

## AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 9 January 2006

- Present** L Hope-Frost; J Burgess; A Fraser; K Martin;  
Cllr D Booth; Clerk
- In Attendance** R Husband
1. Apologies: D Brangwyn; Cllr C Williams
2. Declaration of Interest: None
3. Confirmation of Minutes:  
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by K Martin and seconded by J Burgess; they were then signed by L Hope-Frost.
4. Matters Arising:
- a) Reading Room – A Fraser has asked Pete Wallace to create a portable wooden ramp to enable disabled access to the Reading Room.  
D Lawson will be asked to quote for repairs to the porch.  
A Fraser to carry out woodworm treatment.
  - b) Best Kept Village Competition – The award certificate for 2005 has been framed and placed in the Reading Room.  
Cllr Williams continues to seek clarification of unresolved issues from Allison Chappell on behalf of the Parish Council; to this end, his letter to Ms Chappell dated 8 January 2006 was read to the meeting.
  - c) Playground Equipment – R Husband intends to group village children by age in order to determine requirements for improvements to the playground. He has already spoken to some parents with regard to this matter – ongoing.
  - d) Budget 2006/7 – Prior to finalising the precept request for 2006/7, discussions were held regarding unpaid electricity bill (due to queries with billing tariffs and/or possible faulty meter settings). Clerk reported that Npower are to visit the site on 18 January 2006 to ratify her findings that the meter tariffs are at variance with Npower's current billing system. Using the available data from previous bills, A Fraser estimated that the revised bill was likely to be in the region of £2,000. A Fraser raised concerns regarding the high rate of 'units' used in the last 12 months.  
K Martin reported that Mark Johnson had confirmed there was no 'over-ride' to the storage heater switches.  
A precept of £7,000 was set for 2006/7; appropriate documentation completed and signed at the meeting by the Chair. Clerk to send form to Stratford District Council.
  - e) Traffic Calming – J Burgess presented details of discussions with Jerry Birkbeck of the County Council's Environmental Design Team for Rural Traffic Management. J Burgess stated that this is a long term project and, if a decision is made to go ahead, it may be 2008 before tangible results are realised. J Burgess to invite Jerry Birkbeck to the March meeting of the Parish Council.
5. Correspondence:
- Electoral Register - issued to all Councillors.
- Parish Councils – Planning Applications & Development Control – Clerk confirmed that the

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training session of 27 January 2006 had been postponed. Clerk to advise of new dates.

**Transport** - District Council in process of compiling a register of residents who will qualify for its new transport scheme, due to commence in the Spring (see Council Report - attached). K Martin to distribute application forms to four nominated villagers. Details to be posted on the noticeboard in the Reading Room.

**Age Concern** - require volunteers for new initiative to increase access to information and advice services for older people in rural areas. Launch meeting 26 January. Details to be posted on noticeboard in Reading Room.

**Small Business Rate Relief 2006/7** - application form for the Reading Room completed by the Chair. Clerk to return to District Council.

**Audit** - Annual Return for 2004/5 completed. Clerk sourcing new 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit' forms in order to formally advertise Audit closure.

**Funding** - e-mail sent by Cllr Booth detailing funding opportunities passed to R Husband for Parish Plan 'team'.

**Planning** - A provisional date was set for the next extraordinary planning meeting on Thursday 26 January 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room, should responses to applications be required prior to the next ordinary Parish Council meeting.

Planning consent was granted for arboricultural work at Avon Dasset highway verges.

Planning consent was granted to Mr & Mrs J Davis, The Old Pump House, for a single storey front and side extension to dwelling.

Planning consent was granted to Ms L Hope-Frost for arboricultural work at The Old Rectory. The application by Mr & Mrs Davis at The Old Pump House for a detached double garage with studio over has been withdrawn.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Williams advised the Clerk that he hopes to resolve the Parish Council's flagpole application in time for the February meeting without the necessity to provide supplementary information.

## 6. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 9 January 2006:

Current account	£268.45 credit
Deposit account	£6,161.02 credit

Cheques to be issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay plus expenses)	£105.38
b) W Sherriff (coffee mornings)	£11.23
c) J Kipling (cleaning)	£16.00
d) J Burgess (flowers)	£11.94
e) D Finch (building/repairs)	£270.00
f) P Wallace (bus shelter)	£30.00
g) Clement Keys (audit)	£141.00
h) L Hope-Frost (framing)	£8.00

The payment of cheques was proposed by A Fraser and seconded by K Martin.

## 7. Council Report:

Report by Cllr Williams attached.

Cllr Booth reported that the Council Tax discount given for second homes is anticipated to be reduced from the current level of 25% to 10%.

Cllr Booth stated that £2 million has been allocated to repair of roads in Warwickshire.

