# MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
## Avon Dassett Parish Council
## Monday 22nd May 2017 at 7.30 pm

The meeting commenced at 7.45pm.

1) Apologies: None

Present: Trevor Gill (Chairman), Mike Blakeman, Liz Hirst, Martyn Heard, Darrell Muffitt, Councillor Chris Williams, Clerk (Helen Hide-Wright).
Members of the public: Tony Illot, Dave Hirst, Michele Gill, John Anderson, Diane Anderson

2) Acceptance of minutes of last meeting held on 9th May 2016

a) 20160509 Avon Dassett PC Annual Parish Assembly Minutes

The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Darrell Muffitt, seconded: Mike Blakeman, signed and dated by Trevor Gill.

3) Chair's report. Please see Appendix 1

Annual Reports: Councillor Chris Williams Please see Appendix 2

Councillor John Fielding Please see Appendix 3.

4) Annual Accounts. The accounts were accepted by the meeting. Proposed: Martyn Heard, seconded: Darrell Muffitt. Signed by Trevor Gill. Please see Appendix 4.

5) Parish Matters: Nothing to present.

6) Open Forum: Tony Illot spoke about the Broadband issues in the village and in particular as they relate to Avon Carrow and properties that are in the same post code. Tony advised that it is possible for the properties at The Carrow be have superfast broadband installed but this would cost approximately £1k per property and that the connection would come from Farnborough. Tony also enquired about the next phase of the project which appeared to be 2018. Trevor Gill responded by saying that the Parish Council has been progressing this matter and that it had not been clear that Avon Carrow and other properties were not a part of the first phase. Trevor Gill has registered dissatisfaction on behalf of some residents who do not have access to the superfast broadband service. Enquiries are ongoing regarding achieving a resolution and alternative ways of achieving connections through other means.

John Anderson spoke about Western Power and their project to install the cables underground. The Parish Council was unable to provide an update on this. **ACTION: Trevor Gill to make enquiries and report to the monthly meeting in July.**

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Appendix 1

# Avon Dassett Parish Council

## Chair's Report To The Annual Meeting Held on 22 May 2017

I intend to keep this report as short as possible but the last year has been eventful and very busy.

**The Avon**

The events at The Avon have dominated the year. I do not propose to go into great detail into the history of events in the last year but I feel that I must cover some of the important events and also say a sincere thank you to those who have helped in any way.

I reported last year that The Avon has been taken into private ownership and at that time we all hoped that this would be the start of a long and happy relationship with the new owners Mr & Mrs Chick. Sadly this did not prove to be the case and after a very short period when the pub was open it was closed and the owners applied for a change of use to residential for the ground floor. Immediately prior to this application being discussed at a Stratford on Avon Planning Committee meeting it was withdrawn and very soon after The Avon was advertised for sale.

I would like to record my thanks to everyone who contributed to our efforts to oppose this application. The response from local, county and district councillors and local residents was truly remarkable and many of you gave your time and expertise and I thank you.

Avon Dassett Community Benefit Society has recently had an offer for the purchase of the freehold accepted and they are proceeding towards what I hope will be the securing of The Avon for the benefit of the community.

**The Reading Room**

We have been aware for some time that we need to undertake some work on The Reading Room to make it a more appealing place and that we need to make better use of this valuable asset.

We have started this with the replacement of the windows and this work is nearly complete. There is one small window to be installed and we have had a delay with this while we arranged for Western Power to reroute a power cable. This has now been done and we will arrange for this window to be installed.

We will be clearing the area outside The Reading Room in the very near future and replacing the shrubs etc with two new tubs. We will also be obtaining quotes for the redecoration of the outside of The Reading Room and these 2 activities will greatly enhance it's outside appearance.

As a part of the external funding for The Avon we are required to consider not only activities that are centred on the pub but also those that can or do already happen in the wider community. A major part of this will be to consider how we can make better use of The Reading Room and what needs to be done with The Reading Room to make this happen. We will have two valuable community assets and they both need to be used for the benefit of the community.

**The Post Office**

The Post Office was closed for some considerable time but it is now fully open with a wide range of services available. We have recently circulated a note to residents covering these services and if we are to avoid loosing The Post Office forever it needs to be supported. We will monitor with the Postmaster the level support of over the next few months.

**Defibrillator**

We have been able secure a defibrillator from the West Midlands Ambulance Service and to obtain funding from the Big Lottery Fund to enable us to purchase a case and to cover training expenses.

We are waiting for the telephone kiosk to be removed - this was supposed to happen in April- and once this work has been done we will arrange for the defibrillator to be installed on the wall outside the Reading Room.

We will try to ensure that this is installed in the not too distant future.

**Broadband**

A new cabinet has been installed in the village and this has provided a much improved broadband speeds for a part of the village. We are aware that there is still a substantial part of the village that are still suffering from appalling speeds and reliability and we have raised this direct with the Broadband project team. We are awaiting some further information from them and when this is to hand we will issue a comprehensive note and place a new page on our website with details as to where we are and what is being done to resolve the outstanding issues.

**Village Events and Clubs**

Once again the Dassett Country Show and the village Open Gardens were a great success. For both events the weather was very kind to us and we were pleased to see a good number of visitors form neighbouring towns and villages supporting both of these events.

There is a tremendous amount of hard work and planning that goes into these events and I would like to say a big 'Thank You" to all committee members, helpers and residents who open their gardens. Without all of your hard work and dedication these important events would not happen.

It is also worth mentioning the small number of clubs and societies that are centred in the village. We have a village coffee morning (sponsored by the Parish Council) on the first Wednesday of each month. I would like to record my thanks to Jenny Sherriff who continues to organise the coffee morning as she has done for many years.

We also have a Men's Club and a Garden Society and they both provide a social and learning aspect to village life. They need your support and if anyone is interested in joining either of these clubs I am sure that they will be most welcome.

**Communications**

We are now using four main channels for delivering information to interested residents and the wider world.

We have:

- An email facility using mail chimp
- Our own Facebook page
- Our own website
- The village notice boards

Using these tools we have continued to improve our communications with residents and we will continue to review how we can best communicate going forward.

We have built our own Parish Council website and this has been reviewed as a part of our Internal Audit and it has received very favourable comments and conformation that our obligations under the Transparency Code have been met. We will continue to enhance this delivery channel and also work to agree how we can integrate this with the Community website.

**New Regulations and Guidelines**

As in previous year we continue to receive new regulations and guidelines, which govern the way we operate and where appropriate, these have been fully implemented. This is reflected in the number of new or amended procedures that we have prepared for approval later on the agenda. I personally do not any reduction in new requirements over the next two or three years bur we are well placed to deal with them.

**The Green Areas**

There has been a significant amount of tidying done in the village particularly in the area near the bus stop. There is still some more work to be done in this area and this should be done during the next 2 or 3 months. I would like to thank all residents who helped with this work and also to record thanks the many residents who might pick up and odd item of litter, clear a drain when needed or generally help to keep the village in good order.

There is general agreement that last year the tubs once again enhanced the appearance of the village and our thanks to Dave Hicks for his considerable support in supplying the plants for the tubs and also for his hard work in making the pots look so attractive. We are very grateful to the Avon Dassett Open Gardens for helping us financially with the plants and compost for the tubs.

**Planning**

Stratford District Council Core Strategy has been adopted and this will give Avon Dassett protection from a planning perspective going forward against unwanted or inappropriate development in the village.

**Finances**

By careful financial management, and a substantial amount of grant funding, we have managed to meet all of our obligations, and also to ring fence funds for known future requirements.

We have been able to build up our reserves to assist with future work on The Reading Room but we will ensure that where possible we apply for grants to cover this work.

During this year we know that we have to do some work in the area near the War Memorial and if possible this will be covered by grant funds.

**Councillors**

The last year has seen the resignation of Bart Della Mura and we thank him for his hard work on our behalf during the time he was our District Councillor. We are very pleased to welcome John Fielding as his replacement and we look forward to working with him for the benefit of our village and the surrounding area.

We have recently has an election for our County Councillor and Cllr Chris Williams has been re-elected. We have had the benefit of his wisdom and guidance for a number of years and look forward to working with him again in the future.

At a local level I was pleased to welcome Liz Hirst to our number and I am sure that she will prove to be a valuable member of our council in the future.

**Thanks**

It would not be right of me to finish without me thanking my colleagues on the Parish Council. I think that it is fair to say that we have worked well together on the wide range of challenges that we have faced and I certainly value your support. We all have many different skills, knowledge and abilities and I never cease to be amazed how valuable these are. We are very lucky not only that my colleagues have these attributes but that they are prepared to give their expertise and most importantly time for the benefit of the village. I am sure that our local residents appreciate all of your efforts, I know I certainly do.

Lastly I must say a very big thank to our clerk, Helen I know that is it not always easy keeping us, or particularly me under control. We really are indebted to you for the smooth running of the council you always guide us, supports us, guides us and generally ensure that the Parish Council runs efficiently and within the rules and regulations by which we are regulated. Helen, thank you.

Appendix 2

**Avon Dassett Annual Meeting – 22nd May 2017**
**County Councillor's Report**

The past year has been relatively straight forward for the County Council. It is the fourth year of the four year cycle of the Council. In the summer last year much time was devoted to see whether or not if we would form an association with the West Midlands Combined Authorities. After much debate it was felt that the culture of the West Midlands was different to that of Warwickshire. For example, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Solihull and others in the West Midlands are mainly industrial areas with little or no agricultural industry. Warwickshire, on the other hand, has a strong rural slant which must at all times be observed. However, eventually, after government intervention, Warwickshire joined the West Midlands Combined Authorities but not in a full membership capacity. There are advantages in the new arrangements since capital is more freely available for infrastructure projects such as new highways etc.

Our Chief Executive, Jim Graham, retired in February 2017, two days before we announced our budget. His role was taken over temporarily by Monica Fogarty from the Communities Group responsible for Transport and Highways, Localities, Community Safety, Sustainable Communities and Public Health and David Carter from Resources Group responsible for Customer Services, Finance, Human Resources & Organisational Development, Information Assets, Law and Governance, Physical Assets and Performance. This trial was so successful that they have been made Joint Managing Directors.

In February, the County Council approved its Annual Budget with a 1.99% increase in Council Tax and a further 2% ring fenced to cover the cost of Adult Social Care. As part of our budget proposals, we are reviewing our Children's Centre operation. Originally, there were 39 Children's Centres which provided basic child care in areas of deprivation. Since their incorporation some 20 years ago, deprivation needs have changed and whilst the County Council is not responsible for the running of the Children's Centres we do have an influence both financial and administrative capacities. The feeling is that we should revert to basics and concentrate on Children's Centre activities towards areas of deprivation rather than siting them in affluent areas. This review is due to start next month and a report will be coming to full Council later this year.

Previously, the Conservatives conducted an administration without overall control of the council. As a result of the County Council elections that took place on 4th May 2017, this position has dramatically changed with the new make up of the council as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Conservative Group | 36 | |
| Labour Party | 10 | |
| Lib Dems | 7 | |
| Green Party | 2 | |
| Independent Members | 2 | Total 57 |

The Council formerly had 62 members and the new majority will allow the Conservatives to operate in complete control.

**Cllr Chris Williams**
**Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division - WCC**
**20.05.17.**

Appendix 3

# Avon Dassett Parish Council

## District Councillor's Report To The Annual Meeting

## Held on 22 May 2017

I was elected as the District Councillor for the Red Horse Ward on 9th March 2017and the first committee I was put on the Overview & Scrutiny committee. We were looking at the OCCG consultation on the Horton Hospital. The OCCG stated that they had consulted widely but after some investigation, it has been found that many villages and local Drs have not been consulted and therefore the consultation had not followed proper processes. I attended a meeting, one month after the consultation ended, at Tysoe Surgery where a member of the OCCG provided a report about what is happening at the Horton and the OCCG member admitted that they had not consulted the public in Warwickshire. Jeremy Wright and Nadhim Zahawi have written to the OCCG informing them of their concerns that the consultation was not properly carried out. South Northants and Cherwell District Council have requested a judicial review on the matter. Stratford District Council have written to Jeremy Hunt about the failure of the OCCG to consult all those who will be impacted by the changes. The good news is that Stratford will become a Cancer Care Unit and will have a birthing centre. Warwick and Coventry hospitals will be maintained. Redditch hospital has been wound down and moved to Worcester. I have recently joined the Planning East Committee which will cover any planning applications that go to committee from your Parish.

J Fielding

22 May 2017

Appendix 4

# AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL MEETING 22 MAY 2017

### FINANCIAL REPORT

| Financial Year 2016 -2017 | |
|---|---|
| Bank Balance @ 31 March 2016: | £15,500.59 |
| Precept for 2016/17: | £11,100.00 |
| Receipts during 2016/17: | £ 4,522.88 |
| **Total** | **£31,123.47** |
| Payments during 2016/17: | £16,156.79 |
| Uncleared Cheques (1364 £8.45, 1365 £7.41) | - £15.86 |
| **Balance carried forward @ 31 March 2017:** | **£14,950.82** |

| Financial Year 2016 -2017<br>Bank Balances As At 31 March 2017 | |
|---|---|
| Lloyds TSB A/c No 00023602 | £ 2,599.94 |
| Lloyds TSB A/c No 00140954 – Please see note 3 | £12,350.88 |
| | **£14,950.82** |
| | |
| **Balance carried forward for external audit** | **£14,950.82** |

Note 3: This figure represents ring fenced funds for ADPC including any interest received into the account.

| Analysis For Ring Fenced Funds | |
|---|---|
| Defibrillator | £ 250.00 |
| IT Equipment and Software | £ 291.75 |
| Neighbourhood Watch | £ 185.00 |
| Parish Plan | £ 2,000.00 |
| Play area lease | £ 200.00 |
| Playground (from fete committee) | £ 250.00 |
| RR Maintenance | £ 8,310.00 |
| St John's Steps appeal Funds | £ 359.13 |
| Village Cemetery | £ 275.00 |
| Village Maintenance | £ 230.00 |
| **Total** | **£ 12,350.88** |

# AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL MEETING 9 MAY 2016

### FINANCIAL REPORT

| Financial Year 2015 -2016 | |
|---|---|
| Bank Balance @ 31 March 2015: | £11,375.04 |
| Precept for 2015/16: | £10,480.00 |
| Receipts during 2015/16: | £ 2,547.87 |
| **Total** | **£24,402.91** |
| Payments during 2015/16: | £ 8,909.00 |
| Uncleared Cheques (1364 £8.45, 1365 £7.41 1301 - £9.18) | £ 6.68 |
| **Balance carried forward @ 31 March 2016:** | **£15,500.59** |

| Financial Year 2016 -2017<br>Bank Balances As At 31 March 2017 | |
|---|---|
| Lloyds TSB A/c No 00023602 | £ 6,495.67 |
| Lloyds TSB A/c No 00140954 – Please see note 3 | £ 9,004.92 |
| | **£15,500.59** |
| | |
| **Balance carried forward for external audit** | **£15,500.59** |

Note 3: This figure represents ring fenced funds for ADPC including any interest received into the account.

| Analysis For Ring Fenced Funds | |
|---|---|
| Community Grant Fund (Laptop) | £ 10.43 |
| Interest Received | £ 0.36 |
| Neighbourhood Watch | £ 185.00 |
| Parish Plan | £ 2,000.00 |
| Play area lease | £ 200.00 |
| Playground (from fete committee) | £ 250.00 |
| RR Maintenance | £ 6,000.00 |
| St John's Steps appeal Funds | £ 359.13 |
| **Total** | **£ 9,004.92** |

# AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL 2016 - 2017 FINANCIAL YEAR

## Receipts

| | Actual | | | | Budget | Variance | Adjusted Variance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Precept | £11,100.00 | | | | £11,100.00 | 100% | 100% |
| VAT Reimbursement | £676.86 | | | | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Hire of Reading Room, car park etc | £35.00 | | | | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Bank Interest | £3.96 | | | | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Burial Ground | £423.00 | | | | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Mowing | £437.34 | | | | | | |
| SDC hire of Reading Room for Election | £420.00 | | | | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Grants | £1,400.00 | | | | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Miscellaneous - Electricity Refund Reading Room | £146.72 | | | | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Miscellaneous - Funds From Village Functions | £980.00 | | | | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| **Total Receipts** | **£15,622.88** | **£0.00** | | **£0.00** | **£0.00** | | |

## Payments

| | | Actual | Ring Fenced Funds | Grants | Net Expenditure | Budget | Variance | Adjusted Variance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Reading Room** | | | | | | | | |
| Insurance | | £470.23 | | | £470.23 | £935.00 | 50% | 50% |
| Reading Room: Rates | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £100.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Reading Room: Cleaning | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £165.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Reading Room: Maintenance | | £6,771.32 | -£2,440.00 | | £4,331.32 | £1,400.00 | 484% | 309% |
| | | **£7,241.55** | **-£2,440.00** | **£0.00** | **£4,801.55** | **£2,600.00** | | |
| **Administration** | | | | | | | | |
| Staff costs: | | | | | | | | |
| Clerk's Pay | | £3,324.24 | | | £3,324.24 | £3,250.00 | 102% | 102% |
| Administration expenses | | £468.20 | | | £468.20 | £470.00 | 100% | 100% |
| ADPC Training | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £100.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Councillors' expenses | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Data Protection | | £35.00 | | | £35.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| WALC subscriptions | | £95.00 | | | £95.00 | £100.00 | 95% | 95% |
| Community Links | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Xmas Cards | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| **Total Administration** | | **£3,922.44** | **£0.00** | **£0.00** | **£3,922.44** | **£3,920.00** | | |
| **Utilities** | | | | | | | | |
| Electricity Supply | | £319.00 | | | £319.00 | £600.00 | 53% | 53% |
| RR Annual Charges | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Street Light Supply & Replacement | | £161.55 | | | £161.55 | £892.00 | 18% | 18% |
| **Total Utilities** | | **£480.55** | **£0.00** | **£0.00** | **£480.55** | **£1,492.00** | | |
| **Miscellaneous** | | | | | | | | |
| Parish Council Elections | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Playground Lease | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Website | | £216.66 | | | £216.66 | £800.00 | 27% | 27% |
| Playground | | £611.39 | | | £611.39 | £150.00 | 408% | 408% |
| Other - Section 137 | | | | | | | | |
| Queens Birthday | £450.00 | | | | | | | |
| Remembrance Service | £50.00 | | | | | | | |
| Defibrillator Case | £804.00 | | | | | | | |
| Compost | £12.00 | | | | | | | |
| Tubs | £238.60 | | | | | | | |
| | £1,554.60 | £1,554.60 | | -£650.00 | £904.60 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Grants | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Street Lights | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| **Total Miscellaneous** | | **£2,382.65** | **£0.00** | **-£650.00** | **£1,732.65** | **£950.00** | | |
| **Maintenance** | | | | | | | | |
| Village Gardening, Mowing | | £1,877.00 | | | £1,877.00 | £1,800.00 | 104% | 104% |
| Audit Fees | | £180.00 | | | £180.00 | £200.00 | 90% | 90% |
| Safe Fees | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Coffee Morning Expenses & Xmas Gathering | | £72.60 | | | £72.60 | £138.00 | 53% | 53% |
| Election Fees | | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0% | 0% |
| **Total Maintenance** | | **£2,129.60** | **£0.00** | **£0.00** | **£2,129.60** | **£2,138.00** | | |
| **Total Payments** | | **£16,156.79** | **-£2,440.00** | **-£650.00** | **£13,066.79** | **£11,100.00** | 146% | 118% |