

**Minutes of Ordinary meeting of Avon Dassett Parish Council
Video Conference Meeting: 1st March 2021.**

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman confirmed that the meeting was being recorded and subject to ADPC's Remote Meeting Regulations.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

- 1) PRESENT: Trevor Gill, Mike Blakeman, Darrell Muffitt, Liz Hirst, Phil Baxter, Clerk (Helen Hide-Wright), District Councillor John Fielding. 3 Members of the public.
- 2) APOLOGIES: Chris Williams. The apologies were accepted by the meeting.
- 3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.
- 4) CONFIRM MINUTES: Confirm the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 1st February 2021. Proposed: Darrell Muffitt, Seconded: Mike Blakeman.
- 5) MATTERS ARISING:
 - a) The Parish Plan launch date is an agenda item – 7 k iii.
 - b) Trevor Gill to draft a letter to be sent to the Warwickshire Hunt is still outstanding. **Action: Trevor Gill to progress.**
 - c) Trevor Gill has contacted O2 regarding the contract for the Covid Support Group phone. The contract has now expired and it is proposed that we continue on the basis that we can give 1 month's notice to cancel the contract. This will be regularly reviewed.
 - d) Phil Baxter has written and submitted the article to the Compton Chronicle on broadband – Improving Internet Connections.
 - e) Phil Baxter drafted email re Park Close and received comments from Councillors and it will now be sent to Warwickshire Highways.
 - f) The books have been collected from The Reading Room and delivered to a local charity and the Reading Room has been tidied
 - g) Details re the streetlight fault have been sent to the Clerk.
 - h) The review of risk assessment is ongoing in the light of the recent government announcements re the roadmap out of the pandemic. **Action: Trevor Gill and the Clerk to review as and when appropriate.** There was a short discussion regarding the leaves and overhanging branches on Church Hill. A local resident offered to clear the leaves near her property and Phil Baxter agreed to contact Streetscene re the collection of the leaves and advise the local resident accordingly. Phil Baxter also agreed to survey Church Hill and advise councillors what work needs to be done.
Action: Phil Baxter to visit the site and confirm to Councillors what work is required and will speak to Streetscene regarding collection of leaves from footpath on Church Hill footpath. Clerk to update resident.
 - i) A letter has been sent to The Churches Conservation Trust requesting permission to progress with the electrical work at St John's Church.
 - j) War Memorial on the agenda - 7 g i.
 - k) The projects group has met informally agenda - 7 k.
 - l) The footpaths project progressing on the agenda – 7 n.
 - m) The contracts for HR Dept and Mike Mann have been confirmed by the Clerk.
 - n) John Fielding sent the details re the gypsy, showmen and travellers consultation and were included as an Appendix to the minutes.
- 6) QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: A resident raised concerns about the recent repairs and exactly what was done. Phil Baxter advised that the work done this time was to repair the potholes. Trevor Gill advised that there was extensive work done on the drainage in the area on Church Hill that has recently been repaired. This work involved repairing and improving the drainage under the road. **Action: Phil Baxter will contact Highways to establish what repairs were undertaken to the drainage and to confirm the way in which water drains from under the road.**
A further question was raised regarding the ownership of the land behind the bus shelter. Darrell Muffitt confirmed the ownership of the land explained that the Parish Council has previously spoken about staking out the boundary.
- 7) COMMUNITY:
 - a) Coronavirus update
 - i) Liz Hirst confirmed that the Parish Council Covid Support Group is still operating and has collected a small number of prescriptions. The Parish Council offered thanks to the volunteers and their cake donations to local Covid vaccination hubs and local doctors surgeries.
 - b) Burial Ground
 - i) A quotation has been received for fencing repairs and this is for authorisation on the Financial Statement.
 - c) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch
 - i) Nothing to report.
 - d) Superfast Broadband

- i) Trevor Gill reported that there have been recent improvements in broadband. No further comments have been received from residents.
- e) Playground
 - i) The Clerk has asked Wicksteed for a date for the repairs to the matting. The repairs will take place next week, weather permitting. It was noted that an inspection has been undertaken and there are no issues.
- f) The Post Office
 - i) It was noted that the Post Office was open on Monday 1 March whereas the understanding was that it would only be open on a Wednesday. **Action: Trevor Gill to contact the postmaster and to clarify the opening hours.**
- g) The Village War Memorial
 - i) Nothing to report.
- h) The Reading Room
 - i) The facilities have been checked and found to be sound, including water testing. The Reading Room remains closed. Darrell Muffitt asked if we have received any guidance when The Reading Room can be opened and also whether The Post Office hours can be increased. Trevor Gill confirmed that we are awaiting further guidance and when appropriate, the Post Office will be contacted regarding reinstating its normal opening hours.
- i) Roads, Traffic and Drains
 - i) Phil Baxter confirmed the extent of the recent work in line with Agenda item 6 above. It was reported that the work on the potholes in Park Close is still outstanding and this is being addressed. He has also received comments to his draft email to Highways re Park Close these have been incorporated as appropriate and the email has been sent. Trevor Gill asked that when Phil Baxter represents the Parish Council at a County meeting he tries to find out the reasons for the additional time taken for repairs to be done. Darrell Muffitt noted that there are several areas marked up on the footpaths. A resident advised the meeting that the markings have been made by Severn Trent. Trevor Gill advised that there was an issue with smells from the drains which he believes is resolved. **Action: Phil Baxter to ascertain who has marked the areas and for what purpose and report back.**
- j) St John's Church
 - i) The wall repairs are due to take place by the Warwickshire County Council starting on 2 March 2021. Traffic lights will be on the road to control the traffic.
- k) Projects and Grant Funding
 - i) Nature Reserve Project
 - (1) Clerk received confirmation that the grant was not successful. Phil Baxter confirmed that nothing has happened. The Parish Council will continue to look for grant funding but the lesson to be learned is that if the Parish Council sees grant funding available, applications need to be quicker.
 - ii) St. John's Church – installing electricity to building.
 - (1) Western Power upgrading the meter and circuit breaker on 5 March 2021 and there will be no cost.
 - (2) Trevor Gill has received a revised estimate for the upgrades to the consumer unit. **Action: Trevor Gill revise the project documentation.** Please see Appendix A.
 - (3) It was agreed to seek financial sponsorship from residents of the remaining 9 steps. The cost will be £100 per step which will ensure that there is no overall cost to the Parish Council. **Action: Trevor Gill to progress.** Proposed: Phil Baxter, Seconded: Liz Hirst.
 - iii) Parish Plan
 - (1) Liz Hirst reported that discussions have taken place regarding holding a market, Parish Plan and Village Social on Saturday 22nd May, between 9-11am, in the Yew Tree pub to promote the Parish Plan. It is proposed that village organisations and businesses within the village can have a table and express their views for what they would like from the Parish Plan. This would be a social event with games for the children and food available from The Yew Tree. Sarah Richardson clarified that following the market there will be a follow up meeting, to discuss the outcome of the event. This will take place at the proposed date for the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 24 May 2021 at 6pm when feedback can be given prior to the formulation of the official survey. John Feilding advised that Sarah Brooke-Taylor will be able to provide additional support or guidance if required. It was confirmed that assistance is being received by Stratford District Council.
 - iv) War Memorial
 - (1) We have had a favourable response to the pre-application form submitted to the War Memorials Trust. A second quote is being sought. **Action: Trevor Gill to progress**
 - v) Grant Funding
 - (1) Darrell Muffitt reported that there was nothing specific to report but the availability of grant funding is under constant review and reiterated that the Parish Council needs to be able to react quickly if suitable funding is identified.
- l) Unitary Authorities
 - (1) Darrell Muffitt has circulated meeting notes to Councillors.
- m) Census 2021
 - i) A mail chimp sent and a leaflet drop has been done from the Avon Dassett COVID support group if residents need assistance with their census return. Sarah Richardson remarked that whilst the preferred method of responding is online residents are able to request a paper copy.
- n) Stiles
 - i) Phil Baxter reported that a meeting has taken place to progress this and a list of the stiles / bridges in question has been forward to the Clerk. A follow up meeting is being organised with a wider attendance to discuss a way forward.

Landowners are being contacted in the first instance by phone by Trevor Gill. **Action: Phil Baxter to organise a follow up meeting. Trevor Gill to contact landowners and report back to councillors.**

- o) South Warwickshire Local Plan
 - i) Mike Blakeman reported that he has received a copy of the recent presentation and timetable that he will send to Councillors if they want to see a copy.
- p) Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2022
 - i) Liz Hirst reported that work has started on planning for this event. It is likely that the format will be similar to that proposed for the VE day weekend that was cancelled in 2020. Consideration is been given to holding a barn dance in St John's Church on the Saturday and on the Sunday, a BBQ event with sports events. Volunteers will be sought to join an organising committee.

8) COMMUNICATION & ADMINISTRATION:

- a) Agreement of the dates for the May Monthly Meeting, the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting
 - a. The Clerk outlined the current advice and legislation regarding meetings. Following this it was agreed that we would hold the business meetings (The Monthly Ordinary Meeting and the Annual General Meeting) remotely on either on 5th or 6th May in line with WALC advice to hold meetings remotely before 7th May. The decision to fix the Annual Parish Meeting, which is a village meeting at which the follow up to the market would be presented, will be discussed at the April meeting, when further information will be known. Sarah Richardson expressed her preference to hold this meeting outdoors at the end of May. It was agreed that the date for the Annual Parish Meeting agreed at the next Parish Council meeting. **Action: Councillors to advise the Clerk of their availability on either 5th or 6th May.**

b) Adoption of Avon Dassett Parish Council Cemetery Regulations

- a. The cemetery regulations have been reviewed and circulated to Councillors. Trevor Gill requested a proposer and seconder that they be formally adopted. Proposed: Mike Blakeman Seconded: Darrell Muffitt. At this point the volunteer cemetery warden expressed his disappointment that he had not seen a copy of the proposed regulation prior to them being adopted. He stated that he has always been supportive and he has had no contact from the Parish Council. He felt that it would have been helpful to him and the village to have seen them prior to adoption. Phil Baxter wished it to be minuted that he had asked several times if the warden had been included in the process. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent an email requesting a draft Job Description and to date has not had any response. The warden responded that he has responded. **Action: The Clerk and Chair to take this area up outside the meeting to check whether a response has been received.** The Clerk confirmed that the regulations cover how the Parish Council manages the cemetery. The warden thanked Phil Baxter for his support on this matter.

A link to the document on the Parish Council website is:

<http://www.avondassettparishcouncil.com/app/download/6865796/20210301+ADPC+Cemetery+Regulations.pdf>

c) Adoption of Avon Dassett Parish Council Cemetery Memorial Maintenance Policy

- a. Trevor Gill advised that the adoption of this policy would be delayed until the April meeting.

d) Adoption of Avon Dassett Parish Council Publication Scheme

- a. Trevor Gill advised that this scheme is for adoption but it is purely a house keeping exercise because they needed separating and renaming. Proposed: Darrell Muffitt, Seconded: Mike Blakeman. The policy was adopted.

A link to the document on the Parish Council website is:

<http://www.avondassettparishcouncil.com/app/download/12791743/20210301ADPC+Publication+Scheme.pdf>

e) Adoption of Avon Dassett Parish Council Freedom of Information Policy

- a. Trevor Gill advised that this scheme is for adoption but it is purely a house keeping exercise. Proposed: Darrell Muffitt, Seconded: Mike Blakeman. The policy was adopted.

A link to the document on the Parish Council website is:

<http://www.avondassettparishcouncil.com/app/download/12791742/20210301+ADPC+FOI+Policy.pdf>

At this point a resident interrupted the meeting asking if it is right that policies are adopted without public consultation and asked John Feilding if it is correct that public consultation is not required. John Feilding replied that he did not know. **Action: Trevor Gill and the Clerk to confirm with WALC that the current approached is legally correct and that no public consultation is required before the adoption of policies, regulations or standing orders.**

f) Chair's report from the WALC Chair's forum

- a. Trevor Gill advised that he has circulated a summary to councillors. Next meeting 18 March – Councillors were asked to send any potential questions to him by 15 March. **Action: All Councillors to let Trevor Gill know of any points to be raised.**

9) COUNCIL REPORTS

- a) Warwickshire County Council: This has been circulated to Councillors. Please See Appendix B.
- b) Stratford on Avon District Council : The report has been issued to Councillors. Please see Appendix C. John Feilding added the additional points:
- i) Roadside waste is an issue.
 - ii) With the increase in CIL John Feilding reported that he would like to see increased investment in bridleways and cycle ways.
 - iii) The May elections will be held in The Yew Tree public house.
 - iv) Trevor Gill advised the meeting that we have received a consultation document in respect of the proposals to review the boundaries and to increase the number of District Councillors.
 - v) Darrell Muffitt concluded that the Parish Council needed to discuss it and agree if it was going to put in a response. He expressed his view that there appears to be a lack of joined up government policy. The national trend is to have less councillors but the local trend is for more councillors. The two contradict each other.
- John Feilding outlined his views on unitary authorities. He felt it was not desirable to unify with Warwick County Council as it is too large an organisation. In addition, the North and South of Warwickshire are two different entities. There is further consultation to take place.
- After a further short discussion it was agreed that Darrell Muffitt and Trevor Gill would draft an email to be sent to Stratford on Avon District Council. **Action: Darrell Muffitt and Trevor Gill to draft an email.**
- A resident expressed support for the extension of bridleways and off road riding. Another resident stated that there was an offer of a bridleway to Avon Dassett, in a planning application and that this could still be reconsidered.

10) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Correspondence received in respect of the provision of financial support for the Community website. **ACTION: The Clerk to respond and to attach a grant application form for completion.**
- b) Phil Baxter reported that the Avon Dassett Soap Box Derby has been cancelled for 2021 due to ongoing uncertainty over government restrictions.

11) PLANNING:

- a) Declarations of interests: None.
- b) Applications: None.
- d) Decisions: None.
- e) Updates: 20/03132/LBC 4 Avon Carrow: Planning Committee Hearing 17 February 2021: Refusal.
20/00064/FORNOT Mill Plantation: Application withdrawn.

8.14pm: John Feilding left the meeting.

12) FINANCE:

- a) Financial statement: Please see Appendix D. Proposed: Darrell Muffitt, Seconded: Mike Blakeman.
- b) Appointment of W Robinson as the Internal Auditor. Proposed: Darrell Muffitt, Seconded: Liz Hirst.
- c) