Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 6th February 2012

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm. 383

1. APOLOGIES: David Hutt

Present at Meeting: Alastair Whetstone, Diana Biddlestone, Daniel Robertson, Clerk, Councillor Williams

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS : None

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Proposed: Diana Biddlestone, Seconded: Daniel Robertson. Signed and dated by Alastair Whetstone.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

5. Co-option of Councillor: The Councillors considered the application of Mr Trevor Gill and accepted his submission unanimously. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Gill to sign "Acceptance of Office documents and invitation to next meeting**

Community

a. **Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch:** Alastair Whestone read out a note from Lily Hope-Frost who commented that there was little to report. There appears to be some building debris on a local footpath. Enquiries will be made with a view to asking for its removal. **ACTION: Daniel Robertson to inspect footpath and report back to Clerk. Clerk to issue a letter to landowners if required.**

A dog has been barking in the village. It was felt this situation should be monitored and if it continues, reported to the RSPCA.

b. **Flood Prevention Grant**. Daniel Robertson confirmed that there was no further update. Councillor Williams advised that it was unlikely that there would be further grant funds until at least the summer. The item will therefore be removed from the agenda.

c. **Update of Avon Dassett welcome packs**. Alastair Whetstone had been unable to work on this project but hoped to review the materials ready for the update to go onto the website.

Jill burgess had contacted Alastair Whetstone and advised that some new residents had not had a welcome pack.

d. Playground: Chris Williams confirmed that he has received the dog fouling signs but that they were being laminated before being delivered to the Clerk. Once received, the signs will be installed in the playground. **ACTION: Councillor Williams to deliver dog fouling signs to Clerk.**

The Clerk confirmed that she was chasing the next inspection date. **ACTION: Clerk to book playground inspection date.**

e. **Burial Ground application – Mrs Randerson**. The Clerk confirmed that within the Burial rules, clause D2, The Parish Council has discretionary powers and could allow for Mrs Randerson to be buried in the cemetery. The Councillors agreed unanimously to the request. Alastair Whetstone asked if this represented a plot reservation. The Clerk confirmed that it was not a plot reservation, which is not allowed within the rules. The Clerk read out a draft response to Mrs Randerson which was agreed and will be sent out with copies to the Cemetery Warden, Mr Ray Randerson, and a copy for the file.

f. Jubilee Event – Road closure: Daniel Robertson confirmed that this request had since been withdrawn. Councillor Williams advised that road closures for street parties are possible if an alternative route can be identified and access maintained for emergency vehicles.

A discussion ensued about what the residents of Avon Dassett would like in order to celebrate the Jubilee. It was decided that the views of residents would be canvassed. **ACTION: Daniel Robertson to draft a flier to be agreed by Councillors and then circulated with result presented at March PC meeting.**

Roads

Traffic, Roads and Drains: Nothing to report. All drains appear to be working well at present.

Environment/Maintenance

d) St John's – Diana Biddlestone confirmed that she has received several cheques, totalling £300. In addition £1,500 has been received from Warwickshire County Council and is being held in the Fete Committee account. The Clerk confirmed that the monies being held by ADPC from the sale of Worrall Goods is £400.20 and will now be designated as Steps funds.

Once all the funds are paid into ADPC account they will be: £300 donations, £400.20 Sale of Worrall Goods, £1,500 WCC grant. Total: £2,200.20.

Diana explained that she was anxious to progress the survey appointment with Tim Berwick. Councillor Williams offered to expedite the matter with a view to obtaining a survey before the next PC meeting. **ACTION: Councillor Williams to seek survey appointment from Tim Berwick before 5th March 2012.**

e) Upkeep of 'green areas': Daniel Robertson has purchased three tubs at a cost of £60. Daniel suggested a red, white and blue colour theme for the tubs to link in with the jubilee. **ACTION: Diana will look to see if she has storage room for the tubs and report back to Daniel.**

Communication/Administration

f) WALC Annual Briefing 3rd March – No-one available to attend.

5. COUNCIL REPORTS

Avon Dassett Parish Council 06.02.2012.
County and District Councillor's Report

1. **County Council Fiscal Matters** – The budget will be decided tomorrow, Tuesday 7th February 2012, when I hope that the decision will be taken to keep Council Tax at its present level and I assure you that there will be no dramatic changes in either service or taxation for next year. Other items of good news are that as a result of the government providing more funding for rural transport, some the draconian cuts announced last year will not now be implemented. I explained last month the criteria under which the County Council is having to operate due to the present fiscal restrictions when preparing our budget this year. I hope you will understand why some unpalatable savings have had to be found.

2. **Library Service –** You will recall that when we set our budget last year, the proposals included a recommendation to re-evaluate the Library Service. Kineton Parish Council rose to the challenge as did all the communities who had libraries under threat and we have been able to achieve the savings without reducing the number of libraries. A year ago it was intimated that the Mobile Library was also under threat. I can confirm that this service will continue unchanged at least until April 2014.

3. **Winter Gritting –** The County Council started last winter with some 9,000 tonnes of salt. At the end of December 2010 this stock had fallen to a critical level and if we had not had the thaw after Christmas of that year there would have been difficulties maintaining the gritting service. This winter we started with 15,000 tonnes of salt and by the end of December we still had 12,000 tonnes available. So if anyone has a use for all this salt, please let me know!

4. **HS2 –** The County Council along with other County Councils are disappointed by the announcement by the Minister of Transport that she supports the proposed route for HS2 through Warwickshire. I can confirm that there might be a legal challenge into this decision, not only by Warwickshire but also by other Shire Counties. Although it appears that there is strong parliamentary support for this project, it is hoped that the Courts might support the view of the Parliamentary Select Committee that the proposed route causes an unacceptable degree of environmental damage to rural England. The County Council is against the proposal for HS2 on economic grounds and the environmental damage it will cause. Their preferred option is that HS2 should utilities existing transport links such as enhancing the Chiltern Line, or following the approximately route of the M40 through Warwickshire.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Paper copies circulated at meeting. Electronic mail circulated prior to meeting. Planning booklets give to Diana Biddelestone for reading and circulating to other Councillors.

7. PLANNING: The Clerk read out the following Notices of Decision:

11/00898/FUL Mr Walter, Nursery house.

11/02462/FUL Mr and Mrs Biddlestone, The Coach House, Bitham Hall 385

11/02563/DEM31. Information was read out pertaining to land at rear of 1 and 2 Lower End Cottages, Avon Dassett. The letter, from Mathew Neal Planning Officer, confirmed the procedure relating to the demolition of the detached garage.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance at close of business 31/1/12

Current Account £2,430.43
Savings Account £5,077.77

Cheques issued	**Cheque No**	
A. Whetstone (Xmas Card Comp. Prize)	£10.00	1156
Avon Dassett Local History Group	£50.00	1157 (replacement cheque for cancelled cheque number 001147 issued 7.11.11)
H. Hide-Wright (Jan Clerk Expenses)	£46.89	1158
Sue Harris (Jan Clean)	£13.50	1159
J. Sherriff (January Coffee Morning)	£7.38	1160

Total Cheques £127.77

Income : No income to ADPC

Cheque: Lily Hope Frost (St John's Steps) £100.00
Cheque: Sandy Mitchell (St John's Steps) £100.00
Cheque: Mr & Mrs Whetstone (St John's Steps) £100.00
Total income to steps appeal £300.00

Cheques were issued. Proposed: Diana Biddlestone, Seconded: Daniel Robertson. Signed by a combination of Councillors. Cheque for Jenny Sherriff given to Daniel Robertson for delivery. Cheque to Sue Harris given to Diana Biddlestone for delivery.

2012/13 Budget: Alastair Whetstone explained the revised figures for the budget. Minor adjustments are required but in principle, the Councillor unanimously accepted the budget and recognised the financial pressures upon the Council as a result of a limited rise in precept coupled with rising costs.

9. **MEMBER REPORTS:** The Clerk read a letter for Jaspal Bala, who owns the PO franchise for AD. Mrs Bala has requested that a unit be installed on top of the kitchen worktop to allow the PO computer to be stored at a level to provide easier access. The cost of the unit and installation would be borne by the PO. After discussion and a review of the area, the Councillors asked for specific drawings and consideration to be made of the possible need to move electrical plug point. **ACTION: Clerk to contact ,Jaspal Bala and ask for drawings of the storage unit.**

Daniel Robertson confirmed that he had contacted the British Legion and obtained guidance on the Remembrance Service. After a review of the documents, it is confirmed that the service followed last year was in keeping with the guidance.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 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: 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: 27th Feb, 26th Mar, 10th April, 1st June, 25th June, 30th July, 24th Aug, 26th Sept, 28th Oct, 26th Nov.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Internal document. NOT for publication on website or within minutes.

Action Points Summary:

Matters Outstanding:

- Councillor Williams to supply dog fouling signs to Clerk (Diana to install some close to and within playground please).

New Actions from February meeting:

Councillor Williams:

- Seek survey appointment from Tim Berwick before 5th March 2012.

Daniel Robertson:

- To inspect footpath and report back to Clerk. Clerk to issue a letter to landowners if required.
- Draft a flier to be agreed by Councillors and then circulated with result presented at March PC meeting.

Clerk:

- Book playground inspection date.
- Contact Jaspal Bala and ask for drawings of the storage unit.
- Contact Mr Gill to sign "Acceptance of Office documents and invitation to next meeting
- Letter to Mrs Randerson
- Letter to Ray Randerson and file.

Alastair:

- To review welcome pack and report back to Councillors.

Diana:

- Look to see if she has storage room for the tubs and report back to Daniel.

Ongoing ADPC Projects:

Update of welcome pack and loading onto website.