

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 7th January 2002

Present L. Hope-Frost, R. Watts, K. Martin, D. Whittlesea
Cllr C. Williams & Clerk

In Attendance Issy Seccombe & Bob Butler

- 1) Apologies: C. Worrall
- 2) Declaration of Interest: None
- 3) Confirmation of Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by K. Martin and signed accordingly by L. Hope-Frost, in the chairman's absence.
- 4) To Receive Questions from Public: Bob Butler asked whether it was possible to receive a copy of the minutes, Cllr Williams explained that the minutes were not approved until they had been signed and could then be viewed by the public at an agreed time with the clerk. It was noted that only half the hill had been cleared of leaves, Cllr Williams agreed to speak to Warks CC.
- 5) Matters Arising:
 - a) Dog Bins – L. Hope-Frost explained that she had spoken to Mr Helmore of Honeywood House, who felt that a further dog bin was not required and would be an eyesore. It was therefore agreed to order just two bins in either black or green if possible. It had previously been agreed that the council would order a waste bin on behalf of the Fete Committee, who would reimburse the council, it was agreed that only one bin was required and should be placed inside the playground. Clerk to order.
 - b) Kerbing – Clerk to chase for quote.
 - c) Burial Ground – As the trees had been pruned the council discussed proceeding with the fencing for the rest of the burial ground. It was decided to go ahead providing the previous quote had not increased.
 - d) Playground – The Fete Committee had offered to pay £1000 towards the cost of a baby swing. The exact swing had not been chosen as the quote from Wickstead had seemed very high and needed to be checked. The clerk had received a quote for £2000 for tarmac an area of 9sq meters for the basketball area. This was considered too high so Cllr Williams suggested obtaining another quote.

6) Correspondence:

Planning Notifications

Linda Hope Frost

Orchard End – to fell 4 Poplars and remove branch from Horse Chestnut- no representation to make

Devonia – application withdrawn

A reply had been received from Warwickshire County Council regarding the review of speed limits. Issy Seccombe advised that the review of main roads would be undertaken first, however the review should be complete by the end of 2003. Therefore item to be reconsidered end of year.

The council discussed the issue of a weight limit restriction in the village. It was suggested sending a letter to Mark Walker regarding the size of the vehicles delivering to his business.

A booklet had been received regarding the Queen's Golden Jubilee. To be considered.

A letter from Citizens Advice Bureau thanking the council for the donation. Confirmation that the Parish Council election is to be on 17th January. It was agreed to charge £200 for the use of the Reading Room for the election.

7) Financial Statement:

Balances as at close of business on Friday 4th January 2002

Current a/c	£	1112.95	credit
Deposit a/c	£	6453.17	credit

Cheques to be issued:

a) A.Del Principe (clerk's pay)	£52.10
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The payment of the cheque was proposed by D. Whittlesea and seconded by K.Martin.

Twenty pounds was passed to the clerk from Avon Dasset Gardening Club and the clerk had also received £5 from Avon Carrow for the use of the Reading Room.

The council agreed a precept of £5000, which was proposed by K. Martin and seconded by D. Whittlesea. L. Hope-Frost signed the Precept book.

8) Any Other Business:

- a) Playground – Reg Watts had spoken to C. Worrall regarding the rent for playground. C. Worrall had confirmed that it was not necessary for any payment to be made.
- b) Coffee Mornings – It had been decided that in future the coffee mornings would be held on the 1st Wednesday of the month.
- c) Heaters – the heaters had now been installed in the Reading Room and needed to be connected. Clerk to contact MEB.
- d) Thanks were given to Reg Watts for his help and contribution to the council.

Date of Next Meeting as agreed by all councillors

Monday 4th February 2002 @ 7.30pm in the Reading Room

Linda Hope, Clerk

Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 7 January 2002

1. Introduction: This has been a very busy time for the District Council with a lot of legislation being approved and prospective legislation being digested and amended for use by the District Council.
2. On 16 November 2001 the Local Plan was approved by the full Council and it is to be placed on deposit at the end of January for consultation. In real terms this means that developers and interested parties can comment upon the proposals. As far as developers are concerned the likelihood is that they will come forward with land that they wish to develop and question why other parcels of land are being developed in preference to their own.
3. On Wednesday 12 December 2001 the government introduced a Green Paper for the future of planning. The government is proposing a radical overhaul of the planning process. As far as this area is concerned the principal change will be the dropping of Structure Plans. These are plans prepared by the County for housing allocation etc. In future Counties will not be closely involved with the planning process. The definition of outline planning consent is to be replaced. Permission and Consent is to be time limited to 3 years to commence – this is a reduction from 5 years. The deadline for launching appeals is to be reduced from 6 months to 3 months. The percentage of planning applications that are dealt with on a Delegated basis is to be raised to 90% and there is now a requirement for developers to consult with local communities in advance of submitting planning applications. SDC is well advanced with these proposals and communities will be able to liaise with developers through Parish Appraisals and Parish Plans. Local authorities have until March to respond to these government proposals and it is expected that the new regulations will come into effect Autumn 2002.
4. In conjunction with the County a Strategic Plan is being prepared for Warwickshire. It is proposed to have a meeting at the Civic Hall in Stratford at the end of March when Parish Councils and other strategic partners will be able to comment on the Plan. The Plan is drawn up around eight broad themes that reflect the concerns raised by the communities of south Warwickshire in consultation exercise. The themes are: Crime and Community Safety, Community Involvement, Health and Wellbeing, The Environment, Transport, Economy and Employment, Education and Lifelong Learning and Information and Access to Services. For each theme the Plan summarises where we are now in the District, indicates our vision for where we would like to be in 2010 and shows what we intend to do in the next 3 – 5 years to move us towards the achievement of that vision.
5. November 6th 2001 saw the launch of the Standards Board for England. The Board is a new independent body set up by parliament to define, promote and maintain standards of conduct. It will oversee the new code of Local Government conduct, provide guidance on issues of conduct and offer new means of investigating allegations of misconduct and maladministration. Parish Councils are now controlled by the District Council by delegation of

parliament and whilst there are minor changes into the code of conduct there are significant changes as far as the District Council's involvement is concerned. Previously, if an elector had a grievance with a Parish Council his only course of action was to refer to the Ombudsman. Now, a committee known as the Standards and Ethics Committee, administered by the District Council, will investigate all matters of misconduct and maladministration. There has also been a change as far as the declaration of interests is concerned. Previously, they were defined as either 'Pecuniary' or 'Non-Pecuniary'. The new categories are now 'Personal Interests' and 'Prejudicial Interests'. A Personal Interest covers relatives etc. In essence, the councillor must not do anything that compromises, or that is likely to compromise, the impartiality of the councillor. A Prejudicial Interest is one in which a member of the public, with a knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Parish Councillor's judgement of the public interest. Finally, where a councillor declares an interest, either Personal or Prejudicial, they are expected not only to not take part in the discussion, but to leave the room entirely. It is presumed that their remaining in the room might intimidate the decision making process. The new Standards and Ethics Committee will come into force on or before May 2002.

6. At the full meeting of the Council on 10 December 2001 various legislative decisions were adopted and of particular interest was the statement that the collection and recycling of green waste has been delayed for fiscal reasons. However, a processor of waste plastic has been secured and polythene is likely to be a material that will soon be collected and recycled.
7. At the present time SDC is operating a pilot constitution with regard to the elected cabinet etc. It is proposed that this pilot scheme which is proving satisfactory will be adopted and implemented by the full Council in May 2002.

CRW
7.01.02.

Linda Hope, Mayor.
14th February 2002.