Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 6th January 2012

The meeting commenced at 7.45pm following on from informal discussions surrounding the budget.

1. **APOLOGIES**: None

Present at Meeting: Alastair Whetstone, Diana Biddlestone, Daniel Robertson, David Hutt, Councillor Williams, Helen Hide-Wright

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**: None

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Proposed: Alastair Whetstone Seconded: Diana Biddlestone. Signed: David Hutt.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**:

Community

a. Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing to report from Lily Hope-Frost. Daniel Robertson reported that some number plates had been stolen from within the village recently.

b. Flood Prevention Grant

Daniel Robertson had spoken to Geoff Turton and Brett Ashton. It was confirmed that there was no grant money left but that further grants would be coming up with letters coming out in July 2012 requiring a response within 2 months. In the meantime, if there are serious issues to be dealt with, Pete Bones or Mathew Jeffs can assist.

Councillor Williams also confirmed that Community Grants can be used in some projects, depending upon their scope.

c. **Update of Avon Dassett welcome packs**

The Welcome Packs require updating. Due to cost constraints it was decided to make the updated version available through the ADPC website and for those without internet access, the Clerk would run off paper copies.

d. Playground

Diana Biddlestone had checked the area and found it was clean of dog fouling. Councillor Williams undertook to provide dog fouling signs to the Clerk so that they could be given to Diana and positioned around the play area. **ACTION: Councillor Williams to supply dog fouling signs to Clerk**

Roads

Traffic, Roads and Drains

Daniel Robertson reported that the drain outside the pub had been superficially blocked with leaves. It is now working fine.

Environment/Maintenance

e) **St John's**: Diana Biddlestone confirmed that £55 had been raised by the sale of Christmas cards. The next phase of the Church Steps Project is to send out a sponsorship letter via email, the Compton Chronicle and the Banbury Guardian outlining the costs of the project. The banking arrangement, with monies coming into ADPC's bank account and expenses paid out of it, has been confirmed with WALC. However the position on VAT reclaims was the subject of discussion. It was decided to refer this aspect to the external auditor, Simon Atkins at Clement Keys. **ACTION: Clerk to provide contact details for Simon Atkins to Diana Biddlestone to confirm position on VAT reclaim.**

f) **Upkeep of 'green areas'**: Nothing to report.

It was decided to proceed in purchasing 4 more tubs to replace tubs in a poor condition or store for future use. The tubs have been seen at around £20 each. A**CTION: Daniel Robertson to**

purchase 4 tubs.

Communication/Administration

5. COUNCIL REPORTS – Councillor Chris Williams

1. **County Council Fiscal Matters –** In four weeks time the County Council will have to present its budget for next year. I can confirm that there will be no increase in Council Tax next year. This is the second consecutive year that Council Tax has been frozen. When the Council sets its financial plan for the next four years it was thought that the financial landscape would improve over the four years of the plan. When the government made its financial settlement to local authorities before Christmas it was clear that there would be no easing of pressures for local authorities for at least the next seven years. We are looking at how further savings can be made but we still face considerable pressure. For example, the government statement that public sector pay settlements will be restricted to 1% adds a cost burden to Warwickshire CC of additional £3 million. Together with inflation which can cost next year some £18 million, I hope you will understand why some unpalatable savings will have to be found.

2. **District Council Fiscal Matters** - The District Council as the County Council is considering its budget for 2012-13. It appears that the District Council will be recommending reducing their element of the Council Tax by 1%. Last year it was rumoured that SDC would be closing the public toilets in Stratford and other market towns. I can confirm that this will not happen. However, we will be considering a proposal that three of the toilets in Stratford, used primarily by visitors and tourists, will introduce a small charge. This issue is a matter for debate but by introducing such a charge we will be falling in line with other tourist locations.

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

WALC training course materials, previously in the possession of Jill Burgess, were circulated for use amongst the Councillors.

The pictorial archiving project was discussed and it was decided to send on this information to the History Group.

A letter was read out from Mrs Joyce Randerson seeking information on burial in Avon Dassett - although she did not live in Avon Dassett, she is planning to move back to the village and has strong family connections to the village. **Clerk to review regulations. Councillors to be informed of the findings of the Clerk. Response to Mrs Randerson.**

7. **PLANNING** (Declarations of interests): None

8. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Appendix A

Balance at close of business 31/12/11

Current Account	£2,150.62
Savings Account	£5,377.54

Cheques issued		**Cheque No**
J. Sherriff (Dec Coffee Morning)	£9.14	1152
J. Sherriff (Jan Coffee Morning)	£10.14	1153
Sue Harris (Dec Clean)	£11.00	1154
H. Hide-Wright (Dec Clerk Expenses)	£27.20	1155
Total Cheques	£57.48	

Income

Cash: J. Burgess (Christmas Cards)	£8.50
Cash: D. Biddlestone (Christmas Cards)	£46.40
Avon Carrow RR Hire	£5.00
Total income	59.90

Cheques were proposed by Diana Biddlestone, Seconded by Daniel Robertson and signed by David Hutt and Alastair Whetstone.

Cheques for Jenny Sherriff were given to Daniel Robertson for delivery and to David Hutt for delivery to Sue Harris.

Alastair Whetstone handed the Clerk an invoice for £10 for the Christmas card competition. Amount to be refunded to Alastair Whestone at February Meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to prepare cheque to Alastair Whestone.**

New projects/planned expenditure for coming financial year: After discussion it was agreed to implement the staggered replacement of the street lights and to use reserves to partially fund this.

2012/13 Budget: The Budget figures were discussed and it was agreed to revise them further to go in line with the precept figure agreed. **ACTION: Alastair Whestone and David Hutt to adjust budget figures to meet precept figure and circulate to Councillors and Clerk.**

Precept 2012/13: After discussion and requesting guidance from Councillor Williams it was decided to raise the precept by 3.5% in order to assist in the funding of the replacement street lights. This results in the precept rising from its current £7,000 to a new level of £7,245. The Councillors passed a unanimous vote on the increase. Proposed by David Hutt and seconded by Diana Biddlestone.

The Precept form was completed signed and dated, ready for submission by the Clerk. **ACTION: Clerk to submit precept request by 31st January 2012.**

9. MEMBER REPORTS

Diana Biddlestone read out an email from Jill Burgess who suggested that the funds from the sale of the "Worrall Goods" could possibly go towards the church Steps appeal. After discussion the Council felt this was a good use of the funds raised, which were given for a community purpose. **ACTION: Clerk to confirm amount of funds raised by sale of Worrall goods to Councillors.**

Daniel Robertson confirmed that he has installed a lock on the cemetery gate. The Council were informed of the combination number and the clerk will retain this within the "Green Area Files."

David Hutt offered his apologies for the next meeting

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 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 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 9.00pm.