

# Minutes of Ordinary Meeting Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 10th August 2015

p536

## The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

1. APOLOGIES (with acceptance of apologies): Bart Dalla Mura.  
Present: Trevor Gill, Mike Blakeman, Martyn Heard, Darrell Muffitt, Alastair Whetstone, Councillor Chris Williams, Clerk (Helen Hide-Wright).
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None.
3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The minutes were accepted by the meeting and signed and dated by Trevor Gill.
4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None
5. MATTERS ARISING:

### Community

- a) Burial Ground: Nothing to report.
- b) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch: Nothing to report
- c) Playground (including monthly check): Trevor Gill confirmed that the area is fine. The Clerk confirmed that she has received notification of the annual safety inspection in September.
- d) Superfast Broadband: Nothing new to report. Chris Williams and Darrell Muffitt commented that July 2016 remains the target date.
- e) Post Office: Trevor Gill has tried to contact Zoe Hibberd, of the PO, for an update and will continue to do so. Mike Blakeman commented on the recent closure of the PO and felt it would have been useful to everyone if notification were given of any future closures.
- f) The Avon Pub: Mike Blakeman has spoken to the potential new owner who is hopeful of a successful purchase with a view to opening by Christmas. Pete Wallace has painted the stocks outside the pub.
- g) Village Communication: Darrell Muffitt highlighted this in the Compton Chronicle. It was requested that a flier be prepared to go out to all households to outline the idea and to seek approval from the residents to include their information on a database for use by the Parish Council and other village activities. **ACTION: Darrell Muffitt to draft a flier as appropriate.**
- h) The Dassett Country Show: The Show was a great success. Alastair Whetstone complimented that the event with very well organised. Trevor Gill commented that 70% of the profits will be going to local organisations and initiatives with the remaining 30% going to The British Heart Foundation. The sum raised is expected to be in the region of £4.4K
- i) The Soap Box Derby: The event was a success.

- j) The Parish Plan: Mike Blakeman suggested that before any review takes place a full review of the existing plan is undertaken to include a status on each of the recommended actions. There was agreement to this approach and also the view that the majority of the existing plan will still apply. The exercise to achieve full consultation will be expensive and following the review a plan can be drawn up with what needs to be updated. **ACTION: Mike to set up a separate meeting to review the existing Neighbourhood Plan.**
- k) Mark Worrall has requested that the issue of Dog walking be discussed at this meeting. There has been a large amount of dog fouling on the field adjacent to the playground, that dog owners are not keeping to the footpaths and that dogs should be kept on leads when they go into fields with livestock. The Parish Council agreed to highlight this in the information sent to the Chronicle and also to place notices on the village noticeboards requesting that dog owners respect the country code, collect dog fouling and place it in the bins in the village or take it home for disposal.
- l) Open Gardens: Trevor Gill commented that Gill Lewis will not be co-ordinating the 2016 Open Gardens. Alternate arrangements are being made for this event. Anyone wanting to open their garden should contact Anna Prosser or Michelle Gill. £1,625 was raised this year. Next years event will be held on 3 July 2016.

#### Roads: Traffic, Roads and Drains

- m) Street Light Electricity Rate: Trevor Gill reiterated the question of whether the County Council could negotiate a better rate for Parish Council's to buy into. Councillor Williams said that this would not work. Trevor Gill therefore asked the Clerk to renew the contract with the existing supplier. Darrell Muffitt questioned why the County Procurement Department cannot negotiate a better deal for Parish Council's. **ACTION: Clerk to confirm if the existing supplier is charging the same rate to ADPC for streetlight electricity as for other Parish Councils. Clerk to renew the electricity contract with the existing supplier.**

Lengthsmen Scheme –Trevor Gill spoke about the scheme and suggested the Parish Council registers its interest in the scheme to see what might be possible. Councillor Williams stated that once you are in the scheme, you cannot come out of it again. He also commented that it would be difficult for ADPC to show significant savings to make this worthwhile. This works best for larger councils. **ACTION: Clerk to register ADPC's interest in the Lengthsmen Scheme.**

#### Environment/Maintenance

- m) Green areas – including watering of flower tubs: Trevor Gill commented that the tubs look very effective.
- n) Condition of verges: The verge on the high street that was damaged is still on the schedule. **ACTION: Trevor Gill to raise the repair of the verges.** Darrell Muffitt mentioned the state of the verges after the last cut. Michael Blakeman said that this was done with a strimmer and therefore the grass cuttings do go over the area.
- o) Reading Room maintenance: Nothing to report.

Communication/Administration

p) Administration – Payroll. Trevor Gill confirmed that a Direct Debit has been set up with HMRC for PAYE for £40.40 (May, June, July 2015 salaries). Authorisation for future PAYE transactions was highlighted. The Direct Debit was signed and dated by Alastair Whetstone and Martyn Heard. Trevor Gill is about to set up a spreadsheet to show the payroll transactions. **ACTION: Trevor Gill to set up payroll spreadsheet.**

Transparency Code requirements and impact upon Website. Trevor Gill spoke about this matter and the requirement to comply with the requirement. It was agreed that the Parish Council should implement the new transparency requirements and that further analysis would be required to agree how this can be achieved.

**ACTION: Carry forward item for next month.**

5. COUNCIL REPORTS: Bart Dalla Mara gave his apologies in advance of the meeting and confirmed that he intends to make a presentation at the meeting in September.

6.

**Councillor Williams: County Councillor's Report**

1. **Regionalisation** – The central government endorsement of regionalisation based on the Manchester model has not met with support in Warwickshire. The proposal under consideration is that a combined authority based on Birmingham would have its own Mayor and be responsible for a range of items such as Planning, Finance, Care of the Aged, Education etc. Currently, Coventry and Solihull together with all the metropolitan authorities north of Birmingham have agreed to form a single metropolitan area. Warwickshire, on the other hand, is not a unity authority, does not see the advantage in joining up with Birmingham. Further discussions are taking place and a final decision has to be submitted by the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
2. **Waste Collection** – Warwickshire as a two tier authority disposes of all the waste that is collected by the Districts and Boroughs. Currently, there is a review taking place as to whether that cannot be recycled, namely the Black Bin content, is being treated in the correct way. All material collected from the black bins is sent to landfill at a cost of £83 per ton. It is believed that the amount that is collected could be reduced if the public were more aware of what can now actually be recycled. Consequently, an exercise is taking place of consultation where members of the public will be asked if they understand what can be recycled and hopefully through education, we should be able not only to reduce the amount of wastage sent to landfill but also increase the amount we recycle which is currently 63% and raise this figure to that achieved in Scandinavia of 75%.
3. **Community Grants** – It is that time of year when the County Council make available small amounts of money to help kick start or maintain community projects. I only have a small amount of money to dispense throughout my Division but should you know of any project that would benefit from a cash injection of no more than £500, please let me know and I will forward an application form to you. I must stress that it is not usual to award this money directly to any Parish Council since they raise their funds through the precept and not through grants. The only exception to this guideline is if the Parish wishes to enhance a play area with new equipment.
4. **Highway Improvements** – I am pleased to report that the construction of the highway from Jaguar Land Rover to Junction 12 is ahead of schedule and that the whole project not only of the highway but also the improvements to Junction 12 itself should be completed by the end of the year.

District Council: The Core Strategy was submitted to an Inspector last summer. He stated reservations on the amount of housing predicted (which was at 11,000) and how the infrastructure would be organised. Two planning applications came in at the last minute: the airfield at Wellesbourne and a development at Southam. Long Marston airfield had not started on the planning process whereas Lighthorne Heath had. The review concluded that the housing figure should be 15,500. The Core Strategy has gone out for consultation and comment with re-submission to the Inspector in September 2015. It is likely that the Inspector will make his comments in the spring/summer of 2016.

In the combine authorities, they have the same problem as Warwick. If Stratford does combine with Birmingham, Stratford will not have the same level of powers.

7. CORRESPONDENCE – Paper copies circulated at meeting. Electronic mail circulated prior to meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to chase up the payment due to ADPC for the hire of the RR for the election.**

8. PLANNING (Declarations of interests):

15/02765/LBC Hillside Farm, Mr and Mrs Batty. Alterations to 3 no. French doors. Comment: No Representation.

9. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Appendix A: FINANCIAL STATEMENT August 2015, Avon Dassett Parish Council:

**Balance at close of business 31.7.15**

Current Account	£ 4,169.45
Savings Account	£ 8,252.06* Ring fenced funds and interest received.

**Bank Transactions**

<b>Current Account</b>	<b>Chq/SO/DD</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Out</b>
2 Jul	1331		226.30
6 Jul N Power	DD		31.00
8 Jul	1337		9.84
8 Jul	1340		5.91
9 Jul	1336		108.54
10 Jul	1341		27.40
13 Jul	1339		120.00
15 Jul N Power	Credit	20.71	
20 Jul	1335		246.00
21 Jul	1338		100.00
21 Jul	1332		107.20
22 Jul	1334		5.09
22 Jul	1333		26.34
31 Jul HMRC VAT Refund		312.49	
<b>Deposit Account</b>		<b>In</b>	<b>Out</b>
9.7.15 Interest		0.34	

<b>Cheques issued from mtg</b>	<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>
10.8.15 T. Gill (Salary Refund)	1342	195.70
10.8.15 MFM Services (June mowing)	1343	246.00
10.8.15 H. Hide-Wright (July expenses)	1344	16.50
10.8.15 MFM Services (July mowing)	1345	123.00
<b>Total Cheques</b>		<b>£581.20</b>

**New Balances for Ring Fenced Funds:**

Neighbourhood Watch	£ 185.00
<b>St John's Steps appeal Funds</b>	<b>£ 359.13</b>
Community Grant Fund (Laptop)	£ 7.59
Interest Received	£ 0.34
Play area lease grant from AD Fete Committee	£ 200.00
RR Maintenance (From Fete Committee)	£ 500.00
Ring fenced RR Maintenance	£ 5,000.00
Ring fenced Parish Plan/RR Refurbishment	£ 2,000.00
 Total	 £ 8,252.06

Cheques were approved by the meeting. Signed and dated by Trevor Gill and Mike Blakeman.

10. MEMBER REPORTS: None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS – 2015 : 7<sup>th</sup> Sept, 5<sup>th</sup> Oct (apology from Trevor Gill), 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.