

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 6 July 2009

Present J Burgess; L Hope-Frost; A Rutherford; D Hutt;
Clerk

In Attendance J Ellard; T M Gladwin*; J McLean*; J R McLean*
* part attendance

1. Apologies: S Richardson; Cllr C Williams

2. Declaration of Interest:
None.

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

4. Matters Arising:

Note: item 4.h) Village Design Statement was discussed first.

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch (NW)

There was no representation from Warwickshire Police.

Police were called to an incident on 4 July involving nuisance youths.

L Hope-Frost was pleased to report an increase in the number of residents participating in the NW 'eyes and ears' support team.

b) Traffic and Roads

Traffic – no update.

Roads – requested repairs are still outstanding. The recent reorganisation within WCC County Highways means that the contact for Avon Dasset is Patch Byrne. J Burgess requested that a site meeting be arranged with Mr Byrne. **Action: Clerk.**

County Highways have been contacted regarding i) the pothole at the entrance to the Bitham Hall drive; and ii) broken glass left on the road following a recent road traffic accident at the Lower End junction with Farnborough Lane.

J Burgess is developing a proposal for funding for a layby at Lower End. **Action: J Burgess.**

c) Drainage Issues

No update on requested works. Site meeting to be arranged with Patch Byrne. **Action: Clerk.**

d) Playground

Inspection Report: The remaining works to fulfil inspection report obligations will be completed in the near future.

Improvements: A meeting has been held with the land owner; unfortunately no decision has been made regarding the request to extend the lease.

e) Reading Room

Floor: Repairs to the floor have been completed to an excellent standard. Thanks are expressed to Mike Walter for his assistance in the removal and storage of furniture during the floor works.

Land Registry: No progress. **Action: S Richardson.**

f) St John's

- It is hoped that the cemetery will be strimmed prior to Open Gardens on 12 July 2009.
- A lecture by Dr Beat Kümin, from the University of Warwick, on 'Parish life in early modern England' will take place at St John's on 12 July at 6.30 pm (to coincide with Open Gardens day).
- Repairs to mechanisms in the bell tower are ongoing. Further tests have been arranged for Wednesday 8 July.
- Heritage Open Days will be held at St John's from Thursday 10th September to Sunday 13th September 2009.

g) Social Housing

The remaining proposed site has proved not to be financially viable. However the same land owner has nominated a further site for possible social housing development. A Rutherford to email the land owner and Phil Ward (WRCC Rural Housing Enabler) to investigate the suitability of this third site for social housing use. **Action: A Rutherford.**

h) Parish Plan

Village Design Statement: Members of the Design Team presented the draft statement. Their proposals will be on display at a 'drop-in' event to be held on 15 and 16 August – venue to be confirmed. This event will be advertised on the website and on village noticeboards. The Team will investigate sources of funding for publication of this material.
 Environment/Sustainability: The Climate Change Team at WCC will attend the September meeting of the Parish Council. In order that they may gain an understanding of activities in Avon Dassett, J Burgess will forward information regarding local projects to the Climate Change Team. **Action: J Burgess.** Item to be held over to the September agenda. **Action: Clerk.**

i) Public Realm Grant:

Nature Area:

- Following due consideration of comments that may be received from villagers as a result of the article in the July Compton Chronicle, J Burgess to contact the Probation Service to arrange a start-date for the project. **Action: J Burgess.**
- Sarah and Andy Rutherford wish to donate their prize money from the post card competition for use on this project. **Action: A Rutherford.**
- J Burgess to identify possible diseased/dead tree for removal prior to commencement of the project. **Action: J Burgess.**

j) Clerk's Replacement

Jen Ellard was welcomed as the new Clerk to the Parish Council; her duties will commence at the August meeting. A meeting is to be arranged w/c 20 July with the incoming and outgoing clerks and J Burgess. **Action: Clerk.**

5. Council Report:

Cllr Williams submitted his District and County Council reports - attached.

6. Correspondence:

Abacus Pre-School – request for funding – in order to better assess requests for funding from outside organisations it was agreed to create a standard form to establish, eg, the purpose of the grant, how it will benefit the community of Avon Dassett, other funding sources approached, etc. J Burgess to create template document and forward this to the Clerk. **Action: J Burgess.** Clerk to send the form to Abacus Pre-School for completion. **Action: Clerk.**

European Parliamentary and County Council Election Results – results showing Conservative Party success in both elections are posted on noticeboards. Cllr Chris Williams has been appointed County Councillor for the Kineton district.

Children starting school in September 2010 – parents whose children were born between 1 September 2005 and 31 August 2006 should apply for their child's first school place. Application deadline is 23 October 2009. Poster on noticeboard.

Parish Community Emergency Plans – a revised template will be issued by WCC w/c 13 July. Item to be included in August agenda. **Action: Clerk.**

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. Phase 3 Revision Options Consultation – S Richardson to attend 'drop-in' event on 14 July 2009. **Action: S Richardson.**

Mayor/Chairman's Allowance – request for information (via WALC) by Peter Lacey, NALC Financial Advisor. **Action: Clerk.**

WALC Newsletter – a new mechanism will be introduced allowing already granted planning permission consents to be extended from the current 3 years by an additional 3, in an attempt to respond to the challenging economic situation faced by the development sector.

Letter of apology – following complaints made at last month's meeting about one of the Council's contractors, a letter of apology has been received from the contractor and circulated to all Parish Councillors. (See item 8.a) of the June meeting.)

Planning – no provisional meeting was set for July 2009.

- Ref: 09/01260/FUL – change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for one extended gypsy family with 4 caravans at Mollington Lane, Warmington for Mr Michael Reilly. Clerk to contact Warmington PC to gather further information. **Action: Clerk.** Note: Whilst wishing to support Warmington PC, Avon Dassett Parish Council is unsure whether it is appropriate to comment on planning applications outside of the parish.

7. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 6 July 2009:

Current account	£129.80 credit
Deposit account	£6,729.29 credit

Cheques issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay & expenses)	£137.65
b) M Harris (Mowing)	£70.00
c) J Glover (Mowing)	£120.00
d) P Morton (Reading Room floor – sand & seal)	£450.00
e) Chubb Fire Ltd (Fire extinguisher maintenance)	£91.43
f) W Sherriff (Coffee morning expenses)	£10.02
g) S Harris (Reading Room cleaning)	£15.00

DD payment of £62.00 for Reading Room electricity made to Npower on the 5th of each month.

The payment of cheques was proposed by L Hope-Frost and seconded by A Rutherford.

8. Any Other Business:

- A letter was read to the meeting regarding environmental issues in the village. It was agreed to gather quotations from contractors/suppliers prior to developing a plan of action for the ongoing maintenance of areas of concern identified in the letter. **Action: All.**
J Burgess to formulate a response. **Action: J Burgess.**
- One of the village flower tubs has been destroyed; L Hope-Frost to source a replacement. **Action: L Hope-Frost.**
- In order to facilitate new negotiations, notice to terminate the Reading Room electricity contract must be given 3 months before the contract is due to expire. Item to be held over to the September meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
- Expenditure vs budget analysis to be produced for discussion at the August meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
- J Burgess requested assistance from her fellow councillors to provide information for the Village Corner display at this year's Fête. **Action: All.**

- f) J Burgess to produce a newsletter following the Fête at a date to be determined. **Action: J Burgess.**
- g) The Parish Council authorised the use of the cemetery car park by the Stratford on Avon Ramblers to enable off-street parking of up to 30 cars at an event to be held before the onset of winter.
- h) It is hoped that post cards will be available for sale at the Open Gardens event on 12 July. The Council agreed a retail price of 50p per card. Many thanks to Bill Heath for production of the post cards.
- i) Christmas card designs are being processed by Roger Newman. Thanks are expressed to Roger for his expertise and assistance.
- j) Information regarding Swine Flu has been posted on the website.
- k) The Parish Council expressed its appreciation and best wishes to Margaret Maughan as she steps down after almost 4 years as its clerk.

