

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 2 October 2006

- Present A Fraser; J Burgess; L Hope-Frost ; K Martin; Cllr D Booth (part attendance); Cllr C Williams (part attendance); Clerk
- In Attendance J Hickman; N Millington (part attendance); A F Rice; G J Rice
1. Apologies: D Brangwyn
 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 L Hope-Frost; they were then signed by A Fraser.
 4. Matters Arising:

Note: To accommodate Mr Jamie Hickman from Warwickshire County Council's Rural Traffic Management Department, item c) on the agenda was discussed first.

 - a) Relocation of Tree & Memorial Plaque – tree planted in memory of Mrs Hall identified as Hornbeam; it was agreed to re-site this tree at the burial ground car park. It was suggested that a small ornamental tree be planted as a replacement to the Hornbeam. Sandra Rice agreed to provide suggestions for more suitably-sized tree species.
 - b) Reading Room – D Lawson instructed to go ahead with the repairs to the porch and window; start-date for this work to be determined.
A Fraser to replace light bulb to lamp outside Reading Room.
A Fraser to get quotes for fitment of timer switches to storage heaters.
 - c) Traffic Calming – Jamie Hickman outlined the County Council's rural traffic management scheme and gave a summary of the results of the traffic survey undertaken in Avon Dasset: Average mean speeds were as follows:
 - Site 1 (C35 Dasset Road by Orchard Lodge) 34mph
 - Site 2 (C113 Dasset Road (ie lane to Farnborough by Avon Carrow)) 12.3mph
 - Site 3 (C35 by entrance to Bitham Hall) 25mph
 - Site 4 (C35 Church Hill) 31mph.
 Whilst he felt that the speeds revealed by the traffic survey data were unlikely to support County Council-funded traffic calming measures, J Hickman agreed to conduct an appraisal of traffic in Avon Dasset to look at possible options to calm traffic through the village. Nigel Millington responded on behalf of the Parish Council:
 - he queried the relevance of using 'mean average speed'.
 - he suggested that data should be analysed taking into account village conditions, eg no (or narrow) pavements, proximity of houses to roadside, proximity to areas such as the playground or the pub, etc.
 - he felt that the Site 2 (Farnborough lane) data required validation.
 J Hickman agreed to carry out an assessment of traffic-related issues in Avon Dasset and volunteered to forward information to J Burgess regarding the Community Action on Traffic Speed scheme promoted by Stephen Rumble at the County Council.
Post meeting note: J Hickman will not be available to attend the November meeting, but has agreed to attend the December meeting of the Parish Council to deliver his assessment.
 - d) Playground – quote received from MFM Services to:
 - replace part of the boundary fence, remove hedge and plant new hedging.

K Martin
6-11-06

- remove grass cuttings.

A Fraser to ask MFM Services to include quote for concrete base for swing; once this is provided A Fraser to make comparison between quotes provided by MFM Services and J Davies. Cllr Williams commented that regulations regarding removal of hedgerows meant that appropriate notification must be given to local planners. Cllr Williams to contact Planning Department to request that relevant information be sent to Clerk.

Cllr Williams agreed to provide a map indicating the Conservation Area boundary within the Parish; it was agreed that, once received, this be framed and placed in Reading Room for future reference/use.

- e) Burial Ground – quotes to repair the gatepost are awaited from Norman Contracts, Jeremy Davies and MFM Services.

It was agreed to accept the quote obtained by K Martin from ASC Metals Ltd for a 'nearly new' swing sign that could be positioned at the roadside on the occasions when burials take place. The sign should be black with white lettering to read "Cemetery Car Park" on both sides. It was also agreed that a sign be fixed to the entrance gate to the cemetery directing visitors to the car park. K Martin to instruct ASC Metals Ltd.

No discussions were held regarding the proposal for a warden at the burial ground.

A Fraser agreed to undertake a review of the 'Rules for the Avon Dasset Cemetery' with interested parties. Once the review is completed, it was suggested that key points of information be made available to villagers via the Compton Chronicle.

- f) Parish Website – questionnaire from Stratford District Council not issued. Cllr Williams to contact Balvinder Heran on behalf of the Parish Council.

- g) Parish Plan – progress report given by Sandra Rice (see attached). Feedback session to be held on Sunday 8 October after which the Parish Plan Steering Group will create a Draft Action Plan. Parish Council input to the Action Plan required.

Cllr Williams stated that the process has reached a critical stage and that prioritisation of aspirations that have arisen as a result of the questionnaire should be the collective responsibility of the Parish Plan Steering Group and Parish Council.

A Rice to apply for a community grant at a meeting on 10 October; A Fraser and L Hope-Frost agreed to attend this meeting in support of the Parish Plan initiative.

- h) Gate at St John the Baptist Church – Pete Wallace has agreed to repair gate.

5. Correspondence:

NALC: National Training Strategy – survey regarding training for parish and town councils to be completed by Clerk.

Animal Welfare Bill – Proposal to Licence Livery Yards – notification form identifying local livery yards to be sent to Stratford District Council; Clerk to action.

Parish Council Community Emergency Plan 2006/7 – copies issued to Councillors for circulation after which a copy will be retained in the Reading Room.

Stratford District Council Local Plan Review – published version of the Local Plan available.

Tree Works at Bitham Hall – notice given by Bitham Hall Ltd of tree works to be undertaken at woodland between Top Lodge and the Coach House.

Street Lights – information regarding street lights within the village provided to Central Networks courtesy of Warwickshire County Council Street Lighting Department in order that Unmetered Supply Certificate may be issued. Electricity charges to rise by c9.9% from 1 Oct.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 53 – County Council to examine evidence to add footpath at Arlescote to the Definitive Map and remove road E6990 from the Highway Record.

Planning – At the extraordinary planning meeting of 21 September an application was considered to extend living accommodation at Pump House Cottage for Mrs N Paxton; there was no representation to make.

A provisional date was set for the next extraordinary planning meeting on Thursday 19 October 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room, should responses to applications be required prior to the next ordinary Parish Council meeting.

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An application was considered for a proposed single storey rear extension at The Old Coach House, 16 Avon Carrow, for Mr & Mrs N Millington; there was no representation to make.

6. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 2 October 2006:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Current account | £246.42 credit |
| Deposit account | £12,675.96 credit |

Cheques to be issued:

| | |
|---|---------|
| a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay & expenses) | £103.09 |
| b) J Kipling (Cleaning) | £16.00 |
| c) W Sherriff (Coffee morning expenses) | £7.75 |
| d) Warwick Network Ltd (Parish Plan analysis etc) | £350.51 |
| e) M F M Services (Mowing & strimming) | £170.00 |

The payment of cheques was proposed by K Martin and seconded by L Hope-Frost.

7. Council Report:

Clr Williams presented his report – attached.

Clr Booth stated that the County Council was undergoing budgetary review and suggested that an increase to Council Tax of circa 5% was likely for next year.

Continued pressures on Adult Social Services may result in the need to readjust expenditure.

Shortcomings in Warwickshire Police Force's capacity to deal with major incidents highlighted.

New hierarchy within Warwickshire Police Force; may require some partnership with West Midlands Police.

Hospitals Review – public transport services to hospitals a major issue.

County Council speed restriction policy under review.

8. Any Other Business:

a) J Burgess asked when street light cleaning was due to take place. Clerk to confirm.

b) J Burgess was given an update on the Pump House Cottage development.

c) L Hope-Frost received the Best Kept Village Competition Gold Award at a presentation ceremony on 30 September. Permission requested and granted for framing of award certificate for display in Reading Room.

d) L Hope-Frost requested that autumn bedding plants be purchased for planting in village tubs. J Burgess agreed to purchase on behalf of Parish Council.

e) K Martin reminded Councillors that contributions were required for this year's Remembrance Wreath.

f) Clr Williams had been contacted by Mrs Coupe reference persistent flooding at The Thatches. A Fraser to investigate state of drains leading to The Thatches and notify Clerk if drains are blocked. Clerk to contact County Highways if necessary.

g) Clerk advised Councillors that budget discussions are due to take place at the next meeting at which time any projects for 2007/8 financial year should be identified.

h) Enquiry received to bid for 2007/8 mowing contract – A Fraser to contact applicant.

9. Questions from the Public:

None.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday 6 November 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

KL Martin
6-11-06

Avon Dassett Parish Plan Steering Group



We are now busy preparing for the exhibition of the results following the analysis of the questionnaires, on Sunday next, October 8th. The exhibition will be open from 12.00 mid-day to 6.00pm. Please encourage as many parishioners as possible to come along, we need as many comments and ideas as possible to go towards the formation of a parish plan. Copies of the complete results, as well as displays of selected data will be available for all to read and comment on.

Following the exhibition the Parish Plan Steering Group will collate the comments and prepare a draft document outlining all the suggested actions required by the community, which will be circulated to the members of the Parish Council. At this point it is vital that the Parish Plan Steering Group and all members of the Parish Council get together to discuss the areas of responsibility and start to form the Action Plan. Subsequent discussions will be required with Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council, and any other bodies that may be suggested as being of help in the implementation of the Parish Action Plan.

Stratford District Council has agreed to provide funding for the Exhibition. We will have to wait until after the Dassett Area Community Committee on October 10th to know of any further grant funding that may be allocated. We have also made an application for funding for the publication of the Parish Plan to Awards for All and are waiting to know whether or not the application has been accepted.

The group has worked extremely hard to get so far in so short a time, please continue to give your support to enable the completion of the exercise and further improvements to be made to our lovely village community.

Sandra Rice
2nd October 2006

**Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 02.10.06.
District Councillor's Report**

1. Now that the Council has packed away its bucket and spades for another year, the annual task of considering the budget for next year has commenced. We already know, unlike previous years, the amount of support we will be receiving from the government but obviously there are inflationary measures, such as increased power costs, pension costs and certain demands upon the Council's resources which were unpredicted. As usual priority is given to those items that ensure the Council continues to give the best possible service.
2. Savings through efficiencies have been implemented and there is a culture of providing value for money within the Council. At this stage of the budget setting process, it does appear that the final increments for Council Tax will be similar to last year but we are hoping to introduce innovative concepts that will meet with everyone's approval. Items such as Waste Management, Housing, Recreation and Leisure are all important agendas for the Council.
3. The Planning Service will be restarting a Planning Surgery to be held regularly in the Grange Hall at Southam. A qualified planner will be attendance who can provide information to anyone considering undertaking a development which may, or may not, require planning permission. There will be no charge for these consultations and a booking service will be in place.
4. The Council has authority, under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act, to place advertisements in the local press in order to advise residents of the Council's intention to declare a Dog Control Order for some, or the entire district. The offences that can be applied under the order are as follows:-
 - (i) Failure to remove faeces.
 - (ii) Not keeping a dog on a lead.
 - (iii) Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so.
 - (iv) Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded.
 - (v) Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land.

Our Officers have recommended that in reality the Dog Control Order is applied only to the failure to remove dog faeces.

This new legislation also gives the Council an increased range of powers to deal with environmental crime such as Fly Tipping etc. National guidance makes it clear that this Act is only to be used as a last resort and Local Authorities and, therefore by definition, Parish Councils are required to try and establish a partnership approach with owners of land which present an environmentally hazardous condition to the landscape. This Act will help the wellbeing of communities.

5. The Community Links transport scheme introduced last April for people who do not have access to a car, and cannot access public transport, is proving to be much appreciated. The scheme aims to help people who are stuck for transport 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

Users of this service will be asked to pay a flat rate fare. If you know of anyone who you think would like this service, will you please put them in touch with me and I will arrange for further details of this scheme to be provided. The Volunteer Centre Medical Journey Scheme will continue to operate for doctor, dentist, day centre and hospital related appointments.

6. Parish Plan – The Steering Group led by Sandra Rice has applied to SDC for a Community Grant to help pay towards the cost of the Parish Plan. It would be beneficial is a member of the Parish Council was present at this meeting to support Sandra on Tuesday 10th October at 6.30 p.m. at Southam College Southam