Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly

Avon Dassett Parish Council

Thursday 24th May 2018

The meeting commenced at 7.50pm **APA 2018/ Page 1**

1) Present: Trevor Gill, Mike Blakeman, Darrell Muffitt, Clerk (Helen Hide-Wright), Councillor Fielding. 2 members of the public.

   Apologies: Martyn Heard, Liz Hirst, Councillor Williams (work). Apologies accepted by the Parish Councillors.

2) Acceptance of minutes of last meeting held on 22nd May 2017: The Parish Council accepted the minutes. Proposed: Trevor Gill, seconded: Mike Blakeman.

   a) http://www.avondassettparishcouncil.com/app/download/7818098/20170522+Avon+Dassett+PC+Annual+Parish+Assembly+Minutes.pdf

3) Chair's report: Trevor Gill.

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

The Yew Tree

After many months of hard work the purchase of The Avon (now renamed The Yew Tree) was completed by Avon Dassett Community Benefit Society Limited on 21 July 2017 and following the appointment of Steve Forrest as the tenant it was once again opened for business in December 2017.

I do not propose to say too much about this project as it has been widely covered elsewhere. However, this would not have been possible the considerable efforts of the Management Committee and also the tremendous support of many of the residents of Avon Dassett and surrounding villages and we are indebted to all who contributed in any way to make this possible.

I look forward to this project developing for the benefit of members and residents of Avon Dassett and surrounding areas.

The Reading Room

The work to replace the windows and also to change the point of entry into the building for the electricity supply has been completed. We should record our thanks to all concerned with this work and in particular the contractors Messenger Brothers. There have been many complementary comments on the appearance and quality of the windows.

I recognise that The Reading Room is under utilised and need of some considerable refurbishment. Work has started to clear the outside of the building and we will obtain estimates for the remedial work need to the fabric of the building and also for the painting of the outside brickwork and the new windows.

We should then consider what if anything can be done to the inside of the building so that we how we can make better use of The Reading Room going forward.

Broadband

The broadband project CSW Broadband Project has not delivered an upgrade to this utility to a large proportion of the village. The Carrow and Bitham Hall are 2 of the main areas who have not been upgraded as they are connected directly to the Farnborough exchange rather than to be green box in the village.

We have raised this issue with our local MP Jeremy Wright and will continue to press for him to raise this via the appropriate central government departments.

We have recently started to investigate alternate suppliers and will progress this over the next few weeks.

Green Areas and the Mowing Contract

We have received requests form some local residents for the collection of the grass cutting on the playground and cemetery. Our contractors Michael Mann could not provide this service so we have now changed contractors to Thomas Fox. I would like to record my thanks to Michael Mann for the service he has given to the village for a number of years.

The area surrounding the bus shelter has been cleared and looks much better. There is some more work to be undertaken in this area to improve the general appearance.

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.

The Cricket Field

I am very thankful that the cricket field has been purchased by Dassett Charities as this will ensure that it can be used for the benefit of the village in the future.

New regulations

The last year has seen some major changes in legislation which impacts local authorities. We will see the implementation of GDPR tomorrow and we have to ensure that we can meet the new requirements.

Helen and I have attended to training courses and I believe that we are well placed to ensure that we fully comply with the legislation.

Village Clubs

Once again the Dassett Country Show and the village Open Gardens were a great success. For both events the weather was very kind to us and we were pleased to see a good number of visitors from neighbouring towns and villages supporting both of these events.

There is a tremendous amount of hard work and planning that goes into these events and I would like to say a big 'Thank You" to all committee members, helpers and residents who open their gardens. Without all of your hard work and dedication these important events would not happen.

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

Finances

By careful financial management and ensuring that we receive appropriate recompense for work undertaken on behalf of Warwickshire Highways, we have managed to meet all of our obligations, and also to ring fence funds for known future requirements.

We have been able to build up our reserves to assist with future work on The Reading Room but we will ensure that we use these funds in the next 12 months to complete the work necessary.

Thanks

I would like to finish by thanking Cllrs Williams and Feilding for their continued support and guidance. We are very fortunate to have a good working relationship with our County and District Councillors and I am aware that this is not necessarily the case for other local Parish Councils.

It would not be right of me to finish without me thanking my colleagues on the Parish Council. 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.

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

   a) http://www.avondassettparishcouncil.com/app/download/10311812/20180331+Financial+Report+For+Year+2017+-++2018.pdf

5) Parish Matters: None

6) Open Forum: No matters were discussed.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.