

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 3 September 2007

Present A Fraser; J Burgess; L Hope-Frost; S Richardson; P Wallace;
Clr C Williams; Clr D Booth; Clerk

In Attendance J D Davies; PC Rod Joy (part attendance);
Sgt Mandy Crust (part attendance)

1. Apologies: -
2. Declaration of Interest:
Non-prejudicial interests were declared as follows:
A Fraser – 4.f) Playground repairs, 4.g) Reading Room maintenance
P Wallace – 4.e) Access to Avon Carrow
J Burgess – 4.k) Parish Plan, 4.g) Reading Room maintenance, 7. Correspondence 'Planning'
S Richardson – 7. Correspondence 'Planning'
3. Confirmation of Minutes:
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by L Hope-Frost and seconded by S Richardson; they were then signed by A Fraser.
4. Matters Arising:
 - a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch (NW) – Sgt Mandy Crust and PC Rod Joy reported as follows:
 - recent speed checks in the South Warwickshire area were deemed very successful; it was noted that 80% of drivers caught speeding were local to the area. This process is ongoing.
 - quad bike thefts in the area are believed to be the actions of a 'professional' gang.
 - request made for residents to report 'suspicious' vehicles to Southam police.
 - PC Joy provided a further Neighbourhood Watch sign for display in the village.
 - SmartWater signs are displayed at entrances to the village.
 L Hope-Frost reported that:
 - she had attended the recent PACT Panel where the key priorities identified were: traffic, nuisance youths and drugs. Next time, a pre-meeting of the PACT Panel will be held to elect the Chair immediately prior to the meeting of the PACT Panel proper.
 - a resident's vehicle was stolen at the end of August; details posted on noticeboards.
 - vigilance is required by all residents to guard against opportunist thieves.
 - the contractor's shed at the St John's 'site' was broken into recently and valuable tools, cables and the church key were stolen.
 - b) Traffic Calming – J Burgess reported:
 - CATS 'Watch Your Speed' signs to be displayed this week.
 - a mobile speed camera is scheduled for the village for half a day w/c 10 September; however there will be no collection of data from this operation.
 - Avon Dasset area is now 'in the system' to enable speed checks to operate approximately once every 3 months.
 - North End Traffic Group is holding a meeting on 19 September at Fenny Compton Village Hall. It is believed that villages working together is key to improvement in local traffic conditions. J Burgess urged Councillors to attend this meeting where possible.
 - Unfortunately, the 'sets' employed as traffic calming measures between Middleton Cheney and Marston St Lawrence are not used by Warwickshire County Council.

*AJ Fraser
1/10/07*

- J Burgess proposed that a further letter and leaflet drop be made to residents updating them of the Council's traffic calming activities; this was agreed. Action J Burgess.
- c) Flooding/Drainage Issues – a statement from Dave Tiley (SDC) reference his evaluation of the drains by The Thatches was read to the meeting by J Burgess. Dave Tiley and J Burgess to meet Mrs Coupe on Tuesday 4 September.
Gez Romano was in the village at the end of August to gather photographic evidence in order to present a strong case to prioritise Avon Dassetts drainage issues within the WCC works schedule.
- d) Traffic Lights on Church Hill/Repairs to St John the Baptist Church – the severe ramps installed on Church Hill continue to cause concern; residents urged to contact WCC should they encounter problems with the ramps or the timing sequence of the traffic lights. P Wallace reported that large HGVs are still passing through the village; he and other Councillors felt that the signage erected by WCC was too small. Cllr Booth agreed to contact WCC on these issues on behalf of the Parish Council.
- e) Access to Avon Carrow – Cllr Williams had contacted SDC Planners and established that no conditions were placed on vehicular access to the rear of Avon Carrow at the time that the property was converted to multi-residence use. Highways engineers had confirmed to A Fraser that no access restrictions were in place. A Fraser had contacted G Miller to inform him of these findings.
- f) Playground:
- Repairs – no progress. M Mann plans to commence works on 10 September.
 - Tubs – L Hope Frost purchased 3 tubs to place by the hard standing adjacent to the playground. Thanks expressed to Mary Edgington for planting the tubs.
 - Hard standing – Chris Burrows from WCC confirmed that our request for an upgraded parking bay for the playground had been approved and will be carried out in this financial year from WCC's Minor Capital Works Budget.
- g) Reading Room Maintenance – Ryan Groves to commence works end September/beginning October 2007.
Thanks expressed to J Burgess for donating the computer table.
An order has been placed with ESPO for 25 chairs, a table, a storage cabinet and an office chair for use in the Reading Room.
- h) Allotments – a restriction that it must remain as pasture, means that the Charities land is not suitable as an allotment site. S Richardson to write to local land owners to investigate whether they would be prepared to lease land as allotments. Action: S Richardson.
- i) Fireworks Legislation/Guidelines – C Williams reported that there are no restrictions for conducting a private firework display.
- j) Bus Shelter – A Fraser has placed the No Smoking sign inside the bus timetable housing where it appears to be undamaged. He has also sourced a quote from Harris signs to provide a more robust solution; it was agreed that this should be placed on file should the sign suffer continued damage.
- k) Parish Plan/Housing Needs Survey –
J Burgess provided an update. The PP Steering Committee will meet to consider graphics and design of the final document.
The Parish Plan is due to be adopted by the District Council in October after which time every effort will be made to 'launch' the Plan prior to year end. It was hoped that this will take the form of a launch event. S Richardson proposed that a joint event be held to launch the Website alongside the Parish Plan; this was agreed in principle by the Council.
J Burgess had highlighted those short term objectives of the Plan identified for action by the Parish Council. She requested that Councillors review these and prioritise actions. J Burgess suggested that 'Publicity' be a priority and requested that Parish, District and County Councillors each provide a brief personal 'profile' for display on a noticeboard – perhaps to be placed in the Reading Room?

AJ Fraser
1/10/07

S Richardson commented that short term actions should be considered in line with the Parish Council's 2007/8 budget.

The Housing Needs Survey results presentation will take place on Thursday 20 September 2007 at 7.00 pm in St Joseph's Church.

- l) Insurance Liability for Non-Insured Contractors – A Fraser obtained copies of insurance details for both A Sheasby and M Mann. Documents to be kept on file by Clerk. No further progress had been made by J Kipling in obtaining necessary insurance cover. A Fraser and Clerk to obtain alternative quotations for Reading Room cleaning. Action: A Fraser and Clerk.
- m) Parish Website – S Richardson had contacted SDC reference the meeting with the web providers and hopes that the website will be implemented asap.
- n) Procedures – A Fraser has contacted Liam Nevin's assistant to organise his training on the Code of Conduct at the first available opportunity; details not yet confirmed but training session likely to be organised for November 2007. Once completed, this will fulfil the commitments made by the Parish Council to the Standards and Ethics Sub-Committee at its hearing on 9 July 2007.

5. Insurance:

The Clerk presented a report to the Council and it was agreed that she contact Zurich Insurance to incorporate the following in the Parish Council's policy:

- include computer equipment and new furniture in the Reading Room policy with 'like-for-like' replacement cover (informing them that SmartWater is in use at the Reading Room);
- ensure that playground equipment is accurately recorded by Zurich in line with recent instructions; and
- increase our public liability cover to £10,000,000 in line with recommendations made by the internal auditor.

S Richardson requested that a rate for next year be obtained to support budget preparations - Action: Clerk.

6. Council Report:

Clr Williams presented his report – attached.

Clr Booth has made a request that additional monies be allocated to Highways for repairs/improvements required to the county's roads as a result of recent flooding.

Clr Booth reported that consideration was being made by the County Council to upgrade provision of care for the elderly; albeit this is unlikely to happen in the short term. It is planned that a cohesive approach be undertaken with the County's partners.

7. Correspondence:

Flooding:

– Letter from John Maples MP asking for details of recent flooding in Avon Dassett. Action: Clerk.

- E-mail from PA to the Executive of SDC stating that the District Council has received funding to help victims of the recent floods such that £250 will be given to residents who have had flood damage inside their houses.

- Environment Agency flood drop-in sessions arranged in district. See noticeboards for details. Parish Council Community Emergency Plan – 2007/8 – updated documents circulated to all Councillors.

Layby adjacent to Playground – our request for the creation of parking spaces on this site funded by WCC's 'Minor Capital Works Budget' has been approved and will be implemented during the financial year 2007/8.

Footpath Opposite St John the Baptist Church – our request for an extension to the footpath alongside the Bitham Hall wall funded by WCC's 'Minor Capital Works Budget' will be put to WCC members for consideration in early 2008.

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Home Wood Chipping Service – updated information reference service run by WCC displayed on noticeboards.

Claim It! – Benefit Take Up Campaign – Warwick District Council leaflets displayed on noticeboards.

Planning – provisional planning meeting set for Thursday 20 September 2007.

An application for various tree works at The Coach House for Mr G J Rice was considered by the Council; there was no representation to make.

8. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 3 September 2007:

Current account	£240.35 credit
Deposit account	£11,563.08 credit

Cheques to be issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay)	£105.00
b) M Harris (mowing, planting tubs, installing compost bins)	£48.00
c) SDC (charges for Parish elections held in May 2007)	£597.35
d) J Burgess (purchase of flags)	£108.98
e) L Hope-Frost (purchase of tubs & compost)	£65.23
f) Warwickshire Police (SmartWater for Reading Room)*	£15.00

* Although agreement to purchase SmartWater was made – see item 9.f) below – this cheque was raised on 5 September 2007 ie after the meeting.

The payment of cheques was proposed by J Burgess and seconded by L Hope-Frost.

The Clerk reported that Cllrs Richardson and Wallace were now authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Parish Council.

9. Any Other Business:

- L Hope-Frost has written a piece for the Compton Chronicle to register her thanks to Jill Burgess and her Committee for "a wonderful Fête".
- L Hope-Frost reported that Avon Dassett was the District Winner in its category in this year's Best Kept Village Competition, receiving a mark of 84%.
- L Hope-Frost reported that the Viburnum shrubs planted in the verge-side tubs have out-grown their tubs; she proposed that they (accompanied by some Ivy) be planted to soften the recently erected fence in front of Knights Farm. This was agreed by the Council.
- Artwork created by Mary Edgington for this year's Christmas card was presented to the meeting. The Council agreed on the size of card to be printed. L Hope-Frost to obtain prices for printing.
- J Burgess commented that there was a post box at the small-holding at Treetops Farm (opposite Oxbow Farm).
- J Burgess will install the newly purchased printer/scanner/copier at the Reading Room once revised insurance cover was met. It was agreed to purchase SmartWater for Reading Room.
- J Burgess and A Fraser will hoist the St George's Flag at their earliest opportunity.
- A Fraser requested that L Hope-Frost arrange for the hedge opposite the lychgate to be cut by the appropriate agency – Action L Hope-Frost.
- A Fraser asked that consideration be given to the purchase and placement of additional dog waste bins in the village. Item to be included on next agenda.

10. Questions from the Public: None.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday 1 October 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

12. Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

AJF
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**Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 03.09.07.
District Councillor's Report**

1. It is now six weeks since our district was subjected to a rainfall that the scientists tell us was to be expected once in 250 years. The mains drainage system was installed to take surface water from the highway. Unfortunately, a large amount of the flooding was caused by run off of water from agricultural land. This produced silt that reduced the effectiveness of the drainage systems. Basically, it was the sheer volume of water that exceeded everyone's calculations not only in our district, but also in Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Oxfordshire.
2. It is worth remembering that Hull and South Yorkshire incurred a similar downfall of rain some six weeks before with corresponding devastation. Unlike other areas our district was not affected by flooding rivers to the same extent as say, Tewkesbury. The Council is very much in recovery mode and clearing up is continuing. We have been awarded a grant of £600,000 and the Council has approved allocating £250 to each household that suffered flooding. To qualify for this benefit, a similar form will need to be returned and we are expecting payment to be made no later than 25th September. This payment will be made irrespective of whether the household was insured or not. Further grant money is available for businesses that have been affected by flooding and the Council is liaising with affected businesses.
3. The worrying conclusion of the whole flooding episode is that it could be repeated at any time in the future. Hopefully, Parish Councils will be able to respond through their emergency planning and I am sure the Parish Council will want to consider whether they need to amend the storage and distribution of sandbags which are, of course, available from the County Council. I do know that many Parish Councils are actively reviewing their emergency planning procedures.

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02.09.07.