Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 4th July 2011

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

1. APOLOGIES: Diana Biddlestone

Present at Meeting: David Hutt, Kevin Martin, Alastair Whetstone, Clerk, Councillor Williams.

Public arrived for planning section of meeting only: Roger Wood, Mr and Mrs Parks, David Wilson.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Daniel Robertson: Planning application 11/01189/LBC & LBC

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Proposed Kevin Martin (KM), Seconded Daniel Robertson (DR). Signed by David Hutt

4. MATTERS ARISING:

It was decided to postpone the division of roles between councillors until the August meeting in order that Diana Biddlestone can be present.

David Hutt will be the ADPC key holder for the Reading Room and contact point for Stratford District Council. **ACTION: Clerk to inform Graham Raspin**

Community

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

DH reported that there was no further update from Lily Hope-Frost.

Roads

b) Traffic, Roads and Drains: KM reported that he will clean the main drain at the top of the hill shortly. All other drains have been viewed and appear to be fine.

Alistair Whetstone reported that he had contact the council and been told that the roads were swept on a 4 week cycle, had been given the rota of cleaning dates and on that basis had swept the debris on the pavement onto the road for cleaning away. The road sweeper has still not been through the village and the debris remains in the road. Councillor Williams agreed to chase up this matter and commented that the roads are not swept every 4 weeks but are done less frequently. AW will forward all related emails to CW. **ACTION: AW to forward emails to CW. CW to expedite council road sweeping**

Speedaware: Daniel Robertson as been in communication with Poonam and has completed the form to book Speed Aware. Once the payment is received by the Council, dates will be booked. DR will request speed checks in the middle of the village as well as at the top of the hill.

AW asked CW if ADPC could put up a recommended speed in the village. CW said that this would not be permissible.

Streetlights – AW met with Annette Mackie, walked through the village and examined the lights. Of the 12 lights, 8 will require work before 2015. Although AW recommended the replacement of al of the lights, the cost was prohibitive at around £1,500 each. It was decided to replace 4 of the mercury lights in 2012/13 and the other 4 in 2013/14. The Council agreed to try to increase the precept for those years to cover the cost of this project.

CW explained that under the Localism Bill, precept will be capped at a 2.5% increase each year and that the precept was taxation gathered from resident to be spent on local services. The clerk confirmed that the precept was currently £7,000.

CW confirmed that there would not be any grants available to assist in the funding of the lights but that SDC has significantly reduced its lighting maintenance costs.

Environment/Maintenance

c) Playground – Kevin Martin confirmed that he had retained the playground safety report from the last meeting, not AW as stated in the minutes. KW has read through the report and will be undertaking remedial repairs to the equipment as highlighted in the report. He will update the Council at the next meeting. AW asked Km to let him know if he needed assistance in undertaking any of the work.

ACTION: KM to undertake repairs on play equipment and report back to Council at next mtg.

Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Zurich Insurance and had received a quotation for liability insurance on the £12k of equipment installed over the past few months. It was agreed to pay for this cover and have insurance cover immediately.

d) St John's: The grass in churchyard has now been cut. CW commented that the Council undertakes a couple of cuts per year and that ADPC were responsible for other cuts.

CW confirmed that the steps are considered dangerous and if they deteriorate much further, will have to be closed. In the meantime the signs advising people of the dangerous state of the steps will have to stay in place. WDC has no money to fund the repair of the steps. Daniel Robertson will enquire, via Lily Hope-Frost, whether the Churches Conservation Trust would be able to fund the repairs.

ACTION: Daniel Robertson to contact Lily Hope-Frost.

e) Upkeep of 'green areas': Km has been looking into installing posts on the village green. He will report back to the Council on costing of alternative approaches including undertaking the work himself.

ACTION: KM

Communication/Administration

f) Notice board/s: The Clerk read the one piece of feedback she had received from the public on the future of the notice board outside the Reading Room. With the cost of replacement at around £800 it was agreed to remove the old board and not to replace it.

ACTION: Daniel Robertson will remove Notice Board

g) Insurance – the Clerk confirmed that the play equipment is self insured by ADPC and that the new £12 of equipment was now incurred for an increase in premium of £94.77.

h) Reading Room Bins: It was decided to stop using the wheelie bins. The council have been told to cease collections. The clerk passed on a letter to Jenny Sherriff who takes bookings for the Reading Room asking her to let hirers know that they had to take their refuse home with them.

5. COUNCIL REPORTS

1. **Fiscal Matters –** The County is presently implementing recommendations made in the last budget. The object of the exercise is to save some £64 million over the next three years. Two items of local interest are the Library Service and transformation of Youth Activities in the County. Consultation ended last week for the Library Service and we have already received 16 interests from various communities to process a business plan to transfer the operation of local libraries into the ownership of the communities. This response far exceeded our expectations and if implemented will mean that no actual libraries will be lost to the community. There also appears to be little resistance to altering the hours of opening and adapting major libraries into greater community use facilities.

2. **Youth Service Transformation –** The transformation of the Youth Service has been generally well received and it does appear that throughout the County only two Youth Clubs will cease to operate but, I stress, alternative facilities with nearby Youth Clubs will allow for a merger of these threatened Youth facilities. As with the Library Service local communities have shown interest in taking over the responsibilities of organising the Youth Service from the County Council. This will require transferring of leases etc to new organisations but will provide important savings for the County Council. Within our own area the Youth Club in Kineton will transfer to the Secondary School; the Youth Club in Southam will transfer to the Congregational Church whilst the Youth Club in Lighthorne Heath is recognised as being a Centre for Excellence and will continue to be operated by the local community with funding through Orbit Housing.

3. **Stratford District Council** – Since the election there have been changes within the political administration at Stratford. There has been a change in representation. The Conservative majority has been increased by 2. Cllr Chris Saint has been elected as Leader and you may recall that he was Leader a few years ago so he knows his way around the block. I have been given the post of Chairman of the Eastern Planning Committee. It is recognised that our planning service needs enhancing and you can all expect a significant improvement not only in

the time taken to determine applications but also with the level of communication. I am part of a small working party whose task is to deliver an improved planning service.

4. **Police –** The following changes have been implemented. 362

(1) The annual budget for the Police has been reduced by £22 million to £80 million. This budget reduction has resulted in a major reorganisation of the Police in Warwickshire.
(2) Approximately 400 police will be leaving the service.
(3) The number of Police Stations in Warwickshire has been significantly reduced. In our area the Police Stations at Southam, Wellesbourne and Shipston will be closed.
(4) Regular Police Officers will only be involved in crime detection, not community policing. It is likely that the only police the public will be involved with are the PCSOs who will be actively involved in community policing. Unless you are actually witnessing an incident when you should still dial 999, the way to contact the Police is to phone 01926 415000 and speak to the Duty Officer.

At a local level, at a recent meeting of the Community Forum held in Fenny Compton the local Police were criticised for not being responsive to Anti-Social Behaviour within Fenny Compton. Households in the village received leaflets from the Safer Neighbourhood Team reminding people always to report incidents of anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour is not tolerated and the Police need residents to report any incidents of anti-social behaviour.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Paper copies circulated at meeting. Electronic mail circulated prior to meeting.

DH to receive a copy of Clerk's pay advice to Douglas Tonks.

HHW will ask Bill Robinson to undertake the 2012 Audit based on his competitive quotation.

HHW confirmed that Councillors were happy to bank and hold the £200 cheque received from Keith Hicks for neighbourhood Watch. CW confirmed that the monies had to be spent on Neighbourhood watch initiatives in the village.

7. PLANNING (Declarations of interests restated by Daniel Robertson who left the meeting during the relevant section).

11/01189/LBC & LBC Ray Randerson, 3 Park Drive Cottages; alter existing staircase and associated partitions (amendment to 10/02024/LB): "Make No Representations."

11/01333/FUL Mr and Mrs Anthony Deeming, Orchard Cottage, Proposed erection of porch to front and erection of conservatory to the rear. "Make No Representations."

11/01471/FUL & LBC Mr Anthony Perks, St Joseph's Cottage, Avon Dassett, CV47 2AR. Proposed reconstruction of front wall and gable. Demolish existing outbuildings and replace with single storey rear extension. Insertion of roof lights to front elevation. Roger Wood addressed the meeting, talked the Councillors through the planned changes and showed them a large plan of the works. "Make No Representations."

Notice of Decisions:

11/00800/TREE: 4 Park Drive. Permission with conditions

11/00015/FUL: 3 Hill view. Permission with conditions

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT July 2011

Avon Dassett Parish Council
Balance at close of business 30/6/11

Current Account	£1,319.94
Savings Account	£5,906.17

Cheques issued		**Cheque No**
Sue Harris (June Cleaning)	£ 11.00	1118
Sue Harris (Plants for tubs)	£ 31.00	1119
H. Hide-Wright (Clerk Expenses)	£ 41.43	1120
SDC (Uncontested election)	£100.00	1121
WCC (Speedaware)	£250.00	1122

Clerk (Underpayment 2010/11)	£170.71	1123	
Zurich (Extra Play Equip. Ins)	£ 94.77	1024	
Green Area Contractor	£196.00	1025	
Chubb	£105.73	1026	p363
Total Cheques	£1,000.64		

Income

Hire of Cemetery Car Park by Avon Public House	£30.00 Cash (delivered by Daniel Robertson)
Neighbourhood Watch (from Keith Hicks)	£200.00 cheque

9. MEMBER REPORTS

Daniel Robertson sought feedback on the possibly installation of a combination lock onto the cemetery car-park. It was felt that this was a good idea. The Clerk asked to know the combination in order to inform the green area contractor and the person currently grassing sheep on the land.

Clerk to ensure sheep are clear of the cemetery car-park for Open Gardens on the 10th and 17th July.
ACTION: Clerk to notify clearance of car –park.

Gardening club will be approached to supply flowers and possibly the upkeep of the village tubs. **ACTION: AW**

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm