

# Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly of Avon Dassett Parish Council, 13th May 2019

The meeting commenced at 8.50pm.

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- 1) Apologies: Chris Williams, John Feilding.

Present: Trevor Gill (Chair), Mike Blakeman (vice-Chair), Liz Hirst, Phil Baxter, Darrell Muffitt, Clerk (Helen Hide-Wright)

- 2) Acceptance of minutes of last meeting held on 24th May 2018: Accepted by the meeting. Proposed: Mike Blakeman, seconded: Liz Hirst. Signed and Dated by Trevor Gill.

a) <http://www.avondassettparishcouncil.com/app/download/10393394/20180524+Avon+Dassett+PC+Annual+Meeting+Minutes.pdf>

- 3) Chair's report:

I will keep my Chair's Report as brief as possible but once again the last year has been eventful and very busy.

## 1. Charity Events

Once again Avon Dassett has punched well above its weight in terms of charity events. We have seen the successful re-introduction of the Soap Box, the continued success of The Dassett Country Show, Avon Dassett Open Gardens and the MacMillan Coffee mornings.

In addition to raising the profile of the village, attracting many visitors and supporting local businesses, these events raise a considerable amount of money for local societies and clubs and also support many wider charitable institutions.

It is right and proper that on behalf of the Parish Council I record a very big thank you to everyone who helps in any way to support these events. This help not only comes from residents of Avon Dassett but comes from residents, clubs and societies of the surrounding villages and we need to acknowledge their support for these events

## 2. Green Areas

There is general agreement that last year the tubs once again enhanced the appearance of the village and our thanks to Dave Hicks for his considerable support in supplying the plants for the tubs and also for his hard work in making the pots look so attractive. We are very grateful to the Avon Dassett Open Gardens for helping us financially with the plants and compost for the tubs.

Thomas Fox have taken over the contract for the mowing of the green areas in the village and the appearance of the playground and cemetery have benefited from the collection of the grass cuttings.

We have been concerned about the state of some of the verges in the village and during the coming months we will look into this to see if there is a long-term solution to this issue.

### 3. Avon Dassett Community Benefit Society Limited – The Yew Tree

I do not propose to say too much about this project as it has been widely covered elsewhere. The tenancy of Forrest Inns Limited was terminated at the beginning of November 2018 and local residents Wayne and Sharon Marsh took over at the end of November.

However, it would be remiss of me not to thank the Management Committee and volunteers who helped to keep The Yew Tree open during the period between tenancies.

I would also like to welcome, albeit a little late, local residents Wayne and Sharon Marsh who have taken over the tenancy. I am aware that they have already worked very hard to make The Yew Tree a welcoming place serving the local and wider community and wish them well in the future.

### 4. The Reading Room

The outside of the Reading Room has been painted and repairs undertaken to the woodwork and guttering. I have received many complimentary comments since the work was completed and over the next few weeks work on the outside will continue with the erection of a new notice board and also work will take place on the garden area.

The installation of a wood burning stove has been welcomed and should mean that The Reading Room is more inviting especially during the winter months.

The under use of The Reading Room still needs to be addressed and this will be done over the next few weeks. I have received many comments to the effect that the toilets and kitchen needs to be replaced but we need a wider review before embarking on any further expenditure.

### 5. Broadband

We have just had the benefit of a presentation by the CSW Broadband Project and I hope that residents found it useful and informative.

There is still a substantial part of the village that is either not connected or have still to be advised that connections are available.

We will continue to liaise with the Broadband project to ensure that the remaining properties are connected with the minimum of delay and also keep our options open as regards other projects that are developing to deliver broadband to rural communities.

### 6. Local Crime

We have seen an increase in local crime in Avon Dassett and the surrounding villages. We have recently considered what actions we, as a Parish Council, can take to ensure that the relevant authorities are taking this issue seriously and allocating an appropriate level of resources and time to address this issue.

We have already started to consider how and where in the village we can hold a property marking event and how we can with the help of our District Councillor try to arrange to meet with the Police Commissioner or his representative to discuss this issue.

In the meantime, local residents should continue to be extra vigilant, ensure that sheds and out buildings are

securely locked and report any incidents to the local police.

## 7. Village Clubs

It is also worth mentioning the small number of clubs and societies that are centred in the village. We have a village coffee morning (sponsored by the Parish Council) on the first Wednesday of each month. I would like to record my thanks to Jenny Sherriff who continues to organise the coffee morning as she has done for many years.

We also have a Men's Club and a Garden Society and they both provide a social and learning aspect to village life. They need your support and if anyone is interested in joining either of these clubs, I am sure that they will be most welcome.

## 8. County and District Councillors

Firstly, I would like to thank Chris Williams for his continued support and guidance. I am aware that Chris has not enjoyed good health for the majority of the year, but he has always been there for help and support when needed.

Secondly, Avon Dassett Parish Council has been fortunate to have the support and guidance of John Feilding our District Councillor. I think that it is fair to say that we have worked well together on the wide range of challenges that we have faced, and I certainly value your support.

## 9. Avon Dassett Parish Council

It would not be right of me to finish without me thanking my colleagues on the Parish Council who have served until the recent election. I think that it is fair to say that we have worked well together on the wide range of challenges that we have faced, and I certainly value your support. We all have many different skills, knowledge and abilities and I never cease to be amazed how valuable these are. We are very lucky not only that my colleagues have these attributes but that they are prepared to give their expertise and most importantly time for the benefit of the village. I am sure that our local residents appreciate all of your efforts, I know I certainly do.

As a result of the recent elections Martyn Heard was not re-elected and was replaced by Philip Baxter. I would like to say a sincere thank you to Martyn for his valuable contribution whilst he was a member of the Parish Council.

Lastly, I must say a very big thank to our clerk, Helen I know that is it not always easy keeping us, or particularly me under control. We really are indebted to you for the smooth running of the council you always guide us, supports us, guides us and generally ensure that the Parish Council runs efficiently and within the rules and regulations by which we are regulated. Helen, thank you.

- 4) Annual Accounts: The Financial Accounts form the year ended 31 March 2019 were accepted by the meeting. Proposed: Mike Blakeman; Seconded Liz Hirst. They were duly signed and dated by Trevor Gill.
  - a) <http://www.avondassettparishcouncil.com/app/download/11493264/20190331+ADPC+Financial+Statement.pdf>
- 5) Parish Matters: Nothing to report.
- 6) Open Forum: Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm