

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 12 May 2008

Present A Fraser; J Burgess; L Hope-Frost; S Richardson; P Wallace;
Cllr C Williams; Cllr D Booth; Clerk

In Attendance J D Davies; A Rice; G Rice

1. Apologies: None

2. Declaration of Interest: None

3. Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by J Burgess and seconded by L Hope-Frost; they were then signed by A Fraser.

4. Chairman's Report:

Ali Fraser presented his report as follows:

"Opening

The Avon Dassett Parish Council have had a very busy twelve months with a whole range of tasks for the members to work on.

1. A big thank you to Peter Wallace for the notice board and renewing the panelling in the Reading Room hallway. All free of charge.

2. Reading Room roof and porch has been repaired and awaiting the loft hatch to be created.

3. Drainage survey and most of the repairs to the road drains have been carried out.

Particularly where it collapsed above the Reading Room. Hopefully this will help the flooding issues lower down the village.

4. A housing need survey has been carried out and three properties were identified as needed.

The Council is now in the process of conducting another more in-depth survey.

5. The Parish Plan has been completed and rolled out to the village after an open day exhibition of which Sandra Rice and her team of Avon Dassett Parish Plan Steering Group have done a fantastic job and have been commended by Stratford District Council.

6. The PC have already completed a number of the highlighted tasks and we are on the way to completing many more.

7. A big surprise to the village and the PC was the erection of traffic lights and on the hill and scaffolding around the church. This work should be done by the end of the autumn but has caused quite a few problems with HGVs which are now no longer allowed to travel this route on a temporary restriction. We have been told the church may be able to be used for some functions in the future.

8. The Playground car park has been resurfaced and more plant tubs placed around to protect the grass.

9. The website has now been built and live. It is growing by the day and the village has now got its own computer and internet access for all.

10. A survey was conducted to investigate interest into a village allotment. Unfortunately there are no suitable sites available.

11. Community policing has seen our local PC at many meetings and around the villages helping to stop crime and vandalism.

12. Neighbourhood Watch have extended through the village with more members and the introduction of Smart Water marking of items to many homes.

13. Our various contractors have all done a very good job of keeping the village looking fantastic.

14. Unfortunately one of the past PC members was reprimanded by the Standards & Ethics Control Board Panel for failing to declare an interest on a planning matter.

The PC are looking forward to another challenging year ahead.

Avon Dasset Parish Council Chairman

Alistair Fraser.”

The Vice-Chair of the Parish Council presented her report – see Appendix 1.

5. Financial Report:

See Appendix 2.

6. Charities' Report:

- The Poor Allotment Charity paid £1.70 each to 10 senior citizens.

- Rev John James and Rev Thomas Hinds Charities paid £43.30 each to 10 senior citizens.

- John Freckleton Charity paid £5.00 each to 8 junior scholars and £7.00 each to 5 senior scholars.

Thanks to Reg Watts for preparation of this report.

7. Election of Officers:

Cllr Ali Fraser and Cllr Pete Wallace resigned from the Parish Council and left the meeting.

L Hope-Frost proposed that J Burgess be elected as Chairman; this was seconded by S Richardson.

L Hope-Frost proposed that S Richardson be elected as Vice-Chair; this was seconded by J Burgess.

Acceptance of Office documentation was signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

J Burgess extended her thanks to Ali Fraser and Pete Wallace for their services to the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Avon Dassett Parish Council 2007/8
Vice Chair's End of Year Report

Looking back on the year it is very satisfying to see how much Avon Dassett Parish Council has achieved. Many of the problematic issues such as drainage and speeding traffic have been tackled and whilst none have been completely resolved a significant step forward has been made.

Traffic speeding through the village is now being monitored on a regular basis with visits from the mobile speed camera scheduled for each quarter. The static camera will also be making an appearance at some point this year. Posters are displayed regularly and information leaflets have been distributed. Villagers have been encouraged to report any concerns either to a member of the PC or directly to the police. Traffic calming measures were explored but no remedy was found that would be suitable for Avon Dassett. We have requested that we be kept informed of any new measures that become available and of the findings of the 20mph village speed limit survey. Speeding will continue to be monitored throughout the coming year.

Some of the proposed drainage work has been completed with the final work commencing very soon. It is hoped that the repairs will put an end to the flooding at The Thatches and once the final jetting is carried we should see a significant improvement throughout the village. The villages flooding problems were highlighted to WCC and we hope that some assistance in the form of a water pump and some interlocking barriers may be available to us via a grant application in the near future.

The proposal for a footpath extension to create a safe crossing place on Church Hill has been taken seriously and WCC will undertake a feasibility study to see if the proposal is practical.

The 2 metre width restriction on Church Hill, imposed after complaints to WCC, is still, unfortunately, being abused. Villagers have been encouraged to report HGV's breaking the restriction. The police have been very supportive in following up complaints and speaking to the companies involved. It has been suggested that we apply for a permanent restriction and villagers have been asked to log the details of companies using the village on a regular basis to enable WCC to decide if it is feasible.

Our relationship with the police has developed with a representative from SNT at many of our meetings and Lily Hope-Frost attending the PACT meetings. Again, parishioners have been encouraged to advise the police directly of any concerns they may have, regardless of how small. Thirty villagers purchased SMART WATER over the year and signs to deter burglars have been placed prominently at the entrances to the village. The Neighbourhood Watch team has grown from 1 to 4 members and any interested people are still welcome.

The Parish Website is now up and running thanks to SDC and Sarah Richardson's hard work. This will be a very useful and important tool for sharing information in the future and content is growing weekly. The grant from Awards for All has enabled us to set up the

website with the help of SDC, pay for the maintenance for the next 5 years, some training and the purchase of 2 laptops 2 printer scanners. One of the laptops will be made available for community use and the other will be used by the PC and clerk. A scanner will also be available for community use in the RR.

The Parish Plan, which took two years to complete, was distributed to all in March and we have made a good start on the action points the PC are responsible for. Also, some of the proposed new village activities will be starting in the coming months. I feel that it is important that the PC support and encourage the efforts of the village to implement the action points. The PC has agreed to refer to the action plan regularly.

One of the points raised in the PP action plan was a request for the PC to publicise its work more effectively. With the PC display at the village fête, the new PC notice board in the Reading Room , information on the website and our personal profiles appearing in the Compton Chronicle in the coming months I think we have a very good job of promoting the work we carry out on behalf of the village.

JILL BURGESS
Vice-Chair
May 2008

**AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING 12 MAY 2008**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank balance @ 31 March 2007:	£10902.26
Precept for 2007/8:	£7500.00
Receipts during 2007/8:	£2810.38
Payments during 2007/8:	£11471.16 *
Balance carried forward @ 31 March 2008:	£9741.48 **

Notes:

* Includes payment of cheque no. 777 for £87.44 (not cashed at 31.3.08)

** £5000 Awards for All grant ring-fenced for Parish Website scheme (received in May 2006) of which approximately £4000 is carried forward to financial year 2008/9.