Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 7th November 2011

Prior to the meeting the Chair made a statement. At the last meeting inappropriate and unacceptable comments had been made by Councillor Martin and complaints had been received. The Chair issued a formal warning in the hope that there would be no repeat of these types of statements. Any repeat would result in the matter being taken further.

1. APOLOGIES: Daniel Robertson

Present: Councillor Chris Williams, David Hutt, Diana Biddlestone, Kevin Martin, Helen Hide-Wright

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Diana Biddlestone confirmed that she has submitted a planning application. Councillor Williams advised that during any discussions of the application, Diana must leave the councillors discussion forum.

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Proposed: Kevin Martin, Seconded: Alastair Whetstone. Signed and Dated by David Hutt.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Community

a. Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

David Hutt read a note from Lily Hope-Frost, "The white transit tipper van register V543 EBA is still in the area acting suspiciously. 3 white males looking for scrap. Last seen in Warmington."

"Adam Batty reported being disturbed at 4am last week but saw nothing despite search with barking dog."

David Hutt commented that he was shocked at the level of crime reported through police emails. A discussion followed, concluding that households would receive information on crime prevention in a mail drop as well as through publicity on the website and Compton Chronicle. The key advice on crime prevention is to secure the doors and windows of all out buildings and garages which appear to be targeted at present, as well as ensuring that homes are secure. **ACTION: Alastair Whestone to undertake mail-drop of the village.**

In addition it has been reported that dogs are being stolen. Dog owners are advised to consider the safekeeping of their animals, especially when left in gardens, even for short periods of time.

Councillor Williams confirmed that there are a number of repeat offenders who are known to the police who are likely to be involved in the household crimes. He did not feel that these were "opportunist" thefts but were organised and planned.

The public are encouraged to attend their local Neighbourhood Watch meetings or Community forum's in order to seek and receive advice on securing their homes. Smart Water, a method of invisibly marking valuables, is available from ADPC via Kevin Martin at a cost of £15 per bottle.

b. Flood Prevention Grant: The previous minutes had erroneously stated that Diana Biddlestone was looking into this area. The Clerk apologised for the misunderstanding and will investigate who is looking into this area. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Daniel Robertson re flood grant.**

c. Councillor Williams confirmed that grant funding is available for specific flood prevention projects such as ditch clearing.

Alastair Whetstone commented that the leaves on the drains will cause a blockage. Councillor Williams and Kevin Whetstone responded by saying that the leaves would move away from the drains in times of rainfall.

A discussion ensued about the drains close to the play area. Kevin Martin will investigate the area and report back to the Parish Council on the state of the drains and whether they are sufficient to avoid future flooding in the area. Remedial work will be considered and the Probation Service may be used to undertake the labour required. **ACTION: Kevin Martin to investigate drainage close to Play area and report back to Parish Council in December with his findings.**

d. Play-area – dog fouling: A number of complaints have been received regarding dog fouling within the play area and the village generally. Residents will receive a mailing regarding their duties as dog owners with details of potential fines for failing to clear up after their dogs. Dog Fouling notices will be put into and around the play area. In addition, dog owners are informed that dog waste can be put into any of the public bins within the village, not just the dog waste bins. **ACTION: Councillor Williams to supply dog fouling signs.**

e. Emergency plan – Emergency Planning Coordinator was confirmed as Daniel Robertson. The plan was sent to Sally Lange of SDC on the 31.10.11 for her input and comments.

Councillor Williams confirmed that on looking at the emergency plans for other villages, the format which Avon Dassett follows is very similar.

f. Community Links Transport funding: WALC is currently contacting Parish Councils to see if they would be willing to provide ongoing financial support to enable this service to continue. Upon enquiries, the Clerk confirmed that two people in AD are registered to use the service but are not regular users. Alastair Whetstone asked what figure the scheme are looking for from ADPC. **ACTION: Clerk to establish amount of funding being sough from ADPC.**

Roads

Traffic, Roads and Drains: Details of Footway Refurbishment were found within a letter at the Reading Room. From Coldmac Limited, 11 Midland Road, Scunthorpe. 01724-289918, the letter explained that where necessary the footpaths would be cleaned and surfaced within the second week of November 2011 (dependent on weather conditions).

Environment/Maintenance

d) St John's: Steps, Christmas cards: Diana Biddlestone has received an email saying that the grant is o its way along with terms and conditions. The grant is for £1.500.00 for the refurbishment of the church steps. The Fete committee, underwritten by Ray Randerson, have indicated they will donate £1,000. Open Gardens are hoping to donate around £500 to the scheme.

Diana Biddlestone and Daniel Robertson have agreed to set up a working party to deal with this project. The quotations for the works vary significantly. The Probation Service may be used for some of the works. Councillor Williams advised that Tim Meyrick will be able to advise on the standards required.

The Churches Conservation Trust has requested a meeting with Diana Biddlestone. Diana is hoping to approach them for financial support once more and in light of the funds recently secured.

The Christmas card design has been chosen and cards are being printed.

e) Upkeep of 'green areas': One quotation has been received so far. Quotations will be considered at the next meeting.

Communication/Administration

h) Community Funding: Councillor Williams confirmed that the History Group has been awarded £500 from the Council.

i) Superfast Broadband: Councillor Williams explained that there are varying broad band speeds. In order to improve the service, individuals are encourage to register their views on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/superfastbroadband to register the location of your BT cabinet go to http://4sfb.crowdmap.com

5. COUNCIL REPORTS

1. **Warwickshire Library and Information Service –** You may recall earlier this year that as a result of budget proposals some 16 libraries throughout Warwickshire were under threat of closure. I am pleased to report that the communities who serve all the threatened libraries have arranged to take on the responsibility of running the libraries themselves. The libraries in Harbury and Kineton will continue to operate in the New Year only they will be run by their own communities. The libraries at Southam and Wellesbourne will continue to operate in their present locations but with reduced opening hours. The implementation of saving plans and ongoing transformation of Warwickshire Library Service required changes to the Mobile Library Service which must reduce costs. Mobile Libraries offer an important and much valued service to many people in rural locations. The present fleet of five vehicles commissioned in 2005 provides improved disabled access, better fuel economy and a compact but user friendly layout with on-board computers. It has been decided that until the outcome of the reconfigurated static libraries is established there will be no changes to the Mobile Library Service until the autumn of next year. Further consultation will take place with users to determine how extra capacity can be achieved. For example, removing stops regularly used by fewer than four customers, delivering the Mobile Library Service on Saturdays or Sundays and reducing the frequency of visits from three weekly to four weekly. The review will consider a variety of possible options such as the Mobile Library Service itself combining with a One Stop Shop and

other partners such as Social Services, Police together with the District Council services. I will keep you updated with developments.

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

7. PLANNING: Notice of Decision for 11/01696/TREE, Avon Carrow for arboriculture works was read out.

David Hutt confirmed that he had sent the letter to the planning inspectorate, reiterating the objections to the development of garages.

Extraordinary Planning Meeting Date: Nov 21st, Dec 19th 2011

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance at close of business 31/10/11

Current Account	£1,803.58	
Savings Account	£6,777.02	
Cheques issued		**Cheque No**
H. Hide-Wright (Clerk Expenses)	£30.92	1140
N Power	£9.31	1141
J. Sherriff (replacement for chq 001129)	£8.91	1142
J. Sherriff (October Coffee Morning)	£16.13	1143
J. Sherriff (November Coffee Morning)	£9.76	1144
Sue Harris	£35.00	1145
(Oct clean £11 & Flowers £24.00)		
WALC Training day (4th Nov, DH)	£30.00	1146
History Group	£50.00	1147
Green Area Contractor (MM)	£324.00	1148
Total Cheques	£514.03	

The financial statement and cheques were proposed by Diana Biddlestone and seconded by Kevin Martin. Cheques were signed by David Hutt and Alastair Whetstone.

New projects/planned expenditure for coming financial year — Deferred to December meeting

2012/13 Budget — Deferred to December meeting

9. MEMBER REPORTS : Remembrance service will take place at the slightly later time of 12.30.

After discussion it was agreed that Kevin Martin should purchase two tubs for an approximate cost of £50. The tubs will replace others in a poor state of repair.

The Clerk had circulated an email regarding local services. Councillor Williams confirmed that there would be further details on the issue in the spring with the localism bill. It was therefore decided to review the matter once further information is received.

Alastair Whetstone noted that the AD welcome packs need updating. It was decided to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

Alastair Whetstone also commented on updating the parish plan. Councillor Williams confirmed that this is subject to a five year cycle, making an update due in 2012. The matter will be added to the agenda for March 2012.

Councillor Williams offered his apologies for the December meeting.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5th Dec.

Proposed ADPC meeting dates 2012: 9th Jan, 6th Feb, 5th Mar, 2nd Apr, 14th May (7th May Bank Holiday), 11th June (4th June Bank Holiday), 2nd July, 6th Aug, 3rd Sept, 1st Oct, 5th Nov, 3rd Dec.
Extraordinary planning meeting dates at 7.30pm Reading Room: 23rd Jan, 20th Feb, 19th Mar, 16th April, 28th May, 25th June, 16th July, 20th Aug, 17th Sept 15th Oct, 19th Nov, 17th Dec.
Agenda posting dates: 30th Dec, 30th Jan, 27th Feb, 26th Mar, 10th April, 1st June, 25th June, 30th July, 24th Aug, 26th Sept, 28th Oct, 26th Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm