Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 1st October 2012

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm. **416**

1. APOLOGIES: None.

Present at Meeting: Alastair Whetstone, David Hutt, Trevor Gill, Daniel Robertson, Councillor Chris Williams, Clerk

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The minutes were signed by David Hutt. Proposed: Alastair Whetstone seconded: David Hutt.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Community

Amanda Wilson Patterson – presentation on Community Forum

Ms Wilson Patterson introduced herself to the meeting and was welcomed by the Chairman.

Amanda explained that her presentation would focus on the Southam/Wellesbourne Forum. Community Forum's have been running since August 2008. They are open public meetings, 4 meetings are held each year for each of the Forum's at various locations.

Councillor Bob Stevens is now chairing the meetings.

Sergeant Richard Thomas serves this area and he is based in Stratford. The Police section of the Forum remains a key component of each meeting. Since the beginning, attendance at the meetings has doubled and they are now less formal.

The Forums are advisory rather than decision making. Ms Wilson Patterson can take suggestions forward for agenda items.

Councillor Williams commented on how useful and beneficial the Forum's are.

The next Community Forum is on the dangers of loan sharks and credit unions. The date is the 12th December and the venue is to be confirmed.

Trevor Gill suggested that the Core Strategy on Planning should be an agenda item once the strategy is finalised.

Trevor Gill requested a short summary on the Forum's for publication in the Compton Chronicle which Amanda Wilson Patterson agreed to provide. **ACTION: Amanda Wilson Patterson to provide a summary of the role of Community Forum for possible inclusion in the Compton Chronicle.**

a. Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

David Hutt stated that he had not received any information for Lily Hope-Frost to present to the meeting.

b. PO Computer

The Clerk confirmed that she had sent spoken to the husband of Bala Jaspal who had promised a response but that nothing had yet been received. Clerk will continue to follow up the issue.

c. Superfast Broadband Update

Trevor Gill addressed the meeting and explained that 120 questionnaire were in already. Councillor Williams explained that the Government had given the go ahead to appoint a contractor to take the project to the next stage. The work done has established there is a need. Investment will be in the order of £8m from Council funds and £12m from private contractors. It will be another year to assess the outcome of the questionnaire. Decisions will need to be take on the location of the, "Green boxes."

Trevor Gill commented that around 90% of questionnaire respondents had expressed dissatisfaction with the current service provision.

d. Playground

Alastair Whetstone confirmed that he had not been able to set up a meeting with Catherine Whalberg yet. He will continue to try to set up this meeting and report back to the Parish Council. **ACTION: Alastair Whestone to seek meeting to discuss playground lease.**

e. Village Tidy Up Date (Oct/Nov)

A date was set for the Avon Dassett Village Tidy Up Day: SATURDAY 24th NOVEMBER, 9am to 1pm with refreshments available for volunteers at the Reading Room at 10.30am. Anyone who could assist in the village tidy up is invited to come along. Further details can be obtained from councillors Trevor Gill and Daniel Robertson.

f. Green Area Contract

The Clerk advised the meeting of the information received from WALC regarding renewal of contracts. The Councillors agreed that the work on green area maintenance in the past year had been of a high quality, had come in as per the tender, under budget and a renewal of the contract was unanimously agreed. After discussion it was decided to establish with the contractor if any discounts could be obtained if the contract was renewed for a further 2 years. **ACTION: Clerk to contact green area contractor and seek a quotation for a further 2 years.**

Councillor Williams asked if the Parish Council was receiving an Amenity Grant for the cutting of Council land. The Clerk agreed to look into the matter. **ACTION: Clerk to Contact Matt Austin to establish if ADPC qualified for and was receiving an Amenity Grant for the maintenance of some green areas in the village.**

g. Request to Plant a Tree

The Clerk had previous circulated a request from a family to plant a tree as a memorial for a young man. The Parish Council was sympathetic to the request. After discussion it was decided that the Clerk should contact the Arbocultural Officer, Ruth Rose to establish if there was a list of suitable indigenous trees and details on maintenance. It was felt that a location close to the play area could be a possible location for the tree. The Councillors were concerned that if the tree was subject to poor weather conditions, it may not flourish. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Arbocultural Officer to obtain a list of suitable indigenous trees to be sent to the family for consideration for possible planting now or in the spring.**

Roads

Traffic, Roads and Drains

Trevor Gill circulated a draft poster on littering and housekeeping to keep the drains in a good working order. The Council approved the posters and they will be distributed throughout the village. **ACTION: Trevor Gill to circulate posters on littering and general maintenance of the drains.**

Trevor Gill confirmed that he had reported the potholes to Patch Byrne once again and hoped that they would be remedied shortly as they were now quite deep.

Environment/Maintenance

St John's – including date for Christmas Gathering. Possible date and timings.

Trevor Gill has established that the gathering is due to take place on the 16th December in the evening. The Children's party will now take place. **ACTION: Clerk to email Lily Hope Frost to communicate Parish Council support for the Christmas gathering and to see if the PC can support the event in some way.**

"Gnomes Loo" – request to consider removal of ivy. Trevor Gill confirmed that he has removed the ivy.

Communication/Administration

h. Contents of Bank Safe – archiving and AD History Group: Trevor Gill explained that the History Group was not in a position to action this matter at present. Carry forward item for November meeting.

5. COUNCIL REPORTS: County and District Councillor's Report 418

1. **Children's Centre, Early Intervention Project** – The Lighthorne Heath Children's Centre will be holding an Open Evening on Thursday 22nd November 2012 from 6.30 p.m. until 8.00 p.m. to acquaint Parish Councils with the work of the Early Intervention Project. This project helps those mothers who are finding bringing up Under 5s difficult. The Centre works on an Out Reach basis and I am aware of help being given to families in this village. An invitation for the event will be arriving shortly and I do hope someone from the Parish Council will support the event.

2. **Police Commissioners** – On 15th November 2012 there will be a nationwide election for the appointment of an Independent Police Commissioner. Currently, the Chief Constable is responsible to the Police Authority. This Authority is made up of Elected Members and Indpendents nominations. When the Police Commissioner is appointed, the Police Authorities will be disbanded and the Commissioner will take on the duties formerly performed by the Police Authority.

3. **Collaborative Working** – SDC is cultivating an understanding with Cherwell DC and South Northamptonshire DC in an effort to reduce costs by sharing services on an economies of scale basis. An example of this collaboration is that with the retirement of Liam Nevin, the Monitoring Officer, all three authorities now share one Monitoring Officer.

4. **Empty Homes Policy** – SDC currently has a strategy that brings dwelling which have been empty for more than six months, or that have generally fallen into disuse, to return them to occupation for social housing needs. If the Parish Council knows of any such properties within the Parish, please let me know.

5. **Cabinet Meetings** – Members of the public are now allowed to address SDC Cabinet directly on any item on the agenda provided they give two days' notice to the Chief Executive as with the planning meetings the address will be limited to three minutes.

6. **Draft Core Strategy** – Some 8,000 responses have been received by the Planning Department following the recent consultation into proposals that were published in the summer. These responses are currently being digested and evaluated. It is hoped that a further consultation will take place in the Spring and the Draft Core Strategy will be adopted as a Local Plan by the summer of next year.

6. Correspondence

Electronic mail was circulated prior to the meeting. Paper correspondence was circulated at the meeting.

Trevor Gill expressed an interest in the concept of an oil syndicate and had discovered that there is one operating within the village. If people are interested in joining an oil syndicate, please contact Trevor Gill.

7. Planning

No items for consideration

8 Financial Statement October 2012: Was signed by David Hutt.

Balance at close of business 30/9/12

Current Account	£ 7,379.17 *
Savings Account	£ 3,374.47

This figure includes a balance of **£3,443.40** for St John's Steps Fund. Total balance for ADPC is therefore £3,935.77 in total.

Once cheque is issued from meeting for £3,000, the balance remaining for the steps funds will be £443.40.

Bank Transactions September 2012

Current Account	**Chq/SO/DD**	**In**	**Out**
3 September	1191		10.74
3 September	1190		8.26
5 September	DD (N Power)		37.00
10 September	SO (Safe Fee)		7.50
10 September	1202		14.00
19 September	1201		11.00
27 September	DD (Douglas Tonks)		218.02

Deposit Account		**In**	**Out**
10 September	Interest	0.16	
27 September	Precept	3,622.50	

Cheques issued from meeting		**Cheque No**
Stratford on Avon D.C. (Tim Berwick – Steps)	3,000.00	1203
Clement Keys	180.00	1204
Green Area Contractor (August cuts)	222.00	1205
J Sherriff	9.42	1206
S Harris (Sept Cleaning)	11.00	1207
Cancelled Cheque		1208
Clerk (Sept Admin Expenses)	62.38	1209
Total cheques for ADPC	3,484.80	

Income to ADPC: Precept (27.9.12) £3,622.50

Cheques were signed by David Hutt and Alastair Whetstone.

The Clerk confirmed that the internal Auditor, Clement Keys, had issued an unqualified audit opinion and that audit closure notices had now been posted up.

The Clerk highlighted the need to consider the budget figures for 2013/14 with reference to the Clerk as RFO.

Member Reports

Alastair Whetstone sought advice from Councillor Williams on a resident whose parent was having difficulties with their home help. Chris Williams took the details of the residents name and address and offered to look into the matter,

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.