9. Questions from the Public: None.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

The next Meeting will be held on Monday 3 August 2009 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Avon Dasett Parish Council 06.07.09.
District Councillor's Report

The past month has been relatively quiet as far as legislature is concerned at the District Council. The District Council carried out elections on behalf of the County Council and the European Elections and I will refer to the results of the County Council in my County report. The European Elections resulted in six members being elected in the West Midlands, two Conservatives, two UKip, 1 LibDem and 1 Labour. Previously, there were seven elected members but because of the additions to the make up of the European Parliament with extra member countries the West Midlands total was reduced to six. Within the West Midlands six of the candidates all scored considerably less support than I personally secured in the Kineton Division. The Socialist Labour Party led by Arthur Scargill secured 164 votes.

The national economic situation is having an impact on local authority finance. Normally, the Government advises as to how much settlement will be made to each authority for the next three years. We know how much we are due to receive next year but so far the government has not even indicated what the settlement is likely to be for the years after. The indications are that we should expect a reduction of 20% spread over five years which, if implemented, will have serious implications as to the way councils operate. We are already preparing our budget for next year and undoubtedly there will be alterations to the level of service provided.

Basically, essential services such as waste collection, public hygiene, planning etc will continue but discretionary services such as leisure, grant support and even enforcement might have to be curtailed. The future is bleak for local authorities.

You may have heard that travellers have moved into nearby Warmington. In many ways the scenario is similar to that of Mollington and Darlingsott. Unfortunately, the law falls on the side of the travelling fraternity but I can assure you that the District Council are taking all measures to protect the interests of the residents of Warmington. Fundamentally, the successes of the travellers is the basis that their human rights are being compromised and since Europe and this government adopted legislation that supported certain aspects of the Human Rights Bill travellers receive more advantage than before.

Cllr Chris Williams
28.06.09.

**Avon Dassett Parish Council 06.07.09.
County Councillor's Report**

As a result of the recent elections there has been a significant change in the political balance at Shire Hall. Previously, no single political party was in overall control although the Conservatives ran the administration.

As from 5th June 2009, the Conservatives are now in total control as the largest single party with 39 seats, the LibDems have 12 seats with the Labour 10 and Independents 1 seat. The turnout was 48.7%. I am now the County Councillor elected for the Kineton Division having gained my seat from David Booth.

I should like to take this opportunity of recording my admiration for David in the diligent way in which he conducted his duties. I have worked with David for the last 12 years and will endeavour to emulate his efficiency.

I have only been an elected member for the County Council for a few weeks and am currently undergoing an intensive course of induction into the workings of the authority. The most amazing fact I have learnt so far is that there are 18,000 employees and some 850 buildings for which they are responsible. Warwickshire spreads from the suburbs of Birmingham down to the Oxfordshire borders.

With effect from 5th June 2009, County Highways have reorganised themselves into North and South Areas. We are in the South Area based in Old Budbrooke Road, Warwick which is led by Paul Cowley and the Team Leader is Gerald Brookes who used to look after our area some six or seven years ago. Your point of contact is now Patch Byrne who takes over from John Brown. The telephone number of the customer service centre is 01926 412515 and I am confident that the new structure will lead to an improved service from the Highways Division in our area. Patch Byrne has already built up an enviable reputation for getting things done in the north of our locality and I know he looks forward to making contact with Parish Clerks throughout his area.

The Financial issues that are referred to in my District Councillor's report apply, of course, to Warwickshire and the County Council is going through an active review of all its activities to see from which services it would be appropriate to disinvest. Services such as Child Card, Education and Care of the Elderly are essential and will take priority.

**Cllr Chris Williams
28.06.09.**