

## AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2003

Present L. Hope-Frost, D. Brangwyn, A. Fraser, K. Martin, Cllr C. Williams & Clerk

In Attendance Bob Butler

1) Apologies: P. Worrall

2) Declaration of Interest: None

3) Confirmation of Minutes: D. Brangwyn proposed that the minutes were correct and was seconded by A. Fraser, they were then signed by the Chairman.

4) Matters Arising:

Parish Plan – It was confirmed that the Parish Council would try to organise the parish plan. The problem of lack of kerbing was discussed, although not all the councillors were in agreement that the parish council should use part of the precept to provide new kerbing. It was decided that wooden posts would stop cars parking on the grass verge below the pub. Cllr Williams offered to speak to Mervyn Hancox regarding the posts. However, it was decided that 4 quotes should be obtained from WARCO. Cllr Williams offered to chase the quotes. A. Fraser reminded the council that part of the reason for kerbing was for flood defence purposes. Cllr Williams advised that it maybe possible to obtain a grant from Stratford DC towards the cost, if it was required for flood defence. The cost of the embellishment kit for the street lights was £570 per post.

It had been noted that the large lorry had been parking outside the playground again. It was agreed to telephone the company to complain.

Playground – It was agreed to remove the bund in spring. There was still no sign of the quote from Paul Ferris. To be chased. Pete Wallis had confirmed that he would deal with the totem pole.

Skateboarders – The idea had received approval from the children who skateboard. A. Fraser to speak to the local taxi firm. The idea of a disclaimer was discussed and A. Fraser agreed to raise the issue with his insurance company.

5) Correspondence:

A letter had been received from Brian Collins at Dasset Fields requesting a salt bin. D. Brangwyn offered to deal.

An endorsement had been received from Zurich Life regarding terrorism cover.

Planning- a notification for felling and reducing a number of trees at The Coach House had been received. The council had no representation to make. Consent had been received for the alterations at Flat 4, Bitham Hall.

July 11<sup>th</sup> 2004 - Noel  
5th Jan 04/

## 6) Financial Statement:

Balances as at close of business on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Current a/c	£	82.09	credit
Deposit a/c	£	4038.13	credit

Cheques to be issued:

1) A. Del Principe (clerk's pay)	£	70.00
2) A Del Principe (expenses)	£	33.63

Payment of the cheques was proposed by D. Brangwyn and seconded by A. Fraser.

The budget for 2004/05 was discussed and it was agreed to keep the precept at the current level of £5500.

7) Council Report: see attached

8) Any Other Business:

- a) There still appeared to be a problem with dogs loose in the village. It was agreed to write a letter of complaint from the council to the owner.
- b) The tables in the Reading Room had been booked for 31<sup>st</sup> December.

9) To Receive Questions from the Public:

- a) Bob Butler advised the council that the bus stops every morning by the playground.
- b) Despite reminders, the new company dealing with Bitham Hall had not removed the dead branches, therefore P. Worrall was going to deal.
- c) The idea of having gates at the entrance to the village with a red 30 mph limit on the road was discussed. However, it was agreed that it was not an effective method of slowing the traffic.
- d) It was suggested that residents should be asked if they support the skateboard trips.
- e) It was confirmed that the council would fund the monthly coffee mornings.

Date of Next Meeting as agreed by all councillors

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2004 @ 7.30pm in the Reading Room

Meeting closed @ 9.40pm

*Lily Hope - frost  
5th Jan ok!*

**Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 01.12.03.  
District Councillor's Report**

1. One of the most emotive issues that the Council has to deal with is that of dog fouling. Each year we get over 100 official queries about it. We have provided in the past hundreds of 'No Fouling' signs. Over the years we have carried out regular patrols at local hot spots together with many Dog Warden responsible dog ownership talks to schools, dog clubs and the like. In most instances it is illegal to allow dogs to foul public areas without subsequently cleaning up. Convicted offenders are liable to a fine of up to £1,000. The old way of education and advice does not seem to have produced any improvement. The Council, therefore, is going to start issuing Fixed Penalty Notices which allow the offender to pay a fine of £50 rather than risk prosecution. This will come into effect from the 17 November 2003. It is hoped that once some FPNs have been issued people will get the message that the Council is serious about this matter.
2. Local Authorities now have the opportunity of withdrawing some of the discount that second homes attract under the current Council Tax legislation. Second homes receive a 50% discount of their Council Tax bill. This new power within the Act means that Councils could reduce this discount to 10%. If the decision was taken to reduce the discount the impact upon Stratford-on-Avon District Council would be fairly minimum, the saving would only be about £12,000 per annum. Any additional cost of collection would be borne by the District Council. Given the relatively modest amount of additional income, it is probable that this issue will not be pursued.
3. Long term empty properties. There are currently 1,100 properties in the district that are unoccupied. The Council now has the power to remove the 50% discount entirely on these properties. If the Council chose to do this then all of the additional income would go to Central Government. This move could be seen as a positive step in trying to create a balanced housing market since it would increase the cost of owning a property and increase the chances that the property would become available on the housing market. I will keep you informed of developments.

CRW

01.12.03.