AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 6 February 2006

Present — L Hope-Frost; D Brangwyn; J Burgess; A Fraser; Cllr D Booth; Cllr C Williams; Clerk

In Attendance — R Husband; A Van Den Elst; D Van Den Elst

1. Apologies: K Martin

2. Declaration of Interest: J Burgess reference planning item - see below.

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

4. Matters Arising:
   a) Reading Room – Pete Wallace has constructed a portable wooden ramp to enable disabled access to the Reading Room which he has generously donated to the village. L Hope-Frost to write to Pete to express the Council's gratitude. Council to decide upon best way to store the ramp in the Reading Room.
   Further appointment will be made by A Fraser with D Lawson to quote for repairs to porch.
   A further request for donation of spare refuse sacks to the Reading Room was made.
   Suitability of recently-built storage unit subject to ongoing review.
   Electricity Bill – Clerk provided update reference ongoing dispute with Npower regarding outstanding bill for Reading Room electricity supply. Another appointment has been made for Npower to confirm 'crossed registers' (2 March 2006).
   A Fraser to contact Npower to ascertain rate charged for Economy7 tariff.
   b) Best Kept Village Competition – Cllr Williams has again written to Allison Chappell on behalf of the Parish Council expressing disappointment at her failure to respond to his letter of 8 January 2006 and that this matter was still unresolved.
   c) Playground Equipment – R Husband stated that, in general, parents were satisfied with the facilities at the playground. However, he pointed out that the ground at the base of some of the swings had been subject to erosion and requested that mats be provided to make these safe. A Fraser to order mats from Wicksteed and arrange for installation.
   Parents supported the idea of a picnic table in the playground, but were concerned about loss of play space if this were too large. L Hope-Frost suggested a site visit to the playground by Councillors at the earliest opportunity when light levels permit.
   d) Traffic Calming – J Burgess confirmed that Jerry Birkbeck of the County Council's Environmental Design Team for Rural Traffic Management has agreed to attend the March meeting of the Parish Council. J Burgess circulated documents to the Council.
   General concern was expressed regarding village road signs obscured by trees; Clerk reported that County Highways had been asked to deal with these, however they have budget issues that preclude carrying out perceived 'non-urgent' work.
   The relevance and/or positioning of a new 'slippery road surface' sign recently erected by Top Lodge was questioned.
   e) Parish Councils – Planning Applications & Development Control (training course) – Clerk contacted Sue Nash at District Council requesting alternative dates for this course; Ms Nash failed to respond. Cllr Williams to assist.
   f) Village Bench – Clerk had spoken to J Brown at County Highways on 10 January 2006. Mr

L. Hope-Frost 13th March 06

Brown said that he would evaluate the suitability of the proposed site and, if deemed acceptable, write to the Parish Council with County Highways' permissions *provided* the Parish accepts responsibility for upkeep/maintenance and public liability issues. Clerk e-mailed Mr Brown on 1 February to seek response – none received to date.

g) Light Above Lichgate at St John the Baptist Church – L Hope-Frost reported that a meeting was held with Annette Mackie and Bob Yarwood from Warwick County Council 'Street Lighting' Department on 17 January to investigate the possibility of connecting the lichgate lamp to the village street light system. It was suggested that a spur from nearby Lamp 10 would be the most sensible source of power to the lichgate lamp. Clerk reported that the lamp had later been removed to evaluate whether its condition is sufficiently robust. County Council agreed to provide a proposal, with costs, in approximately one month (ie mid Feb).

5. Correspondence:

Unauthorised Advertising – Ray Randerson requested that the subject of unauthorised advertising (typically found on trailers) be raised at the meeting. Cllr Williams explained that the District Council is aware of this problem and that action is being taken.

Parish Council Correspondence – prior to the meeting Ray Randerson informed L Hope-Frost that at Tysoe Parish Council the Clerk read out all correspondence; Clerk to consider.

Parish Website – prior to the meeting J Burgess sourced appropriate documentation to enable Avon Dassett to proceed with an application for funding from a District Council initiative for the development of a Parish Council Website (eg hardware/software/technical support etc). Cllr Williams is co-ordinating this scheme for the District; to this end, completed paperwork was passed to Cllr Williams. The Parish Council gave its support to this initiative.

Parish & Town Council Induction Day (WALC) – Clerk notified her wish to attend a training session on 11 February and submitted an application for a bursary training grant (to NALC) to cover 75% of the cost of this training. If granted, the cost to the Parish of the course will be £6.25. Application authorised by the Chair and request for training approved by the Council.

Royal Garden Party – L Hope-Frost and D Brangwyn were nominated for inclusion in the selection process to attend a Royal Garden Party to be held in the summer of 2006.

Composting – An e-mail from Penny Holmes – Home Composting Advisor for Warwickshire and Coventry – was read to the meeting. Article to be forwarded to J Burgess as Chair of the Fête Committee and Alysoun Glasspool for inclusion in Compton Chronicle – Clerk to action.

Maintenance of Footway Lighting 2006/7 – Quotation for street lighting maintenance by Warwickshire County Council and the invoice for same in 2005/6 were presented to the meeting. Both documents cited 12 lights for maintenance in Avon Dassett; L Hope-Frost to verify if this number is correct.

National Salary Award for Clerks 1 April 2006 – WALC documentation outlining a cost of living increase of 2.95% over 2005 salaries.

Planning – A provisional date was set for the next extraordinary planning meeting on Thursday 23 February 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room, should responses to applications be required prior to the next ordinary Parish Council meeting.

J Burgess declared an interest in the application from Mr S Mullane, Orchard End, to carry out various tree works at the property and, to this end, took no part in this consideration; there was no representation to make.

Planning consent was granted for arboricultural work at The Coach House, Bitham Hall.

Planning consent (with conditions) was granted for enlargement of dwelling, refurbishment of outbuilding, and erection of garage with new vehicular access at Pump House Cottage.

Note: An extraordinary planning meeting was held on Thursday 26 January 2006 (attended by 18 residents) to discuss 4 applications from the Trustees of Colonel C Worrall (deceased) regarding the proposed demolition/erection of garages at Lower End:

- Construct 5 garages and storage over; various concerns were raised and it was requested that this be put forward to the Planning Committee*.
- Demolish 10 prefabricated concrete garages; there was no representation to make.

L. Hope-Frost 13th March 06

- Construct garage and storage over (to rear of 1 & 2 Lower End Cottages); various concerns were raised and it was requested that this be put forward to the Planning Committee*.
- Demolish prefabricated concrete garage and small timber shed; there were no representations to make.

*Cllr Williams reminded the meeting that a representative of the Parish Council should attend the Planning Committee on 21 February regarding these applications; D Brangwyn agreed to attend. Clerk to ensure D Brangwyn has appropriate documentation.

6. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 6 February 2006:

Current account	£333.07 credit
Deposit account	£5,781.39 credit

Cheques to be issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay)	£100.00
b) W Sherriff (coffee mornings)	£6.73
c) J Kipling (cleaning)	£16.00
d) M Harris (gardening/maintenance)	£94.00
e) WALC (Audit Forms x 10)	£7.47
f) Npower (unmetered supply)	£48.08

The payment of cheques was proposed by D Brangwyn and seconded by A Fraser.

7. Council Report:
Cllr Williams presented his report – see attached.
Cllr Booth reported that the latest reported crime figures, although down overall, masked the increase in reported crime in rural areas.
Amalgamation of police forces subject of debate, with West Mercia opposing the proposals.
County Council to consider budget on 7 February.
Cllr Booth reported that, at a meeting held on 6 February to discuss preliminary budget allocations, additional monies for roads were proposed as follows: 'streetscapes' - £50,000; 'repair and replacement of lights' - £40,000; 'drainage' - £75,000; 'footways' - £135,000.

8. Any Other Business:
a) Dog fouling - J Burgess reported no perceived improvement following the issue of leaflets to all dog owners in the village.
b) L Hope-Frost received a report from a resident at Bitham Hall regarding the potential danger to cyclists of ruts at the edge of the Farnborough Road; Clerk to report to County Highways.
c) L Hope-Frost, whilst understanding the demands of work-in-progress at Spikes Cottage, requested assurances from R Husband that the public footpath adjacent to his property would be made-good upon completion of work. R Husband to action when possible.

9. Questions from the Public:
None.

L. Hope-Frost 13th March 06

10. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 13 March 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 06.02.06.
District Councillor's Report

1. The final figure proposed for Council Tax increases for the District Council 2006-07 will be 3.7%. This amounts for less than 8p per week per household.

2. The Parish Council will recall that last month I advised them about the District Council's proposal to initiate a Community Links Transport scheme to replace the former travel token scheme. When the new scheme is introduced in April, the project will be coordinated by the Community Voluntary Service. This service already helps with district-wide transport schemes mainly for health journeys, ie. Hospitals, doctors, day centres etc. It has some twenty years experience and is currently delivering approximately 36,000 passengers with some 230 volunteer drivers. The new scheme goes a long way to providing additional sources of transport to help the needs of those in receipt of social benefit.

CRW
06.02.06.