

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 1st October 2001

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

In Attendance Cllr C. Williams & Mr R. Butler

- 1) Apologies: C. Worrall & I. Seccombe
- 2) Declaration of Interest: None
- 3) Confirmation of Minutes: Cllr Williams asked that under 5) Playground, the word "proportion" was added to the minutes. Once this was done the minutes were approved as correct by D. Whittlesea and, in the Chairman's absence, signed by L. Hope-Frost.
- 4) To Receive Questions from Public: None
- 5) Matters Arising:
 - a) Council Elections – In order to initiate the election process the clerk should write to Stratford District Council with details of the nominees and request that an election take place.
 - b) Meals in the Reading Room – There had been 8 positive replies. It was agreed that a group of people would be needed to organise the delivery, cooking and distribution of the meals. The council also needed to take into consideration the cost of buying a freezer and microwave. It was decided to ask Jenny Worrall if she could attend the next meeting to discuss the organisation.
 - c) Mrs Hall's Birthday – It was decided to plant a Hornbeam outside Knight's Farm to commemorate Mrs Hall's 100th Birthday. D. Whittlesea agreed to arrange.
 - d) Playground – L. Hope-Frost confirmed that Stratford District Council had agreed to forward a grant of £1671 in respect of the cost of the installation of the play equipment. Also, the Fete Committee had agreed to pay for a baby swing if the Parish Council would order the swing (clerk to obtain details). Cllr Williams advised the council that due to the nature of the skateboard facility the cost would be far higher than previously thought. The actual cost was in the region of £12,000, therefore as an alternative he suggested a basketball play area, which could then be used by the skateboarders. If the council were prepared to tarmac an area of 9sq metres, the Basketball Association would install a post and net, free of charge. This had already been done in several neighbouring villages. It was decided to arrange a meeting in

the playground. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would need the ask permission of C. Worrall before proceeding with the idea.

6) Correspondence:

Consent received for the demolition and rebuilding of the conservatory at Bitham Hall.

Warwickshire County Council had written advising that the cost of the kerbing was £1500 and the remaining length would be approximately the same. It was agreed that a formal quote would be required before the council decided to go-ahead.

7) Council Report: Please see attached

8) Financial Statement:

Balances as at close of business on Friday 28th September

Current a/c	£	88.02	credit
Deposit a/c	£	6314.30	credit

Cheques to be issued:

1) A Del Principe (September)	£	52.10
2) M. Harris	£	97.50

The payment of the cheques was proposed by R. Watts and seconded by D. Whittlesea.

8) Any Other Business:

- Stratford District Council had advised that the dog bins cost £76 + vat each with an additional £45 + vat for a post, if required. It was agreed that after the meeting in the playground the council would walk round the village to decide the best place for the bins.
- L. Hope-Frost had collected the Best Kept Village Award and it was agreed to purchase the same frame as last year.
- A note of thanks was given to Sandra Rice for her help with cleaning the Reading Room and also Pete Wallace for the totem pole in the playground.
- A further note of thanks was given to Linda Hope-Frost, Mick and Mary for their contributions in the village.
- L. Hope-Frost advised that she had quoted £50 for the use of the Reading Room for a party.

Date of Next Meeting as agreed by all councillors

Monday 5th November 2001 @ 7.30pm in the Reading Room

Meeting closed @ 9.00pm

C. Worrall 5/11/01

Avon Dassett Parish Council 1 October 2001

1. There have been a number of important staff changes at Stratford District Council over the last three months.
 - i) Mr Paul Lankaster has been appointed as Chief Executive of Stratford District Council with effect from 1 November 2001. The current Chief Executive, Mr Ian Prosser, retires at the end of October.
 - ii) Mr David Nash has been appointed to the post of Environmental Services Chief Officer. He will be replacing Alan Savery who is retiring. As the person appointed to be in charge of Environmental Services David Nash will also be in overall charge, not only of Environmental Services, but also the planning function.
 - iii) Mr Viv Evans, Development Control Manager and Assistant Director of Planning, will be leaving the council in mid October to take up the position of Director of Planning with Hart District Council in Hampshire.
2. The Best Value Review into Parish Councils has started with a report coming to the full council next summer. The cost of providing precept to parishes has risen from £800,000 last year to £1.4m this year. The bulk of this rise has been absorbed by Stratford Town itself and the other market towns in the area. Thought is being given to differentiating between these towns and the smaller parishes. At the moment the same rules apply whether you are Fenny Compton or Stratford Town Parish. Thankfully the issue of audit costs seems to have been rationalised and the purpose behind the Best Value evaluation is to provide information to the government for its Rural White Paper that should be going through the Commons in a year's time.
3. Stratford Local Plan has now been amended and is coming before the council at a special meeting in November. After it receives Council approval it then goes upon deposit for a six week period when developers and such like contest the specifications. The proposals include a complete limitation on infill and small scale development in all areas, except market towns and Stratford itself. There are proposals concerning road schemes and areas that have been allocated for housing development. There has already been consultation with members of the public, parish councils and District Councillors themselves in formulating the proposals. The Local Plan when used in conjunction with the Warwickshire Structure Plan formulated by the County is the framework on which all planning decisions and policies are based. It is a very important piece of legislature.

4. Refuse Collection and Recycling – The distribution of containers for the collection of recyclable material, papers, tin and glass, is well advanced and Avon Dassett should, if it has not already done so, receive its new containers in the next two to three weeks. The purpose of this initiative is to raise the amount of material collected that is suitable for recycling. Currently SDC recycles 11% of waste material collected. Current guidelines from government require this figure to be 25%. Most continental countries currently recycle 40%. We are currently investigating the feasibility of providing green wheelie bins for garden waste.

5. Parish Appraisals – The Parish Appraisals Officer, Rebecca Frost, has transferred to the Countryside Agency. Whilst SDC is committed to completing and honouring current appraisal plans we have decided to discontinue the Village Design and Parish Appraisal initiative and replace these with a Parish Plan. Parish Plans will set out to establish objectives for the community and will be more community lead rather than planning inspired as the current system provides. The safe guards provided by both Village Design Statement and Parish Appraisals will be included in the new Parish Plan initiative. It is hoped a greater level of funding will be provided to ensure that the requirements of those villages providing a Parish Plan can be achieved. Parish Plans, as opposed to Village Design Statements or Parish Appraisals, are one of the directives suggested in the government Rural White Paper.

CRW

1.10.01.