Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council
Monday 16th May 2011

The meeting commenced at 8.15 pm following on from the AGM.

Councillors present: David Hutt (DH), Alastair Whestone (AW), Kevin Martin (KM).

Public: Jill Burgess (JB), Sarah Richardson (SR), Lily-Hope-Frost (KHF), Daniel Robertson (DR), Jenny Sherriff (JS).

1. APOLOGIES: Councillor Chris Williams
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None
3. ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND CODE OF CONDUCT: DH, AW and KM signed the following documents:
   a. Declaration of acceptance of office
   b. Acceptance of Office
   c. Declaration of Financial Interest

4. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: LHF asked that a note been made that the cheque, outlined in the minutes for £7.63 included the non-slip mat in the Reading Room. The minutes were signed by DH.
4. MATTERS ARISING:

Community

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch:

LHF reported that a local youth who has caused problems in the past, has been spotted driving a variety of cars in a very poor manner in the locality.

LHF reported that there had been a break-in and theft of the copper heating cisterns from the affordable housing which is currently under construction in Fenny Compton.

Roads

b) Traffic, Roads and Drains

JB said that the Speedaware programme has come to an end. The service has offered to do a package of speed checks at £250 for a campaign over a 2 week period. It has been noted that speed levels can vary according to the time of day as does the volume of traffic.

ACTION: ADPC to consider the Speed aware package at next meeting

Roads- JB reported that the speed sign on Farnborough Lane has been replaced. Potholes remain with JB suggesting that DH chase up Patch Byrne with the list she has supplied. **ACTION: DH**

Drains – Nothing to report.

Grit bin – JB confirmed that the replacement grit bin has been sited at the Arlescote junction. The bin has been secured in position and marked as "property of ADPC". JB recommended that this mark is renewed periodically as it will fade over time.

Streetlights – It has been confirmed that ADPC needs to replace 8 mercury lights by 2015.

ACTION: Clerk to chase up estimate for replacement

Environment/Maintenance

c) Playground: No report. **ACTION: Clerk to chase up inspection report**

d) St John's: LHF has had to cancel the tea party because of the condition of the steps up to the church. She has been to a site meeting with Tim Berwick. There has been no further word on the works or confirmation of costings. LHF will continue to chase Time Berwick for a progress report. DH requested that he is copied into these email and LHF confirmed this would be the case.

Graham Nabb will be ringing the bells on the 24th June, 7pm.

Sunday 10th June – Open Gardens.

e) Upkeep of 'green areas' – a member of the public requested a cut of the churchyard in the next few days. It was concluded that with the DC offering 2 cuts per year, they would be requested to make these cuts now and T THE END OF October with the ADOC contractors undertaking cuts in between when required.

ACTION: KM to contact the green area contractor to discuss the cost of a cut 1st wk in July

ACTION: LHF to email HW the details of the council contacts who oversee the churchyard cuts

It was agreed that the contractor continues to do a great job and he is thanked for his efforts.

- Village Tidy Up – LHF commented that there had been fewer people to help at this event than previously but that the details had not reached the Compton chronicle in time. Despite this the team have worked on a number of areas with great results. Everyone is thanked for their contribution to the event.

Some discussion took place about the leaf fall onto the pavement opposite St John's church. With a kerb sweep every 10 weeks, it was proposed that the leaves currently on the pavement should be blown into the road to be swept away at the next sweep (around the end of May). SR confirmed that a calendar for sweeping is online. **AW to clear leaves in time for sweeping**

AW suggested greater publicity for village tidy up events in the future.

JB confirmed she now has a horse chestnut tree which has been donated. It was concluded that the play area could be a possible site. HHW to liaise with Sarah Rutherford to discuss the matter.

ACTION: Clerk to contact SR

IT was felt that the tubs would need topping up with compost (currently being stored at the Limes) and fresh plants. DH will speak to Sue Harris about purchasing some geranium and busy Lizzies.

ACTION: DH to speak to Sue Harris

RR Fire: JB has located some spare parts which might be suitable for the repair of the fire.

Communication/Administration

f) Organisation of new Parish Council/roles and responsibilities:

JB, SR and LHF offered their ongoing assistance to the PC. The council thanked them and accepted this offer. SR and JB will continue to deal with the website and will therefore keep the PC laptop in order to undertake this role. LHF will continue her role as Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

SR noted that it is the PC's responsibility to monitor expenditure to budget. SR has previously set the budget with input from the Clerk.

