AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 16th May 2011

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

Present: J Burgess; D Hutt; Lily Hope-Frost, Sarah Rutherford, Helen Hide-Wright

In Attendance: Jenny Sherriff, Alastair Whetstone, Kevin Martin, Daniel Robertson

1. Apologies: Cllr C Williams

Declaration of Interest: None

2. Confirmation of Minutes:
   The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by Jill Burgess and seconded by David Hutt; they were then signed by J Burgess.

3. Chair's Report:
   Jill Burgess presented her report – see Appendix 1.
   The Councillors and Clerk expressed their gratitude for the work that she has undertaken on behalf of the village.

4. Financial Report:
   See Appendix 2. Jill Burgess thanked the Clerk for the preparation of Parish Council accounts and completion of the year's audit documentation.
   The Clerk presented the financial statement for the year. Proposed by LHF and seconded by DH.

5. Charities' Report:
   None was presented to the meeting.

6. Election of Officers:
   The following officers' terms had ceased at the AGM: Jill Burgess, Sarah Rutherford, Lily hope-Frost. Andy Rutherford had resigned from his role earlier in the year.

   David Hutt had remained on the council. Two new councillors joined the council: Alastair Whetstone and Kevin Martin.

   The election of officers proceeded as follows:

   David Hutt stood for Chair of ADPC. Proposed by Alistair Whetstone and seconded by Kevin Martin.

   Alastair whetstone stood for Vice0Chair of ADPC. Proposed by David Hutt, seconded by Kevin Martin.

7. AOB

   David Hutt proposed a huge vote of thanks for the councillors who were stepping down from office. They were instrumental in creating huge advances in the Parish Council during their terms, set new standards and had created clear tracks for subsequent councillors to follow.

   The Clerk added her recognition of the Councillors dedication to ADPC, their high professional standards, all to the benefit of the residents and village of Avon Dassett.

   The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Appendix 1

Avon Dassett Parish Council
Chair's End of Year Report 2010/11

As this will be my last report as Chair of Avon Dassett Parish Council I thought it would be a good opportunity to review the previous four years achievements.

The Avon Dassett Parish Plan was published and distributed in February 2008. The information contained in this document has been used many times to support projects and funding applications. Many of the action plan points have been successfully completed or are actions which are ongoing and regularly monitored.

Some of the ongoing actions are:

Playground- thanks to the hard work of Sarah Rutherford the playground continues to develop. A further five pieces of equipment were added in the spring of 2011.

Village Design Statement- the team are still working towards the publication of this document. The many revisions suggested by Stratford District Council will take some time to achieve but the team are hopeful that the task will be completed in the near future.

Housing- To date three pieces of land have been rejected as unsuitable for building affordable housing.

Communication- the Parish Council acknowledged the need to improve its communication with the parish. More information was made available via village notice boards, articles in the Compton Chronicle, the parish website and displays of information in the Reading Room, at St John the Baptist Church and in 'Village Corner' at the fete.

We have been extremely fortunate with our applications for grant funding. Between 2007 and 2010 we were successful in obtaining funds to help with the following projects: the village website, the Parish Plan, the welcome pack, a submersible pump, a new notice board, benches and the nature area. These improvements to our environment and facilities have been made with no cost to the village and we have also managed to reduce the precept.

The village website was launched at the same time as the Parish Plan and has continued to grow and develop under the supervision of Sarah Richardson. It is difficult to imagine life without the wealth of village and local information it provides at the touch of a button. Our website is used as an example of best practice by Stratford District Council and has even featured in the sales brochures of village houses. We should be proud that our small village has such a high quality resource.

Regular traffic monitoring has taken place since 2007 and the village was added to the police enforcement camera schedule in 2010. The three monthly visits from the SpeedAware team ceased in March 2011. The new Parish Council will be considering the possibility of buying this service in the future.

Improved communication with Warwickshire Highways Department via a regularly updated spreadsheet of local concerns has ensured that any problems with roads and footpaths have been dealt with quickly and efficiently.

A major success for 2010 was the replacement and refurbishment of the village drains. A completely new highway drainage system with six new gullys was installed between St Joseph's Church and the bus stop and two sections of broken pipe were replaced further up the hill. All the drains were surveyed and jetted. This work has resulted in surface water being removed rapidly from the road which has greatly reduced the possibility of flooding.

Due to the ever increasing costs of village maintenance the Parish Council experimented with a 'Village Tidy Up Day' in the autumn of 2008. Villagers were invited to spend a couple of hours pruning, weeding or generally tidying the village green areas. This has since become a twice yearly event, spring and autumn, with all councillors and an ever changing group of villagers taking part. It is amazing how much can be achieved in half a day. Councillors also undertook to walk through the village each autumn to look at the green maintenance priorities for the coming year.

Work on the village 'Nature Area' commenced in 2009. With the help of grants and the hard work of the Probation Service 'Pay Back' scheme, councillors and villagers the untidy area around the bus stop was transformed from an overgrown, rubbish filled eyesore into a pleasant seating area planted with a selection of spring and wild flowers. Two years on this area looks as though it has always been there.

More recently the Parish Council has updated the cemetery rules and additionally incorporated 48 spaces for the burial of cremated remains.

We are grateful to Graham Nabb who, with his team of bell ringers, has undertaken to ring the bells of St John the Baptist Church on significant days throughout the year. The bells can be heard on St John the Baptist's day (24th June), and on the day that villagers open their gardens as part of the National Gardens Scheme. The bells were also rung for the Christmas Gathering in 2010 which, along with the deep snow, added to the magical atmosphere.

Our little village is indebted to many of its residents: the villagers who have taken part in the village tidy up days, the members of the Neighbourhood Watch network for their vigilance, Sarah Rutherford who has worked so hard to enhance the playground, all the tub waterers and litter pickers without whom the village would not look so neat and tidy, Pete Wallace for undertaking many of the minor repairs in the Reading Room and everyone who gives their time voluntarily for village causes.

Thanks also to Sue Harris for cleaning the Reading Room and to our contractor who maintains the village green areas, to Jenny Sherriff for running the monthly coffee mornings and maintaining the Reading Room diary, Lily Hope-Frost for opening St John the Baptist for visitors every weekend, Sarah Richardson for supervising the village website and Ray Randerson the cemetery warden.

Many thanks also to Chris Williams our District and County Councillor who has provided us with a wealth of advice and help over the years.

We have been lucky in the last four years to have two very dedicated and efficient parish clerks, Margaret Maughan and Helen Hide- Wright. I would like to thank Helen for her support and advice during the last two years and wish her good luck in her continuing work with the new parish council.

There have been a few challenges during the four years that the current Parish Council has held office but I believe that each challenge has been approached professionally and in accordance with the rules which govern us. We have been grateful to Alison Hodge, Secretary of Warwickshire and

West Midland Association of Local Councils, for her knowledge and advice on a variety of procedural and legal topics.

My final thanks go to my fellow councillors who have assisted and supported me during my three years as Parish Council Chair. Our varied skills and knowledge have helped us work well as a team. Sadly, we said farewell to Andy last year when his increased work commitments meant that he was no longer able to attend meetings regularly. We wish him well in his future career. Particular mention must go the Lily Hope-Frost who has been a parish councillor since 1995, undertaking the role of vice chair and chair during that time- dedication beyond the call of duty to the village she loves.

I have enjoyed my almost six years as a parish councillor working for the village in a formal capacity and will continue to play an active part in village life in a more informal way.

The three retiring councillors; Sarah, Lily and I wish David and the new Avon Dassett Parish council every success for their time in office.

Jill Burgess
Chair 2010/2011

Appendix 2

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING 16 MAY 2011

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank Balance @ 31 March 2010:	£5614.36
Precept for 20010/11:	£7000.00
Receipts during 2010/11:	£1329.54
Payments during 2010/11:	£7490.73
Balance carried forward @ 31 March 2011:	£6453.17