving by Warwickshire County Council of some £70 million over the next three years. This is in addition to the £60 million we saved over the last three years. Serious thought is being given as to where these savings can be made and it might well result in a cessation of some of the services provided by the County Council as well as a reduction in existing services. The culture of local government will change significantly over the next four years.

2. **Fire and Rescue Service** – You may recall that I advised you that the Chief Fire Officer, Graham Smith, was retiring from the authority on 8th May. This position has been taken by Andy Hickmott who has been appointed as Interim Chief Fire Officer. Andy comes with a wealth of experience. He was a Senior Fire Officer with the London Fire Brigade and Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are very fortunate to attract such an experienced officer as Andy Hickmott. I am sure he will continue the excellent work carried out by his predecessor and maintain the enviable reputation for efficiency and performance that Warwickshire Fire Service has achieved.
3. **Draft Core Strategy** – I reported to the Parish Council that the Draft Core Strategy was due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in June. The likelihood now is that it will be approved by the full Council on 22nd July 2013 to be assessed before going to a government Inspector in September. This delay is due to guidance from central government that requires the local authority to consult with adjacent planning authorities to ensure that any housing provisions would not have an impact on other authorities. As I predicted the actual amount of housing that is being proposed for the next fifteen years amounts to 9,500. In addition, we are also introducing safeguards to protect the landscape and cope with the impact of HS2 to our environment. I would like to reassure the council that as soon as the Draft Core Strategy is submitted to the government for consideration the document becomes, what is termed as, Material Planning Consideration, and any development proposals have to take notice of the weight of this document in planning matters.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Paper copies circulated at meeting. Electronic mail circulated prior to meeting.

7. **PLANNING** (Declarations of interests): Information only: Dead/Dangerous Tree
Notification13/00839/DDT Scots Pine: fell, Orchard Lodge, Mr Andre Ashby

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance at close of business 30/4/13

Current Account £ 8,922.30
Savings Account £ 954.66 *

This figure represents ring fenced funds for ADPC plus any interest received into the account.

Bank Transactions

<u>Current Account</u>		<u>Chq/SO/DD</u>	<u>In</u>	<u>Out</u>
5 April	N Power	DD		27.00
11 April	HMRC	VAT Refund	657.22	
11 April	1225			14.00
11 April	1226			12.25
11 April	1227			8.66
11 April	Dep	(Funeral)	275.00	
12 April	Tfr	Steps Payment	95.04	
18 April	1229	Steps Payment		125.04
19 April	1228			90.00
25 April	SDC	Precept	4,481.50	

<u>Deposit Account</u>		<u>In</u>	<u>Out</u>
9 April 13	Bank Interest	0.04	
12 April 13	Steps		95.04

<u>Cheques issued from mtg</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Amount</u>
N Power	1230	17.03
N Power	1231	507.96
H Hide-Wright (clerk expenses May)	1232	40.60
J Sherriff (May Coffee Morning)	1233	7.27
T Gill (Fire Extinguishers)	1234	60.00
W Robinson (Internal Audit)	1235	60.00
Total cheques		£692.86

New Balances for Ring Fenced Funds:

Neighbourhood Watch	£ 185.00
St John's Steps appeal Funds	£ 338.66
Community Grant Fund (Laptop)	£ 431.00
 Total	 £ 954.66

Cheques were signed by David Hutt and Alastair Whetstone

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- Overtime claim 14 hours approx £118: Clerk explained that hours were over due to the audit combined with holidays taken. Approved by the Parish Councillors. **ACTION: Clerk to notify Douglas Tonks of overtime.**
- Internal Audit – Report by Bill Robinson. Audit papers and audit return to Grant Thornton were discussed and signed by David Hutt. **ACTION: Clerk to get electronic copy of insurance policy, couple it with the asset register and circulate to all for Trevor to have a look before the next meeting.**

Audit was reviewed. As the internal auditors report had only arrived today it was decided to review the findings at the next meeting. Councillors thanked the Clerk for the successful audit.

- Expenditure projects for current financial year: the Clerk reported an updated figure for the street light replacement which is currently £333.07 plus VAT per lamp.

9. MEMBER REPORTS: Trevor Gill reported on the Dasset Country Show. The Programme this year will be in colour with a number of advertisers already interested. There are a number of people who will run a farmers market. The bar will be run by The Wharf. Licences are being sought. Raffle prizes are coming in. Permission is sought to use the Reading Room to collect bric-a-brac and to use the tables chairs and cups and saucers: this request was approved. The DCS would like a summary of the activities of ADPC to put into the programme along with photos and responsibilities of Parish Councillors. It was confirmed that this information can be obtained from the ADPC website.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 3rd June 2013 **at the later time of 8.00pm**, 1st July 2013, 5th Aug 2013, 2nd Sept 2013, 7th Oct 2013, 4th Nov 2013, 2nd Dec 2013

The meeting closed at 8.50pm