The County Council had issues with a Government directive reference lamppost-mounted

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'illuminated' advertising signs; however Cllr Booth felt that it was unlikely to be an issue in this area.

Waste disposal/recycling: Cllr Booth stated that a scheme to incinerate waste was proposed jointly with Solihull and Coventry. There is a need to act now in order to meet future targets and avoid 'huge' landfill penalties.

#### 8. Any Other Business:

- a) J Burgess suggested that the 'Age Concern' and 'Transport' items discussed above should be raised in the Compton Chronicle.
- b) At the January coffee morning, some of the 'seniors' suggested that funds raised by the Fête Committee might be used to source a bench. It was suggested that a bench be sited on the grass verge by the lychgate at St John the Baptist Church. Clerk to request permissions from Highways Authority.
- c) Discussion reference acquisition of picnic bench in the playground and/or repair of current bench ensued. K Martin was concerned that large benches would reduce the space available for children to play. L Hope-Frost suggested a site meeting later in the year. R Husband to include this in his discussions with parents.
- d) L Hope-Frost reported that M Harris had been asked to clear the path leading from Top Lodge to St John the Baptist Church. It was later requested that he be asked to trim the base of the tree by the footpath opposite Hillview Cottages.
- e) A Fraser requested that street cleaning be undertaken to clear loose chippings that have resulted from recent frosts. Clerk to remind Highways Authority of previous request.
- f) L Hope-Frost reported that the street lamp formerly sited at Spinney Bank had been disposed of during the alterations to the property.
- g) It was proposed that the light over the lychgate at St John the Baptist Church be connected to the main street light supply – Clerk to contact County Council 'Street Lighting' Department.
- h) Lamp (No 10) near St John the Baptist Church still faulty; Clerk to investigate why earlier request to County Council has not been actioned.
- i) A Fraser instructed Clerk to write to Michael Mann specifying terms agreed for this year's mowing contract – Clerk to action.
- j) Bulb required for lamp outside Reading Room – A Fraser/P Wallace to action.
- k) Battery required for clock in Reading Room – L Hope-Frost to action.
- l) The status of the Parish Plan was raised; R Husband stated that people want to be involved, however no-one wanted to lead the project.
- m) L Hope-Frost asked that spare bin bags be donated to the Reading Room.
- n) Clerk asked if a small board could be fixed on or adjacent to the Reading Room door to which notices could be attached without the risk of damaging the wooden door. The door had swollen in the damp weather and was very difficult to open and close. A Fraser stated that he would ask Pete Wallace to action.

#### 9. Questions from the Public:

- a) R Husband asked that consideration be given to providing a different access to the 'Fête' field footpath for dogs and their handlers, in order that dogs avoid the playground. Cllr Booth and K Martin warned of the difficulties involved in attempting to move public rights of way. However it was suggested that a direct route might be made into the field; this would require permissions from the landowner and appropriate authorities.

#### 10. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 6 February 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

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**Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 09.01.06.  
District Councillor's Report**

1. The council has completed its reorganisation. The new structure comprises of a Chief Executive, two instead of three Strategic Directors, the former Finance Director, Martin Henwood, left the authority before Christmas and eight instead of thirteen Heads of Service. The new structure, as well as providing savings in expense, will also provide for a greater efficiency. The Head of Service now have more authority, running their departments along well-established business principles even having budgetary responsibility. These changes are all part of the improvement of the District Council that have been suggested following the poor assessment of the District Council two years ago.
2. Following a better than expected settlement from the government, it does appear that next year's council tax rises will be less than last year. I anticipate a rise of 3.75%. As a result of efficiency savings, it has not been found necessary to make any significant reductions in service and in fact we are increasing many supplementary services such as care of the homeless, market town initiatives, rural transport schemes and many other issues.
3. **Development of Community Links.** Starting in the spring, transport will be arranged for people who are stuck for transport to get to local destinations on set weekdays between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. The scheme is aimed at those who:
  - (a) Previously qualified for transport tokens
  - (b) Do not have access to a car
  - (c) Cannot access public transport because of mobility problems
  - (d) Live in a rural isolated location with no other form of transport available.

We are in the process of compiling a 'register' of people who fit the above criteria and will include people who may need to be temporarily on the register, perhaps due to recovery from an operation etc. The 'register' will therefore be flexible and evolving.

The community links project aims to work alongside two existing transport schemes in the district:

- (a) The Volunteer Centre Medical Journey Scheme for doctor, dentist, day centre and hospital related appointments.
- (b) 'Back & 4<sup>th</sup>' Transport who hire out a Multi Purpose Vehicle (with wheelchair access) and minibuses with drivers to social and community groups or individuals.

People will be able to telephone and book transport. Users of this service will be asked to contribute to the project costs and this will be £1 per local journey or £2 to a key destination outside the zone.

I will keep you informed of the progress with this project.