Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 7th February 2011

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm. 341

1. APOLOGIES: DH, LHF. The meeting was not quorate and therefore no decisions can be made until the next full meeting in March. All Parish Councillor's had previously agreed that the meeting should go ahead to facilitate the exchange of information and in order to settle accounts.
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None
3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes could not be accepted because the meeting was not quorate. Their acceptance is therefore carried forward to the March meeting.
4. MATTERS ARISING: ACTION

Community (LHF to lead)

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch: Nothing to report.

Roads (JB to lead)

b) Traffic, Roads and Drains

Traffic: Speed camera visited on 25th January feedback showed the following

13 cars heading NE. Average speed - 36.5 mph
11 cars heading SW. Average speed - 30 mph

Roads: Pot holes throughout the village were reported to Patch Byrne on 17th January and should be filled very shortly.

Speed restriction sign was also reported as leaning and an order for a new post has been raised by Patch Byrne.

Grit bin – Following the January meeting guidance was sought from Patch Byrne with regard to replacing the stolen grit bin. Patch does not support our idea about placing the new bin on AD side of the crossroads

Patch proposes that: ' the bin is sited on or near to its original position, and that it is embedded approximately 8-10 inches into the ground, this should stop all but the most determined thieves. To stake the bins would only result in salt leaching into the verge so that is not possible, Slabs could easily be removed and would not be much of a deterrent. However if the bin could be marked in someway that certainly would be a deterrent; an ADPC or a smart water sign would do nicely'.

Patch has advised a capacity in excess of 120litres. As the purchase had already been agreed in a previous meeting Helen can order the bin and Patch's team will dig it in and fill it.
ACTION: HHW to Order Bin

The dead fox close to the motorway bridge has been removed by Streetscene

The faulty light on St John's church gate has been mended.

Information on the Snow Code has been added to the website. There are 20 leaflets to be distributed through the village.

Drains- Nothing to report

Environment/Maintenance (DH/AR to lead)

c) Playground: An inspection of the playground will be undertaken by SDC's Community Leisure Department during the second week of February.

d) St John's: **Tea Party on 25th June.** Info has been circulated via the Compton Chronicle. To date the Fete Committee and Gardening Club are going to provide a display. Feldon Archeology and Warmington Heritage Group will be attending and Brian Aldrich will be showing some of his paintings. Crafts yet to be confirmed. **ACTION: HHW to contact Abacus**

e) Upkeep of 'green areas' 342

Reminder that Contractor should contact Jill prior to commencement of maintenance for a walk through the village. **ACTION: HHW to contact contractor**

f) Cemetery – Revised rules and plans

Thanks to Anthony Buckingham of Estee Design for drawing up the new plans so promptly. Unfortunately the information he acted on has subsequently been amended. The revised plan has been circulated for comments and will be sent to Tony for comment after the meeting. Parish Councillors are requested to familiarise themselves with the rules ready to finalise them at the next meeting.

ACTION: COUNCILLORS

Local undertakers should be advised of the new cemetery layout as soon as the new plans are received. **ACTION: HHW**

Updated cemetery rules should also be sent to local undertakers. **ACTION: HHW**

Communication/Administration

Graham Raspin, Democratic Office at SDC has been notified of Andy Rutherford's resignation and supports our decision to carry the vacant councillor position until the election in May

Councillor Williams addressed the meeting saying that nominations needed to be recorded by the 25th March. He advised that there would need to be three Parish Councillors as a minimum to make the Parish Council quorate. If there are vacancies, these can be filled by co-option.

Information for Election

Graham will be sending us copies of the official Notice of Election to advertise the parish council election and nomination papers for us to distribute to interested persons. In the event of a poll the election will occur on 5th May.

JB stated that she would be happy to speak to anyone considering a role on the council about what is involved. Councillors stated that they will hand over papers and files to the incoming councillors to ensure a smooth transition.

Notice Board- £1000 was identified in next year's budget to replace the notice board outside the Reading room which is not water tight. Literature on potential notice boards were passed to the Clerk for consideration by the new members of ADPC.

WALC Briefing Training Day: No-one was able to attend.

5. COUNCIL REPORTS

County Fiscal Matters – The proposed budget for 2011/12 will be set on 15th February 2011. The broad outlines of the budget have already been published. In essence, over a four year cycle it was agreed that the bulk of savings would be imposed during the next financial year. All departments operating within the County Council will have to work with 20% less money than previously. Savings have been made by reducing staff costs where possible and it is proposed to dispose of surplus buildings owned by the County Council as soon as possible. There has been much publicity about headline cuts. For instance, the Press have made much of the decision to focus on reducing the Youth Service but this is not the case and we are hoping to transform the way the Youth Service works and I am sure the Youth Club in Kineton will continue and the Youth Workers will still be present but with different organizations supporting their activities other than the County Council. Subsidising rural transport is an area that is deemed uneconomic and certainly any rural bus services outside regular core time will not continue. It is just not viable to run a bus with two passengers on board. It is anticipated that through the Big Society agenda alternative services can be provided efficiently and at a great saving to the tax payer. Other areas of savings include:-

(1) turning off street lighting owned by the County Council between the hours of 12.00 midnight to 5.00 a.m.
(2) stopping the County Music Service and transferring this operation to a Trust Service
(3) the cost of rural transport in providing students aged 16 and above will increase from its present level of £475 annual charge to £660. It is estimated that this particular change in policy will save the County Council in the region of £700,000 per year. This level of charging is similar to that already charged by other authorities.

(4) Change in the way we car for the aged. This includes stopping the building of new care houses; possibly selling off existing care homes owned by the County Council and improving the care of the aged allowing them to stay in their own homes.

I must reiterate that these changes in the way the Council works are subject to approval by the full Council at the Budget meeting on 15th February.

District Council Budget – The District Council is formulating its budget. As with the County Council there are various options being considered and public consultation has been carried out identifying the public's preference as to where savings can be made. The budget is to be decided on 28th February. Contrary to Press speculation, never let the facts get in the way of a good story, there is no proposal to introduce a charging regime for the Green Waste Collection, nor are we proposing to introduce charges for car parks in market towns, nor reduce our investment in CCTV and Tourism. Most of the savings will come from improved savings and reduction in staff employed by the Council.

Gritting – One consequence of the bad weather during November and December is the damage to roads in our area. Unlike last winter, when there was a succession of freezing weather and thaws, this year there has been one relatively slow thaw resulting in less damage than we encountered last winter. The priorities have been in repairing A and B roads first and then we will get on to the C and D roads as soon as possible. We are aware than on country roads where there is no kerbing, the road side has broken rather than creating potholes in the centre of the road. The restoration will probably be spread throughout the year but potholes, where necessary, will be temporarily filled. It is worth noting that the snow clearance programme in Warwickshire was far more effective than neighbouring counties and I believe full credit should be given to the Highways team for their performance.

Library Service - We have to cut £2 million from our £7.4 million Library Service. To do this major reform of all our services is necessary. Of the £2 million cuts about £1 million is proposed from the Libraries Network and £1 million will be found from the support and management services. Currently, we have 34 separate Library buildings throughout Warwickshire and of these only 4 libraries account for 90% of the total use of libraries in the County. In our own area, the libraries at Harbury and Kineton have been identified as being no longer sustainable in their current form. The library in Southam will operate with reduced opening hours of up to 35 hours per week. There will be a period of consultation between now and July before any decision is taken regarding the future of those libraries that are not considered sustainable. Thought has been given as to how the Mobile Library Service can provide better value for money and one example is to consider calling on villages in the evening and at weekends and for possibly spending more time at each location. Ultimately, our aim is to look at alternative ways of providing our service to our customers and the Council is looking as to how this could be done with local communities.

Community Forums - The next meeting of the Wellesbourne and Kineton Community Forum will be held on Thursday 3rd March at Wellesbourne Primary School. The evening will start with a Police Surgery at 6.30 p.m. Community Forums are growing in importance and I do hope that the record of attendance by Parish Councillors from Kineton will continue. If at all possible, if members of the community would like to attend so much the better. The evening's agenda will include a presentation by Graeme Smith, Chief Fire Officer, covering such items as Localism and the Big Society.

lr Chris Williams, Member for Kineton Division – WCC. Member for Fenny Compton Ward SDC 06.02.11.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CW POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 16th MARCH, 6.30pm at LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL. THERE WILL BE A TALK ON LOCALISM AND HO W TO CULTIVATE IT IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES: THIS CHANGE OF DATE AND VEUNE WAS INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY CW AT THE MEETING. CW also added that the subsequent meeting will be on the 2nd June at the Dassett School, Fenny Compton.

JB requested to know where the parcels of land are located in Avon Dassett which were referred to by CW at the meeting. **ACTION: CW**

6. CORRESPONDENCE: Was distributed.

7. PLANNING - Knight's Farm replacement roof

After consultation with all members of the council, it was agreed that the resolution to delegate power to the clerk to make a response on behalf of the Parish Council be used. This delegation is possible under the Loc Gov Act 1972 s101.

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HHW summarised the discussions and will enter a "No representation" onto the planning website.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Appendix A
FINANCIAL STATEMENT February 2011

The financial statement could not be accepted as the meeting was not quorate. It will be carried over to March meeting. All parish councillors agreed that the following emergency cheques should be issued to ensure prompt payment of bills and salaries.

Avon Dassett Parish Council

Balance at close of business 31/1/11		
Current Account	£1,249.61	
Savings Account	£6,524.93	
Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting)		**Cheque No**
Clerk (December)	£223.23	1081
Sue Harris (Jan Cleaning)	£10.00	1082
Estee Design (Cem. Drawings)	£50.00	1083
W. Sherriff (Feb Coffee Morning)	£6.23	1084
Chubb (Annual rental & Maintenance)	£174.90	1085
Stratford D.C. (Website Training)	£54.00	1086
Warwickshire C.C. (Street Lighting Maint.)	£285.84	1087
H. Hide-Wright (Stamps)	£3.84	1088
Total cheques	£808.04	

ACTION: HHW will request new bank mandates ready for incoming Councillors.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Clerk's holidays have been agreed and JB and SR will cover incoming emails during the period - 21st Feb to 25th Feb inclusive (5 work days) 13th to 26th April inclusive (10 work days)

JB will add some census information to the village website

The grate and one of the side pieces of the fire have disintegrated so the fire will not be useable until they are replaced. This will be discussed in full at the next meeting.

Emergency pack received from Eon to be left in RR

Thanks to Pete Wallace for securing the notice board within the RR.

JB asked if it would be advisable to bring the lap top to meetings in order to consider planning drawings once paper drawings are withdrawn. Due to poor mobile signal at the RR it was thought best to download the information prior to the meetings so that it could be accessed for debate.

Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge: This will be discussed at the next meeting.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7th Mar, 4th April, 16th May, 6th June, 4th July, 1st Aug, 5th Sept, 3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 5th Dec. The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.