

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Monday 7th October 2013

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The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

1. APOLOGIES: None

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

Public: John and Candy Kegg

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Signed by David Hutt. Minutes were accepted by the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING: Trevor Gill sought confirmation that comments were registered against the consultation on the Core Strategy, including the development at Lighthorne Heath. Trevor Gill stated that he was unhappy that a comment was not registered on behalf of Avon Dassett Parish Council.

Community

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch: David Hutt had nothing to report on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch.

Daniel Robertson reported an increase in incidents of suspicious individuals visiting farms.

b) Playground (including monthly check): Alastair confirmed that he had inspected the play area and that the equipment looked fine however there are moles present close by. It was decided to keep an eye on the situation.

c) Superfast Broadband: Trevor Gill had nothing to report. Chris Campbell reported that there has been a successful scheme in a small village, supported by EU grant and has resulted in high speed broadband connection. Councillor Williams explained that 01295 is an Oxfordshire telephone number and the Council is in negotiations with Oxfordshire County Council to roll out the project to the villages.

Trevor Gill offered to contact the company that Chris Campbell had found out about and make enquiries about the scheme and see if it is relevant to the issues faced by Avon Dassett.

ACTION: Trevor Gill to contact the company offering fast broadband connection to villages and explore its relevance to Avon Dassett.

d) Post Office: Heating options will be reviewed. **ACTION: Daniel Robertson, Trevor Gill and Alastair Whetstone to look into heating options for the Post Office area of the Reading Room. The person who deals with bookings for the Reading Room will be contacted to keep them informed about the heating arrangements for the RR.**

e) Set Village Clear Up date: Saturday 26th October and 23rd November, 10am-1pm. Any volunteers to help will be welcome.

f) Farming: The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had been contacted by a member of the public and had been referred on to the Council. WALC had clarified that referring members of the public onto the appropriate agencies is the appropriate course of action for Parish Councils.

g) Warwickshire Oil Syndicate – The Clerk outlined the literature received and that WOS will speak prior to the opening of the Parish Council meeting on the 4th November at 7.30pm, separate from the PC meeting in order that it is clear that WOS is not being endorsed by ADPC. Posters or leaflets will be distributed throughout the village to highlight the WOS presentation and the Village Clear Up Dates. Members of the public are invited to attend if they are interested in hearing information about a local oil syndicate. Councillor Williams confirmed that WOS is a charitable group. **ACTION: Trevor Gill to distribute adverts/posters about the Warwickshire Oil Syndicate.**

- h) Community Computer Scheme: Councillor Williams outlined the scheme and explained that computers are available to organisations with a constitution but not for individuals. Alastair Whetstone expressed a view that some of the computers could be used within the village for some of the charitable organisations and the ADPC website. Councillor Williams explained that the applications have to be endorsed by him by this Friday. **ACTION: Councillor Williams undertook to send the relevant forms to Trevor Gill for the community computer scheme.**

Trevor Gill explained that he and Michelle Gill are happy to undertake the maintenance of the website.

Roads

Traffic, Roads and Drains

- i) Report on recent road works if available: None.
- j) Speeding Traffic: Daniel Robertson explained to Trevor Gill that at the last ADPC meeting the possibility of a village entrance sign/gate etc had been considered and that Councillors have been looking at what other villages have. Councillor Williams said that grants are available for this type of initiative and need to be submitted in January 2014. Councillor Williams requested advance notice of the monies being sought prior to this date. **ACTION: The Parish Council will circulate the images of various village entrance features, decide upon one and send it one to Councillor Williams for grant support at the next PC meeting.**

Trevor Gill registered his view that it was important to establish if speeding is an issue in order to support any application. This would involve a speed monitoring system and could be followed up by police checks if a problem was identified.

Signage saying, "Thank you for driving slowly," was felt to be a good option by the Parish Councillors.

Drains: Trevor Gill asked if the rest of the PC was happy for him to make contact with a flooding pressure group being set up by the Chairman of Eathorpe JPC in Warwick District with a view to ADPC joining it. **ACTION: Trevor Gill to contact flooding pressure group and circulate the response to the rest of the PC.**

Environment/Maintenance

- k) St John's: Daniel Robertson reported that the steps and plaques need to be cleaned up. This will be added to the list of items requiring attention on the village clear up dates.

An email from Jill Burgess was read out thanking ADPC for its grant support for the recent publication by the Avon Dasset Local History Group. The Parish Council applauded the History Group for a superb achievement in writing the history of Avon Dasset and putting on a most interesting event.

The state of the vegetation around the church was highlighted. **ACTION: Trevor Gill to contact Matt Austin regarding tidying up the graveyard at St John's Church.**

- l) Street light replacement: The residual works have now taken place on lights 2 and 3. All that remains now is to remove the rubbish from the site.
- m) Green areas: Nothing to report.

Communication/Administration

n) Cemetery: The clerk outlined an application for a headstone for Mrs Randerson, from Humphris Funeral Directors. The Clerk read the associated correspondence from Mr Ray Randerson. The Parish Council considered the application against the cemetery regulations and gave its approval. **ACTION: Clerk to confirm that ADPC has approved the headstone application to Humphris Funeral Directors and Mr Ray Randerson.**

Sandy Mitchell has approached Trevor Gill to request the installation of a bench close to the grave of his wife, close to the fence. Trevor Gill has asked him to submit an outline of what he is proposing in order that the Parish Council can consider the matter at a meeting.

5. COUNCIL REPORTS: Councillor Chris Williams

1. **Highway Matters** – At a full meeting of the County Council approval was given for the expenditure to create a new link road from Junc. 12 of the M40 to Lighthorne Heath. This link road will tie up with the major improvements that are to be carried out to Junc. 12 commencing in 2014. The traffic congestion around Junc. 12 has been identified as one of the major traffic pinch points in Warwickshire. Improvements have already been started at Junc. 13 and it does appear that the traffic management systems at Junc. 13 are working very satisfactorily. It is also proposed to re profile the roundabout at Gaydon on the B4100. This will necessitate closing all four roads using this roundabout up to 200m in each direction and this work will commence on 21st October for approx. 4 days. All residents who use this roundabout will have to make alternative arrangements during this period.
2. **County Council Budget** – To help members of the public understand the scale of the financial challenge faced by WCC over the next four years the Council has launched a new on-line budget calculator. The purpose of this calculator is to enable residents to see how the council's base budget is spent and invites them to suggest how the money could be saved. The software allows users to adjust the budget and also shows the impact their spending decisions would have on local services from road maintenance to looking after the vulnerable. The application is available through www.warwickshire.gov.uk/letstalk. We are looking at everything we do and will work through a number of proposals before setting final budgets next year. There will be public debate in the Stratford area, probably towards the end of November.
3. **Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service** – As you are aware the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is presently involved in a National Strike to do with their Pensions. The first withdrawal of labour happened on 25th September between the hours of 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. I am happy to say that the resilience planning in place ensured that sufficient cover was provided throughout the county. Undoubtedly, strike action will escalate but the key aim of the Fire Service is to ensure that lives are not put at risk.
4. **Draft Core Strategy** – This will come before the full District Council on Monday 21st October. I am hopeful that the proposals for the whole district will be approved and the next stage of the process is to have it checked by the government to ensure that what is proposed is legally correct and in accordance with all given direction. After that stage a Public Hearing is held before a Government Inspector, probably in the spring. The Public Hearing is the opportunity for those people opposed to the proposals to make their case for the Draft Core Strategy to be altered. This will range from developers seeking more housing than is being proposed to other parties who are objecting to the amount of housing being proposed.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Paper copies circulated at meeting. Electronic mail circulated prior to meeting. Details of WALC AGM were given to Trevor Gill.

The papers for the electrical supply works had previously been circulated. The project was approved by the council: Proposed: David Hutt, Seconded: Trevor Gill. Signed: David Hutt.

7. PLANNING (Declarations of interests):

13/02534/DDT Dead/Dangerous Tree Notification was read out

Temporary Road closure: Lower end, 12th November for 4 days: Read out.

13/01945/FUL: Change of use of land to domestic curtilage. Demolition of stable block and erection of agricultural type portal frame building for use in connection with Lime cottage. The application was considered and “No Representation,” was made.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance at close of business 30/9/13

Current Account	£ 10,045.67
Savings Account	£ 974.82 *

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

Bank Transactions

Current Account	Chq/SO/DD	In	Out
3 Sept Douglas Tonks	DD		214.06
5 Sept	1248		23.40
5 Sept	DD		55.00
9 Sept	1246		120.00
24 Sept Douglas Tonks	DD		214.60
26 Sept	SDC	4,481.50	
26 Sept	1241		9.47
26 Sept	1247		5.01

Deposit Account	In	Out
9 Sept Bank Interest	0.04	

Cheques issued from mtg	Cheque No	Amount
7.10.13 Stratford CC. (Streetlight)	1249	508.90
7.10.13 MFM Services (Aug)	1250	189.00
7.10.13 Clerk Expenses	1251	14.00
7.10.13 J. Sherriff (coffee Oct)	1252	8.53
7.10.13 MFM Services (Sept)	1253	242.00
Total cheques		<u>962.43</u>

Notes:**New Balances for Ring Fenced Funds:**

Neighbourhood Watch	£ 185.00
St John's Steps appeal Funds	£ 358.82
Community Grant Fund (Laptop)	£ 431.00
Interest Received	£ 0.04
Total	<u>£ 974.86</u>

Cheques were signed by David Hutt and Alastair Whetstone.

- Budget 2014/15 – forthcoming projects/expenditure items: **ACTION: Trevor Gill and Alastair Whetstone meet prior to the next PC meeting to review budget preparation.**
- Trevor Gill asked if the PC wishes to submit a grant application for the Fete committee for the play area lease. The Parish Council confirmed that it would like an application to go ahead.

9. MEMBER REPORTS: Some trees had been felled recently which resulted in a power cut affecting several properties.

The pub has been taken over for a longer lease and its aim appears to be to turn it into a fine dining Italian restaurant.

The Catholic Church in the village is due to close but remain open for the Polish community.

“Questions from the Public,” should move to the first part of the meeting in order to give the public chance to ask questions without having to sit through the entire PC meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to move, “Questions from the Public” item within the agenda.**

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 4th Nov 2013, 2nd Dec 2013. 2014 dates: 6th Jan, 3rd Feb, 3rd Mar, 7th Apr, 12th May, 2nd June, 7th Jul, 4th Aug, 1st Sept, 6th Oct, 3rd Nov, 1st Dec

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.