

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 3 November 2008

Present J Burgess; L Hope-Frost; D Hutt; S Richardson; A Rutherford;
Cllr D Booth; Cllr C Williams; Clerk

In Attendance C Barlow; J A Davies

1. Apologies: -
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 S Richardson; they were then signed by J Burgess.

4. Matters Arising:

Note: Item 4.h) Social Housing was discussed first.

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch (NW)

No representation was made by Warwickshire Police.

Prior to the meeting, L Hope-Frost issued the most recent Crime Survey to Councillors.

An incident of trespass by 4 youths in a car on Bitham Hall property has been reported to the police.

'Home Security & Personal Safety Packs' are available for distribution to the elderly/vulnerable members of our community.

b) Post Office

J Burgess stated that the October Coffee Morning was held to coincide with Post Office opening.

Unfortunately, the grant application sourced from Steve Patalong at WRCC was unsuccessful. J Burgess has been contacted by Steve Sartori at The Avon with a suggestion that the Post Office be run from his premises.

J Burgess to contact the Post Master to ascertain his intentions regarding continued provision of post office services at the Reading Room. **Action: J Burgess.**

c) Traffic and Roads

Despite efforts to correct this, the fixed camera in place near the bus shelter failed to operate.

The mobile camera crew visited Avon Dasset during October.

The large pothole on the C113 Dasset Road (known as Farnborough Lane) has been filled and a team has visited to evaluate other repairs required along the lane.

No update has been provided by County Highways regarding the repairs to the road at the M40 motorway bridge.

d) Drainage Issues/Community Flood Prevention Tools

Grant money has been received to purchase a community pump. J Burgess to ask Steve Mullane to assist in the purchase of the pump.

In order for all parties to gain a better understanding of the topography and hydrology of the area, J Burgess has met with Dave Tiley and Bill Burton (hydrologist) from SDC; upon receipt of SDC's proposals, J Burgess will report back to the Parish Council. **Action: J Burgess.**

County Highways failed to meet their commitment to 'jet' village drains and investigate the drain by Bitham Hall. Cllr Booth to investigate why County Highways have failed to carry out promised actions. **Action: Cllr Booth.**

S Richardson to contact BT to request that they investigate flooding to the BT access hatch at the entrance to the Bitham Hall drive. **Action: S Richardson.**

e) Playground

The playground inspection will take place on Tuesday 4 November.

A Rutherford reported that quotes have been received for play equipment (ranging from £19,000 to £32,000); however, these will need to be revised.

The COMMA grant process has commenced.

A public consultation will take place on 10 November – details to be posted on the website.

Action: S Richardson.

One swing seat has been replaced; the second will be fitted in the near future. **Action: A Rutherford.**

f) Reading Room

Painting: J Burgess and the Clerk met with Dave Adams from the Warwickshire Probation Service on 16 October. Dave Adams to provide a project sheet to cover planned works; this will include a list of necessary materials. Labour will be provided free of charge, however materials (eg paint, brushes, etc) to be purchased by the Parish Council. Once details of materials are known, L Hope-Frost volunteered to purchase these on behalf of the Council. Parish Council to review project sheet and make a decision at the December meeting.

Action: All.

g) Future uses for St John the Baptist Church

L Hope-Frost reported that the church had been opened for the past 2 weekends. A sign has been placed on the church gate advertising the weekend opening of the church; details also published in the Compton Chronicle. S Richardson to post information on the website.

Action: S Richardson.

L Hope-Frost has requested that the CCT carry out the first clean of the church. The History Group has offered to clean the church on an ongoing basis. L Hope-Frost to chase Chana Bedford (CCT) reference the timing of the first clean. **Action: L Hope-Frost.**

L Hope-Frost has asked Pete Wallace to make repairs to the raw wood around the frame separating the area to the bell tower.

The Christmas Gathering will take place at St John's on Sunday 14 December. It is proposed that the event begins with drinks at the Old Rectory at 4.15 pm prior to commencement of the carol singing at 5.00 pm in St John's, culminating in the arrival of Father Christmas at the Reading Room at 6.00 pm. J Burgess to produce a leaflet to advertise the event. **Action: J Burgess.** Councillors & Clerk to deliver leaflets to all households in the first week of December. **Action: All.**

The Parish Council agreed to fund this year's Christmas gathering.

h) Social Housing

Charles Barlow, Rural Housing Enabler from WRCC, attended the meeting to provide an update with regard to the proposed social housing project in Avon Dassett.

- To date no landowners have come forward with offers of land for the development.

- In other (albeit much larger) villages, a mapping exercise has taken place where members of the community place pins on a map to identify areas of land they believe to be suitable and/or unsuitable for the development of social housing. Charles Barlow committed to forward the results of the exercise recently carried out in Fenny Compton. The Parish Council will consider if this type of exercise is appropriate for Avon Dassett and make a decision at the December meeting.

In light of the community's desire for affordable housing, the Parish Council continues to explore options for this project. S Richardson to publicise the status of the social housing scheme in the Compton Chronicle. **Action: S Richardson.**

i) Parish Council Surgery/PC Support

Surgery: Unfortunately, D Hutt and A Rutherford were unable to hold the first 1-hour surgery on Monday 20 October. However, A Rutherford has contacted a resident who requested that commercial considerations be given to local farms and businesses in any future proposals that might restrict the passage of HGVs through the village.

Surgery timetable:

- Saturday 22 November at 5.00 pm: J Burgess & S Richardson
- Tuesday 9 December at 9.00 am (PO Opening hours): J Burgess & S Richardson.

PC Support: S Richardson is providing ongoing PC support to one member of the community.

j) Procedures – Health & Safety Folder

A Rutherford and D Hutt have established details of the Reading Room drains; information yet to be included in the H&S folder. **Action: D Hutt & A Rutherford.**

k) Parish Plan

Welcome Pack: Production of the Welcome Pack continues; completion may slip to early 2009. It was agreed that printing costs be invoiced to the Parish Council.

Design Statement: The group has reviewed its objectives and the scope of the design statement. Examples of good and bad design will be identified and discussed by the group at its November meeting.

Shop: A draft proposal has been produced; D Hutt to digest the proposal's content and report back to the December Parish Council meeting. **Action: D Hutt.**

l) Public Realm Grant

J Burgess was pleased to inform the meeting that the Public Realm Grant application was successful.

- The Noticeboard has been ordered.
- Two benches have been delivered. It was agreed that these be stored until weather conditions permit installation.
- 'Nature Area project' (by the bus shelter). It was agreed that Dave Adams, Warwickshire Probation Service, be asked to scope the 'nature area project'; to this end, J Burgess to forward details of the project to Dave Adams. **Action: J Burgess.**

m) Budget 2009/10

In order to aid deliberation of next year's budget, Councillors were asked to consider any projects that they wish to promote for 2009/10. Projects WITH COSTS to be forwarded to the Clerk by mid November. **Action: All.**

S Richardson and Clerk to identify 'un-spent' money from this year's budget for re-allocation. **Action: S Richardson/Clerk.**

5. Council Report:

Cllrs Booth and Williams reported that the County and District Councils have no investments in Icelandic banks.

Cllr Booth stated that:

- the County Council budget is under review and 'difficult decisions' will need to be made.
- a major waste disposal facility in Coventry will be in place in the next 5 years to accommodate waste that will no longer go to landfill. (WCC is working with Coventry and Solihull authorities.)
- he has forwarded a motion to Council to request a change in WCC's HGV policy, whilst recognising that due account must be given to commerce and industry.

Cllr Williams presented his report – see attached.

Cllr Williams stated that, since the introduction of the new regime, a 62% recycling rate has been achieved.

Following the reintroduction of the green waste collection in Spring 2009, 2 green waste wheelie bins per household will be collected; however it is planned that householders will be able to make arrangements to pay for the collection of additional green bins.

Cllr Williams will ensure that Councillors from Avon Dassett are invited to SDC Planning training sessions. **Action: Cllr Williams.**

6. Correspondence:

'Home Choice Plus': poster promoting the District Council's new process for allocating Housing Association properties to be displayed on the noticeboard. **Action: Clerk.**

Warwickshire Best Village of the Year Competition 2008: questionnaire to be completed and returned to WRCC. **Action: S Richardson.**

Expired Unmetered Supply Inventory: Request from E-on/Central Networks to provide up to date inventory of street lights in Avon Dassett. **Action: Clerk.**

Road Repairs – Change of Divisional Surveyor: John Brown will be our primary contact at County Highways, WCC (replacing Gez Romano who is changing jobs).

Green Waste Collection: i) Information on the cessation of green waste collection during the winter period to be included in the Compton Chronicle, on village noticeboards and on the website. **Action: Clerk/S Richardson.** ii) The Clerk from Tanworth in Arden Parish Council asks if any Parish Councils will be providing a skip for green waste, in the light of the suspension of green waste wheelie bin collections? No provision of a skip will be made in Avon Dassett, however residents are encouraged to use the compost bays in the playground if they so wish.

Planning – a provisional meeting was set for 20 November at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

The following application was considered:

- Retention of boundary fence with trellising inserted and storage shed at Eva's Cottage, 1 Hill View, for Mr C MacLeod; no representation was made.

Notice of decision:

- Consent with conditions was given for tree works at St John The Baptist Churchyard for SDC.

7. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 3 November 2008:

Current account	£261.43 credit
Deposit account	£9,871.64 credit

Cheques issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay & expenses)	£182.52
b) J Sherriff (Coffee morning)	£7.17
c) Npower (Street light electricity)	£17.47
d) Glasdon Manufacturing (Bench x 2)	£637.88
e) M Harris (Mowing, re-planting village tubs, etc)	£131.00
f) S Harris (Reading Room cleaning and expenses)	£22.25
g) L Hope-Frost (Christmas Gathering expenses)	£21.31

The payment of cheques was proposed by S Richardson and seconded by L Hope-Frost.

8. Any Other Business:

a) A Remembrance service will be held at the Fenny Compton Memorial at 11.00 am on 9 November. The wreath laying service at Avon Dassett will be officiated by Father Bill at the Avon Dassett War Memorial at 12.15 on Sunday 9 November.

b) Warwickshire Best Village Competition 2008: A Silver Award was given for the Parish Plan and Website Projects. Thanks expressed to Sandra Rice and Sarah Richardson.

c) SDC has been short-listed for a Beacon Award for Digital Inclusion. Avon Dassett's website has been cited as an example of best practice for the district and S Richardson will attend the award ceremony.

- d) D Hutt attended Code of Conduct training on 28 October. A Rutherford to rearrange his training session. **Action: A Rutherford.**
- e) Christmas cards will be on sale at the coffee morning and at the Parish Council surgeries on 22 November and 9 December.
- f) J Burgess proposed that, at the next COMMA fund cycle, consideration be given to renovation of the Reading Room.
- g) Confirmation yet to be received regarding Cllr Seccombe's attendance at the December meeting of the Parish Council to explain the work of the Standards Board for England. Clerk to chase. **Action: Clerk.**
- h) A request was received to plant a holly hedge at the cemetery. Costs are likely to be in excess of £275. Clerk to check previous minutes and revisit the budget to determine the best way to progress this request. **Action: Clerk.**
- i) A number of residents have complained about the large advertising banners at The Avon; Clerk to investigate whether the signs comply with planning/conservation area legislation. **Action: Clerk.**

9. Questions from the Public:
None.

10. Date of Next Meeting:
The next Meeting will be held on Monday 1 December 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

**Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 03.11.08.
District Councillor's Report**

1. **Community Forum** – As I confirmed last month, Avon Dassett is now part of the Southam and Feldon Community Forum. I do hope that a Parish Councillor will be nominated to attend this meeting. The next meeting is on Tuesday 18th November at 7.00 p.m. at the school in Welsh Road West. It is expected that the Southam PACT group will meet before hand under the guise of a surgery, but to all intents and purposes it will be administered as the previous PACT meetings.
2. **Green Waste Collection** – The Green Waste Collection has now been suspended for this year only until 1st April 2008. If the new recycling plant is on stream sooner then, I hope, we can reintroduce green waste collection earlier. When the new Green Waste Recycling Plant comes on stream, residents will be able to mix kitchen waste with the green waste. I recently made the mistake of placing some rotten fruit in green wheelie bin and this was labeled as 'Contaminated'. From next Spring, such indiscretions will be overcome.
3. **Financial Matters** – I am pleased to report that the District Council had not invested reserves in Icelandic banks. We are in the early stages of preparing our budget proposals for next year and no growth items are proposed but obviously in view of the present economic climate we are having to reconsider capital projects and possibly disinvest from other schemes. An example as the recent decision not to proceed with the £2.5 million Wellesbourne Leisure Project. SDC is no different from other authorities in being prudent with its administration. However, I can assure you that there will be no disinvestment from front line services.