AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 8 May 2006

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

In Attendance — A F Rice; G J Rice; J Davies; M J Edgington; R P Husband

Prior to commencement of the meeting proper A Fraser expressed his appreciation for the valued contributions made in recent years by L Hope-Frost and D Brangwyn in their roles as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

1. Apologies: Cllr D Booth

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 J Burgess; they were then signed by A Fraser.

4. Matters Arising:
   a) Traffic Calming – J Burgess has returned a map of the village on which traffic survey points had been identified to the County Council. J Birkbeck to pass this information to his successor. D Brangwyn expressed concern at the way in which 'traffic calming' gates at other villages had weathered and Cllr Williams informed the meeting of an alternative to this gate-way design that Fenny Compton plan to adopt. It was agreed that these would be reviewed upon completion of the traffic survey, dependent upon the results provided.
   b) Reading Room – A Fraser to contact D Lawson to instruct him to go ahead with the repairs to the porch. L Hope-Frost asked if D Lawson would quote for repairs/replacement of the Reading Room window whose framework was now rotten.
   The tap was still faulty; S Mullane to repair. A Fraser requested that, at the same time, S Mullane fit a replacement bulb to the outside light. J Burgess to progress.
   Clerk reported that the meter was switched to Economy7 tariff on 27 April.
   A Fraser to get quotes for fitment of timer switches to storage heaters.
   c) Playground – A Fraser provided quotes from Jerry Davies 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.
   M Edgington informed the meeting that the old grass cuttings provided a source of compost; L Hope-Frost suggested that a notice be posted to inform villagers that they may use this source of compost.
   It was suggested that a site meeting be held prior to the start of next month's Ordinary Meeting to discuss the siting of the picnic bench. To this end, it was agreed that the Council meet at 7.15 pm at the Playground on Monday 5 June.
   d) Street Lighting
   Lamp 10 – A site meeting was held on 10 April 2006 with Annette Mackie, Bob Yarwood, L Hope-Frost, J Burgess, A Fraser and Clerk in attendance. Bob Yarwood suggested that costs would prove prohibitive to the relocation of Lamp 10 further up Church Hill (towards Spikes Cottage). It was agreed to go ahead with the original suggestion to raise the existing Lamp 10 higher up its pole, with the lamp facing up Church Hill.

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Light above Lichgate at St John the Baptist Church – It was noted that Central Networks had marked the route for an underground cable to run from Lamp 9 (Honeywood House) to Lamp 10. Once power was reinstated to Lamp 10, the restored lichgate lamp will be added to the street lighting system.

e) Parish Website – A grant for £5000 had been received from Awards for All. Discussions ensued regarding the relevance of a website for all villagers and possible uses of such a website. A Rice wanted assurances that this would be a community facility; this assurance was given by the Council. It was agreed to await instructions from Stratford District Council (as co-ordinators of the website project) to move this project forward.

f) Parish Plan – A Fraser read the Report of the Parish Plan Steering Committee to the meeting. A request from the Parish Plan team for funds from the Parish Council to implement the first phase of the Parish Plan process – ie issue a questionnaire to all villagers, provide professional analysis of results and formulate an action plan – was agreed. The Parish Council agreed to fund costs of paper, £250 for analysis of the questionnaire and contribute £25 towards the prize draw. J Burgess (as Chair of the Fête Committee) agreed to donate £25 from the Fête fund to increase the total prize draw to £50. Representatives of the Parish Plan team expressed their gratitude. It is hoped that, once the Action Plan is formulated, funding may be obtained from other sources to progress the Parish Plan project.

5. Correspondence:

Electricity Price Increase - letter from Npower received offering a long term fixed-rate for electricity supply; it was agreed not to take up this option.

Playground Services – letter from Playworld Systems offering consultancy services for playground needs presented to the meeting. Letter to be kept on file.

Coventry Airport – letter from Jones Day reference proposals for the revision of noise preferential routes/standard departure routes at Coventry Airport circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. A request for additional information has been made to Jones Day. The consultation period has been extended to 9 June.

Bird Flu – e-mail from Cllr Booth circulated at the meeting; attachments to which – giving guidance from Warwickshire County Council reference Bird Flu – have been posted on village noticeboards.

Bitham Hall – letter received from Dr Sarah Richardson and Mr David Hutt stating that the house and land of Bitham Hall will be managed by the freeholder: Bitham Hall Ltd. Boundaries of this land were indicated on an enclosed map. Copy retained on file.

WALC Newsletter – April 2006 newsletter presented to the meeting. An application form for the next Induction Day for New Parish and Town Councillors and Clerks was completed and a cheque issued for J Burgess to attend the next event (on 8 July 2006).

Viewpoint – Spring/Summer issue of Viewpoint distributed to the meeting.

Age Concern – Spring 2006 county newsletter passed to K Martin.

Statement of Community Involvement – Stratford District Council has adopted a Statement setting out how the council will involve the local community and other stakeholders in preparation of planning documents that make up the new Local Development Framework.

Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 – A free guide is available from Defra, should the Council wish to use powers within this Act to issue fixed penalties for misdemeanours such as littering, graffiti, dog fouling, etc.

Planning – A provisional date was set for the next extraordinary planning meeting on Thursday 1 June at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room, should responses to applications be required prior to the next ordinary Parish Council meeting.

An application was considered for a conservatory to the rear of 'Devonia' for Mr & Mrs S Ockenden; there was no representation to make.

Applications (Full and Listed Building Consent) were considered for partial conversion and 2 single storey extensions linking the main house with the north and south pavilions at Dassett

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Fields for Mr & Mrs P Rocher; there was no representation to make.
Applications (Full and Listed Building Consent) were considered for a 2 storey rear extension, new roof to utility room, reinstatement of front door and removal of conservatory at Rosary Cottage for Mr & Mrs H Mitchell; there was no representation to make.
An application was considered for a new conservation-type roof window at Flat 4, Bitham Hall, for Mr J Davies & Miss S Richardson; there was no representation to make.
Retrospective planning permission was granted for a replacement garden shed and calor gas tank for Mr M Reichman at Spinney Bank.

6. Financial Statement:
Balances at close of business on Monday 8 May 2006:

Current account	£277.48 credit
Deposit account	£10,333.37 credit

Cheques to be issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay)	£100.00
b) W Sherriff (Coffee morning expenses – 3 months)	£18.92
c) J Kipling (Cleaning)	£16.00
d) M F M Services (Mowing)	£150.00
e) Npower (Street lighting)	£55.28
f) S Mullane (Repairs to Reading Room tap - parts)	£4.99
g) Warwickshire Training Partnership (Course Fee)	£25.00

The payment of cheques was proposed by K Martin and seconded by D Brangwyn.

The Clerk had completed the Audit for 2005/6 and presented her findings to the Council. John Anderson had, once again, kindly agreed to undertake the internal audit for the Council and had inspected the accounts and Annual Return form in advance of the meeting. Sections 1 and 2 of The Annual Return form for 2005/6 were authorised by A Fraser and the Clerk (as Responsible Financial Officer). The Annual Return would be passed to John Anderson for him to complete Section 3 prior to it being sent to the external auditor – Clerk to action.

7. Council Report:
Cllr Williams presented his report – attached.

8. Any Other Business:
a) J Burgess reported that the tree planted in memory of Mrs Jesse Hall was not growing straight and would, in time, come into contact with overhead cables. A Fraser suggested that an alternative location might be found for this tree. It was agreed that alternative sites could be considered directly after the Playground site meeting at 7.15 pm on Monday 5 June.

9. Questions from the Public:
- R Husband reported that no work had been carried out to prune the dead tree entwined in overhead cables opposite St John the Baptist Church. Clerk to chase County Highways as to why this request had not been carried out.
- A Fraser asked who is responsible for the poorly repaired road outside Rosary Cottage which has resulted following works to install a driveway to the property. Clerk to investigate.

10. Date of Next Meeting:
The next meeting will be held on Monday 5 June 2006 at 7.15 pm at the Playground, to convene later in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

AJ Fraser
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Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 08.05.06.
District Councillor's Report

1. After an hiatus in the council year caused by the recent election, the council is now fully concentrated on governing the district. The election results themselves, after three weeks of vigorous campaigning by all parties, was that no change in the status quo exists at Stratford. All of the existing councillors, both Conservative and LibDem, were returned with no change. The current make up of the Council is therefore Conservative 30, LibDem 20 and Independent 3.

2. Over the next year the council is looking to completing a Housing Needs Survey which will confirm where, and how many social houses are needed in the district. Currently, there are over 3,000 applicants waiting to be housed in the district. Preliminary examination of this list identified a large number of applicants from outside of the district together with people who already had housing but who have expressed an interest in relocating within the district. Unfortunately, our district is seen as a very attractive area with high employment which is why we have many people seeking social housing. We estimate that after evaluating the Housing Needs Survey, the true number of applicants needing re-housing will be closer to 1,000.

3. The regeneration of Southam is proceeding and it is expected to be finished by April 2008. It is proposed to provide a new supermarket, several retail units, a new library together with a One-Stop shop combining the Regional District Council Office, a Warwickshire County Council Office, representatives from Social Housing, Social Services and Police who will all be able to work and be available for far greater opening times than is currently the case. In addition, to these civic amenities there will be a quantity of social housing in the form of flats for which we have identified a demand. The cost of this development will be shared between the County, ourselves, the Police Force and a supermarket operator.

4. During the next year, the council will be working to make our district a World Class visitor destination . It is expected that over £120 million will be spent over the next five years developing attractions not only in Stratford, but throughout the district. It should be remembered that the contributions visitors make to the local economy ensures that you, the tax payer, are amongst the lower 10% taxed councils in the country.

5. We are continuing to concentrate on making our district safer for everyone. By working with our colleagues in the Police, using anti-social behaviour measures, improving Neighbourhood Watch funding and making sure that more Community Police have high visibility not only in the urban areas, but also in rural villages our district will continue to be a safe place to live.

CRW
08.05.06.