Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 11th June 2012

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

1. APOLOGIES: Daniel Robertson. Present at Meeting: David Hutt, Diana Biddlestone, Trevor Gill, Alastair Whetstone, Councillor Williams, Clerk.
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None
3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Signed by David Hutt. Proposed by Trevor Gill, Seconded: Diana Biddlestone.
4. MATTERS ARISING:

Community

a. Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

There was no update to present. Councillor Williams highlighted the Community Forum meeting on Wednesday 13th June at Bishop's Itchington Primary School. Councillor Williams particularly highlighted the presence of the police at the meeting and discussion on the localism bill. Trevor Gill undertook to attend the meeting if possible.

The Clerk confirmed that Amanda Wilson-Patterson may attend the August PC meeting to outline the work of the community forums.

b. Jubilee Event – Diana Biddlestone confirmed that the village events t celebrate the Queen's Jubilee had been a success. The event at the pub had been well supported and thanks were conveyed to those who had worked hard to organise the celebrations. The Parish Council also commented on the success of the event on Burton Dassett Hills.

c. PO computer – the Clerk has been chasing this matter but has not had any response from Bala Jaspal.

d. Play area – Trevor Gill outlined a number of repairs which he and Daniel Robertson had undertaken of the play area. All the areas highlighted for action in the safety report have now been dealt with. The Parish Council thanked Trevor and Daniel for their work.

e. Superfast Broadband – Trevor Gill explained that Peter Biddlestone and Richard Charlesworth are now assisting Trevor in promoting this initiative in the village. The group has attended a seminar on the subject and are about to distribute and then collect around 450 questionnaires. Trevor explained that individuals can submit several responses if they undertake several roles such as a householder, business person and student. The questionnaires will be subject to a lucky draw with a £50 prize for the 1st prize and other items for 2nd and 3rd place runners up. The deadline for submission of results is the end of June.

Roads

Traffic, Roads and Drains – Trevor Gill confirmed that the manhole cover outside St. John's Church has been replaced.

Trevor explained that the drains have struggled to cope with the recent rainfall. He and Jill burgess had tried to clear some drains and Patch Byrne has been contacted and will pressure clean the drains which continue to be blocked with debris. RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLEAR GARDEN DEBRIS FROM PATHS IN ORDER TO PREVENT DRANS BECOMING BLOCKED BY SIMILAR MATERIALS AGAIN.

Environment/Maintenance

f. St John's and steps project – Diana Biddlestone handed cheques and cash to the Clerk as follows: £40 cash from The Carrow, £200 cheque from David Hutt, £100 cheque from Elizabeth Elliott and Adam Batty.

Diana went on to seek discussion on what happens with the reinstated £2k from The Churches Conservation Trust. The CCT would like the Pc to use the monies for the church rather than pass it on to SDC. Councillor Williams commented that using the money for the good of the local residents would be the best approach rather than passing it to SDC. Discussion then took place on the possible merits of tidying up the inside and or outside of the church including possibly installing

lighting, refurbishing pews, replacing curtains, tidying graveyard. Diana Biddlestone is due to meet Colin shearer and will discuss these ideas with him and further possible uses of the £2k.

Diana spoke about the plaques, explaining that when she had offered to pay for them, it had looked as if there would be no more than a dozen required. Since that point, the numbers have increased significantly. Diana proposed using any excess monies from the Jubilee Event to fund the extra plaques. The Parish Councillors felt that this was a good approach. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Daniel Robertson and establish if there are excess funds remaining to assist in the funding of the plaques.**

Diana explained that in the light of the support for the steps appeal, she had been considering how the church could be used more often. She highlighted a number of ideas including: holding a food market, concerts, tea parties, craft fairs, art exhibitions, film shows, exhibitions. The Parish Council thought that it would be worth exploring how the church could be used.

Diana confirmed that a press release on the Steps Opening Event has been put out. Details are also available on the ADPC website and information has also gone to WCC for their annual report. Councillor Williams suggested sending information to SDC for their publications.

Alastair Whetstone reported that a number of comments had been made about overgrown trees and bushes which block the view of the church from the road. Many of the trees and bushes appear to have been self-seeded. Councillor Williams explained that removing any of the shrubs and trees would require planning permission as the church is in a conservation area. A site drawing would need to be submitted with the trees and shrubs marked on and those for removal clearly identified.

Diana suggested writing a letter of thanks to Tim Berwick of SDC and to the contractor. This was agreed. **ACTION: Diana to draft a thank you letter to Tim Berwick and the steps contractor for David Hutt to sign and send on.**

Diana felt it would be valuable to have a written record of the steps project and the opening event. She proposed asking Avon Dassett History Group if they would be interested in becoming involved with this. **ACTION: Diana to approach AD History Group to see if they would be interested in this as a project.**

Before moving on to other matters the PC expressed its thanks to Diana for her efforts in bringing this matter to such a successful conclusion.

g. Cemetery – The clerk confirmed that she had expedited the replacement cheque from Humphris Funeral Directors and hoped it would be received very soon.

Alastair Whetstone raised the issue of tilting gravestones in the church graveyard. It was decided to make enquiries about what if anything could be done about this. **ACTION: Diana to contact the council and clerk to contact Diocese to seek advice on what could be done about tilting gravestones.**

h. General village maintenance issues – The Clerk commented that Trevor Gill and Daniel Robertson had undertaken a number of tasks in recent weeks and wondered if the council would like to set a maintenance date for the autumn and spring to undertake small maintenance tasks in the village as it had in the past. This was agreed and a carry-forward item to September 2012 when a date will be set.

Trevor Gill reported the poor condition of the ditch near the play ground. Alastair Whetstone offered to assist with strimming the area if it was required.

Communication/Administration

5. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councillor Chris Williams addressed the meeting and explained that the County Council is about to implement its policy to switch off non-essential street lighting between midnight and 5am. Important areas such as roundabouts and junctions will continue to be lit. Parish Councils will soon be approached to see if they also wish to participate in the scheme but that there could be a charge for this.

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

7. PLANNING (Declarations of interests): No declarations of interest.

Notice of Decision: 11/02897/LBC The Coach House, Bitham Hall: consent granted with conditions.

Planning notification: 12/01181/TREE St Josephs Presbytery: No representation.

Planning Notification: 12/01265/FUL Orchard Cottage re-submission of 12/00410/FUL): No representation.

Planning Notification: 12/01276/TREE Post Box Cottage: No representation.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance at close of business 31/5/12

Current Account	£5,144.96 *
Savings Account	£5,401.13

This figure includes a balance of £3,150.40 for St John's Steps Fund
Total balance for ADPC is therefore £7,395.69 in total.

Bank Transactions May 2012

Current Account		**In**	**Out**
2 May	VAT Refund	229.12	
8 May	N Power		37.00
15 May	Internal Transfer	2000.00	
16 May	Bank Deposit	1900.00	
17 May	Elsmore T R	224.64	
18 May	Cheque 1171	62.47	
21 May	Cheque 1179	17.10	
21 May	Cheque 1174	60.00	
21 May	Cheque 1176	291.00	
21 May	Cheque 1178	509.60	
30 May	Cheque 1173	6.52	

Deposit Account		**In**	**Out**
10.5.12 Interest	0.23		

Cheques issued from meeting		**Cheque No**
Warks CC (4 replacement street lights)	£1258.03	1181
Sue Harris (May Clean & Plants for tubs)	£ 26.00	1182
SDC (Community Links)	£ 24.00	1183
Green Area Contractor (May)	£ 222.00	1184
J. Sherriff (June Coffee)	£ 8.92	1185
H. Hide-Wright (May expenses)	£ 29.95	1186
Total Cheques	£1,568.90	

Cheques were signed by David Hutt and Alastair Whetstone.

Income to ADPC: Dassett Men's Group (RR Rental x 5)£25.00

Cheques and Donors to St John's Church Steps Fund January 2012

From	**Amount**	**Total**
Worrall Goods Funds	£400.20	£400.20
February 2012		
Cheque: Lily Hope Frost	£100.00	£500.20
Cheque: Sandy Mitchell	£100.00	£600.20
Cheque: Mr & Mrs Whetstone	£100.00	£700.20
Direct Credit: Trevor Gill (13.2.12)	£100.00	£800.20
March 2012		
A. Rutherford	£100.00	£900.20
G & S. Rice	£ 20.00	£920.20

April 2012		
Butler	£ 25.00	£945.20
Burgess & Mullane	£ 50.00	£995.20
Forsythe	£100.00	£1,095.20
Runnicles	£100.00	£1,195.20
May 2012		
Bill Heath	£ 100.00	£1,295.20
AD Fete Committee (Warwickshire Community Development Fund Grant)	£1,500.00	£2,795.20
Mr Harries and Miss Harvey	£ 100.00	£2,895.20
Mrs Robins (part of Carrow donation)	£ 20.00	£2,915.20
Mr and Mrs Charlesworth (part of Carrow donation)	£ 50.00	£2,965.20
Cash from The Carrow	£ 130.00	£3,095.20
Other Sale of Christmas Cards	£ 55.20	£3,150.40
Total for steps appeal		**£3,150.40**

Quarterly Budget Update - The Clerk presented the first quarterly budget update of the financial year. 50% of the precept has been received. WALC membership was slightly higher and resulted in a 3% overspend to budget. The Annual Reading room Electricity charges were 10% over budget.

9. MEMBER REPORTS: The meeting discussed the invoice for the playground lease. Further information will be sought in order to consider the matter in full at the next parish council meeting.

A letter from Jill Burgess was read out by the clerk. Ms Burgess explained that the Fete committee had asked her to make up a display on the village and wanted to know if ADPC would like to make up a display. A discussion followed on possible areas for inclusion. The subjects were divided up between the members for short articles to be prepared and sent through to Jill Burgess.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 2nd July, 13th Aug, 3rd Sept, 1st Oct, 5th Nov, 3rd Dec.
Extraordinary planning meeting dates at 7.30pm Reading Room: 25th June, 16th July, 27th Aug, 17th Sept 15th Oct, 19th Nov, 17th Dec. **Agenda posting** : 25th June, 6th Aug, 24th Aug, 26th Sept, 28th Oct, 26th Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.