

## AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 5th January 2004

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

In Attendance Issy Seccombe, Bob Butler and Andrew Brangwyn

- 1) Apologies: None
- 2) Declaration of Interest: None
- 3) Confirmation of Minutes: D. Brangwyn proposed that the minutes were correct and was seconded by P. Worrall, they were then signed by the Chairman.

4) Matters Arising:

Parish Plan – The quote was still outstanding from Warco. Clerk to chase. Cllr Williams advised that as Avon Dasset was in a conservation area, a grant was available for the conversion of the street lights. He agreed to investigate.

Playground – Still no quote from Paul Ferris. K. Martin agreed to chase. Cllr Williams warned that there was no guarantee that section 136 would be repaid next year.

Skateboarders – As only three children were interested it was agreed that it was not enough to justify the cost. A. Fraser had checked with his insurance company who advised that children under 12 would have to be accompanied by an adult and that the council would not be covered under their policy so additional cover would be needed. It was agreed to review the situation in 2-3 years. A. Fraser suggested putting a half pipe in the playground and offered to get a quote.

Salt Bin – The new salt bin had been installed and filled. However, it had been put within the Farnborough parish boundary. The clerk was asked to write to the clerk of Farnborough parish council to ask whether they would consider making a contribution towards the cost.

5) Correspondence:

A letter from DEFRA regarding equine issues was passed to P. Worrall.

A letter had been received from Stratford DC enquiring whether the council would agree to store the polling booths for a small fee. The council agreed.

Planning- Consent had been received for the felling of a birch tree at 2 Lower Terrace.

6) Financial Statement:

Balances as at close of business on Monday 5th January

*July Hope, Frost  
Feb 2nd out /*

Current a/c	£	128.46	credit
Deposit a/c	£	4076.74	credit

Cheques to be issued:

1) A. Del Principe (clerk's pay)	£	70.00
2) M. Harris	£	60.00
3) Npower	£	55.64
4) Bob Butler	£	6.77

Payment of the cheques was proposed by D. Brangwyn and seconded by P. Worrall.

Although the council have over £4000 in the bank it was agreed to keep the precept at the current level of £5500, due to the projects planned in 2004. ie. wooden posts and kerbing . The Chairman signed the Precept request form.

7) Council Report: see attached

8) Any Other Business:

- a) It was agreed to send a copy of the police report regarding the accident at the crossroads to BT. Although it was not known whether the telegraph pole was part of the cause. Clerk to write to BT with report to follow.
- b) It was noted that more cards would be needed at xmas.
- c) The dogs were still roaming around the village. D. Brangwyn had spoken to the owner who recognised the problem. It was agreed that a letter should still be done.
- d) A. Fraser had cleared the leaves from the culverts and asked everyone to the same.
- e) During the icy weather a car travelling along the Farnborough Road had slid and crashed. It was therefore agreed that a letter should be done to John Brown at Warks CC asking for the top surface to be applied to the road. A. Fraser agreed to draft letter.
- f) Malcolm Mackay had agreed to remove the dangerous branch over hanging the hill.
- g) On the day of the accident at the cross roads P. Worrall's wife had called Warks CC and after many calls managed to get them to grit the Farnborough Road. As the main road had been closed the Farnborough Road had been technically upgraded.

9) To Receive Questions from the Public:

- a) Bob Butler advised that he had heard that a new skateboard ramp was to be built at Temple Herdwyke.
- b) It was confirmed that the Deemings' great danes were not dangerous.
- c) There were a number of cricketers in the village who liked the idea of a cricket pitch.

Date of Next Meeting as agreed by all councillors

Monday 2nd February 2004 @ 7.30pm in the Reading Room

*Jilly Hope - Mayor  
Feb 2nd 04/*

Meeting closed @ 8.40pm

*July Hope. No  
Feb 2nd 04/*

- 1. The grant reduction support from Central Government in the form of block grant means that this year the District Council will receive £800,000 less than in the current year. Stafford will be getting £3.54 billion which is a 1% increase on its last settlement of 46.15 million. In reality the Government has changed the way and the apparent shortfall should be made up in other ways. The Government doesn't let the Council have been awarded a 2.2% increase in grants. The amount of money the Council gets from the Government is critical when determining the level of Council Tax. I can assure you that the District Council is going to keep the District Council element of Council Tax low as much as possible. It should be remembered that the District Council is the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest council in the country and by far the lowest taxed authority in Warwickshire.
- 2. A recent survey of the Citizens Panel and public meetings held in Stratford, Coalham, Alcester and Shipston collected that the public would prefer a lower council tax rather than supporting the site in the shape of substantial grants to maintain events being held in the Gallery at Stratford. There was also a feeling that too much money was being spent in the creation of new leisure centres. Currently, the District Council is investigating the provision of a new swimming pool and leisure centre in the Welland area, in addition to the current centres of Studley, Stratford, Southam and Shipston. There was support, however, for improving the Home Help Service for the aged and ensuring that the residents of the district lead a healthy life.
- 3. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister also known as Mr John Prescott has had a change of mind as regards the forthcoming election for the European Parliament. Originally, it was decided that these elections would be an all party affair. He has now decided that the 10 local elections for West Midlands Districts will be a two-party election with polling booths and marked ballot returns. Party and Group Council elections will take place at the same time.

CRW  
05.01.04

**Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 05.01.04.  
District Councillor's Report**

1. The grant settlement support from Central Government in the form of an actual block grant means that this year the District Council will receive £800,000 less than it received in the current year. Stratford will be getting £5.34million compared with its last settlement of £6.16million. In reality the Government has significantly changed the rules and the apparent shortfall should be made up in other ways. The Government claims that the Council has been awarded a 2.2% increase in grants. The amount of money the Council gets from the Government is critical when determining the level of Council Tax. I can assure you that the District Council is striving to keep the District Council element of Council Tax down to single figures. It should be remembered that the District Council is the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest district in the country and by far the lowest taxed authority in Warwickshire.
2. A recent survey of the Citizens Panel and public meetings held in Stratford, Southam, Alcester and Shipston indicated that the public would prefer a lower council tax rather than supporting the arts in the shape of substantial grants to maintain events being held in The Gallery at Stratford. There was also a feeling that too much money was being spent in the creation of new leisure centres. Currently, the District Council is investigating the provision of a new swimming pool and leisure activities for Wellesbourne, in addition to the current centres of Studley, Stratford, Southam and Shipston. There was support, however, for improving the Home Help Service for the aged and ensuring that the residents of the district lead a healthier life.
3. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister also known as Mr John Prescott has had a change of mind as regards the forthcoming elections for the European Parliament. Originally, it was decreed that these elections would be an all postal affair. He has now decided that the 10 June elections for West Midlands District will be a conventional election with polling booths and marked ballot returns. Parish and District Council elections will take place at the same time.