

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 5 June 2006

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

In Attendance

1. Apologies: None

2. Declaration of Interest: None

3. Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by L Hope-Frost and seconded by K Martin; they were then signed by A Fraser.

4. Matters Arising:

a) Location of Picnic Bench – a site meeting was held at the playground to determine the positioning of the bench that will be provided by the Fête Committee. It was agreed to place the bench in the corner of the playground diagonally opposite the climbing frame (ie closest to the Lower End/Farnborough Road junction).

b) Tree inspection – a site meeting was held to discuss the possible re-positioning of the tree planted in memory of Mrs Jesse Hall. It was agreed that the tree should be moved, at a suitable time, near to the flower bed by the playground. However, prior to any action being taken, contact is to be made with Mrs Hall's son to gain his consent to moving the memorial tree and plaque.

c) Reading Room – D Lawson instructed to go ahead with the repairs to the porch and to repair/replace the Reading Room window whose framework was now rotten. The tap was still faulty; A Fraser to request S Mullane to repair. A Fraser to get quotes for fitment of timer switches to storage heater. Thanks were expressed to Pete Wallace for constructing (free of charge) the small noticeboard adjacent to the Reading Room door.

d) Traffic Calming – J Burgess informed the meeting that the traffic survey is due to take place after 12 June.

e) Playground – A Fraser awaiting quote from Norman Boyce to:
- replace part of the boundary fence, remove hedge and plant new hedging.
- set the mats required at the base of some of the playground swings on a concrete base.
- remove grass cuttings dumped in playground corners and make good these areas.
It was noted that the fencepost to the gate at the burial ground was in need of repair.

f) Street Lighting

Lamp 10 – the lamp is now positioned higher up its pole and directed towards Church Hill. Central Networks have installed the underground cable from Lamp 9 to Lamp 10; Lamp 10 is now functioning.

Light above Lichgate at St John the Baptist Church – it is planned to add the restored lichgate lamp to the street lighting system in early June.

g) Parish Website – No instructions have yet been received from Stratford District Council to move this project forward. However, Cllr Williams advised that training schedules are currently being prepared. Consideration should be given to location of hardware to enable community access.

AJ Fraser
3/7/06

6. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 5 June 2006:

Current account	£312.28 credit
Deposit account	£10,406.51 credit

Cheques to be issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay)	£100.00
b) J Kipling (Cleaning)	£16.00
c) M Harris (Mowing verges/path clearance)	£63.32
d) M F M Services (Mowing & strimming)	£170.00

The payment of cheques was proposed by L Hope-Frost and seconded by D Brangwyn.

VAT reimbursement of £465.71 for the period 1/4/05 to 31/3/06 had been received from HM Revenue and Customs.

7. Council Report:

Clr Williams presented his report.

- Budget review has commenced.
- Government set 2.5% efficiency savings; SDC hopes to exceed this target.
- Stratford District Council have available £200,000 for play areas in addition to 'normal' grant money; therefore extra money available for play equipment grants. Parish Council to consider.
- 'Best Kept Village Competition': judging week commencing 5 June.

Clr Booth presented his report.

- Traffic calming: County Council reviewing its policy; hopes to have decision by Christmas.
- Road repairs: important to report pot holes.
- West Midlands Police Force: decision made by Government to amalgamate Warwickshire police force into larger 'West Midlands' force. New Chief Constable appointed (cross-posting between West Midlands and Warwickshire) following resignation of Warwickshire Chief Constable.
- West Midlands Ambulance Service: Warwickshire Ambulance Service to be part of new 'West Midlands' service.
- Primary Care Trusts: consultation ongoing regarding decision to amalgamate 3 primary care trusts in Warwickshire to single trust.
- B4100 Junction: signs and road markings to be upgraded. D Brangwyn stated concern that this was inadequate. Cllr Booth to provide contact details to enable Parish Council to progress this matter further.

8. Any Other Business:

- a) J Burgess informed the meeting that the recently dug drainage ditch opposite Lower End contains broken glass. Clerk to contact County Highways to request ditch clearance.
- b) J Burgess asked if there is a facility for collection of large items of refuse for the village as a whole? Cllr Williams advised that individual households may contact District Council to arrange up to 5 large items for collection at a cost of circa £12.
- c) L Hope-Frost advised the meeting that a 12km run commencing at Farnborough will pass through Avon Dassett on Sunday 18 June.
- d) L Hope-Frost asked that Helen Lay Court be considered for future charitable donations.
- e) A Fraser suggested that there is a requirement for additional 'Dog Waste Bins' at the Reading Room-end of the village; the Council agreed.
- f) A Fraser reported that Lamp 1 (Park Close) was faulty. Clerk to contact 'Street Lighting'.

9. Questions from the Public: - none

10. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday 3 July 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.
Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

AFK
3/7/06

Report to the Avon Dassett Parish Council – June 2006

Parish Plan Steering Group

Following the good results from your last meeting, we have gone ahead and completed – or very nearly – the Questionnaire. There are a few amendments to be made and agreed relating to the changes of questions to take into account the change of the SDC system for free transport for the over 65's and the registered disabled.

The introductory letter will be distributed during the course of this week to all households within the parish, and the distribution of the Questionnaires will take place during the week beginning the 12th June. Collection of completed questionnaires is scheduled for the period between June 19th and June 25th. Each member of the Steering Group will deliver to and collect from a separate group of households.

The Questionnaires will subsequently be sent to Warwick Software for analysis and the text responses will be collated by the Steering Group for display with the results of the analysis. We are hoping to arrange an Open Day/Exhibition in the early Autumn, when further discussion and responses will be invited, in preparation for the formation of an Avon Dassett Parish Action Plan. We would also like to involve the young people within the village to a greater extent than is possible with the questionnaire alone. We propose to supply single use cameras to each family with children below 16years to enable them to take pictures of what they like and dislike within the parish. The results will be added to the exhibition and hopefully promote further discussion.

Discussions with Chris Williams suggest that we should be able to get a substantial grant towards the costs of this whole process and the final publication of the completed Action Plan. An application to SDC will be made before the end of July.

Thank you for your support in helping us to get this far.

Sandra Rice
4th June 2006

The Avon Dassett Action Plan Steering Group

Sandra Rice – Leader 690255
Jill Burgess 690091
Heather Coupe, 690677
Mary Edgington 690200
Rob Husband 690103
Maxine Mackay 690480
Nigel Millington 690606
Graham Rice 690255

**Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 05.06.06.
District Councillor's Report**

1. The Council has already started formulating its budget requirement for the next financial year. We already know how much money we are going to receive from the government. Previously, this information was not available until December. The settlement will be approximately the same as last year. However, we are experiencing additional financial pressures. One of the largest requirements from central government is that the district is not recycling sufficient waste material. Currently, Stratford is in the top quartile of councils recycling some 40% of refuse collected. We are looking to expand the recycling of polythene and card waste. However, there is a real possibility that households will be charged a surcharge if they do not recycle. It is a salutatory fact that six out of ten houses do not recycle glass, paper or, indeed, green waste. At the moment all black sack rubbish goes into landfill for which a tax has to be paid. If we can just reduce the amount of black sack rubbish, less tax will have to be found. As well as finding efficiency savings of 2.5% required by central government, we are looking for savings greater than this figure. Savings are different to cuts and we hope that the plans introduced at the beginning of this year will bear financial fruition.

2. The Local Plan has finally been approved. It is something of a milestone. The Plan itself took five years from conception to delivery and this is a great improvement on the previous Local Plan which took eleven years to approve. As a direct result of approving the Local Plan we have introduced a moratorium on any new house building throughout the district. Effectively, the only new house building that will be allowed between now and 2008 at the earliest will be for the provision of social housing. This restriction on house development is because, as a direct of the high incidence of windfall sites, the council has exceeded its housing allocation for the period 1996-2011. We are not unique in this dilemma since Warwick DC exceeded their housing allocation some two years ago. Naturally, the District Council is under tremendous pressure from central government to release land for housing development. The thinking of the planners is rather than adding for the size of existing villages, they would prefer the creation of new settlements. At this stage this is purely a concept but obviously we have to do something to satisfy the demand for new housing in our district.