Policing: KM (w LHF)

Traffic, roads and drains: KM

Play area: Sarah Rutherford

St John's: Daniel Robertson (if successful in co-option) w LHF

Green Areas and tubs: KM

Planning: all PC's. PCs were encouraged to check the website each week. 354

Finance: AW

g) Website - AW will liaise with SR on the content of the website. SR offered to show AW and other councillors how the website works **ACTION: AW to contact SR re website**

5. COUNCIL REPORTS – Were read out by the clerk as the Councillor was unable to attend the meeting.

1. **Library Review** – The Review of the Library Service is gathering pace and a Public Meeting was held in Kineton last Friday and residents are considering putting together a business plan where they can effectively still provide a book lending service with the cooperation of the Village Hall. There is a meeting this Wednesday in the Fire Station at Southam 7.00 p.m. where a similar debate will take place not that Southam Library is closing but it will operate with reduced hours. The main concern is the reduction of the Mobile Library Service and the debate will be around how the Mobile Library can provide better value for money working on the principal of altering routes and attending villages at a time when more of the population is at home rather than at school or work.

2. **Stratford District Council Election –** For the last month the District Council's elections have been the main exercise for the authority. The elections on 5th May 2011 resulted in a higher than average turnout. In Avon Dassett 100 people voted representing a turnout of 62.5%. The political balance at the District Council has altered slightly and as the Conservatives increased their overall majority by 2, the new balance is as follows:

Conservative	34
Lib Dem	16
Independent	3

Fenny Compton Ward overall turnout 55.4%

The result was:	Chris Williams	695
	David Booth	366
	Majority	329

3. **Referendum** – In addition to the District Council Election, a National Referendum was held regarding a proposal to change the voting procedure. In the West Midlands area the turnout was 50.1% and by a ratio of 3:1 the proposal was rejected.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Was circulated. D Hutt explained to the new councillors that prior to each meeting the clerk produces a list of correspondence in order that they can request to see any items.

JB recommended that Councillors always read the emails from Alison Hodge as they often contain new procedures and legal obligations or rulings.

WALC training 16th July: DH wishes to be booked on. Other Councillors to consider going to this training for new councillors.

ACTION: Clerk to book a place, other councillors to consider which session they wish to attend

7. PLANNING- the Clerk had highlighted a training workshop and all the Councillors have confirmed that they will attend.

DH explained that sometimes planning meetings were held outside normal meeting dates in order to meet planning deadlines.

The councillors considered the letter outlining the sale of DC land. Kevin Martin declared an interest due to the location of this land close to his property.

11/01007/TREE – No representation.

ACTION: Clerk to contact council highlighting that the land is in fact the entrance to a field

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 355

Accounts for Payment

Appendix A
FINANCIAL STATEMENT May 2011
Avon Dassett Parish Council
Balance at close of business 30/4/11

Current Account	£1,257.75
Savings Account	£5,205.4

Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting) Cheque No

The following cheques were cancelled:

1101, 1102, 1103

1.5.11	N Power	17.08	1104*
1.5.11	N Power	16.77	1105*
1.5.11	N Power	499.45	1106*
Total A		533.30	

* these cheques were issued prior to the meeting by JB and LHF as they were due before the meeting date

The following cheques were issued at the special meeting on the 9.5.11. Present: Clerk, DH, SR, LHF. Apologies JB.

Cheques proposed SR, Seconded LHF. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 7.45pm.

9.5.11	H Hide-Wright (Clerk April)	212.11	1107
9.5.11	Mowing Contractor	216.00	1108
9.5.11	W. Sherriff (May)	8.60	1109
9.5.11	W. Sherriff (April)	6.35	1110
9.5.11	S. Harris (April Cleaning)	11.00	1111
Total B		454.06	

Total Cheques Issued A & B 986.36

Income
Nil

- Signing bank mandate. The parish councillors signed the ban mandate in order to make changes to signatories. Remains that two signatures are needed to issue cheques.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: LHF complained abut the state of the village green with the gnome. She recommended re-turfing the area and installing posts in order to stop people parking on the grass. The area is PC responsibility. DH to seek a quote for work and material. **ACTION: DH**

SR requested digital photographs and a short piece outlining the interests of the new councillors and the Clerk. JB commented that previously councillors had committed to put the details about themselves into the Compton chronicle. **ACTION: Councillors and Clerk**

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –6th June, 4th July, 1st Aug, 5th Sept, 3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 5th Dec.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm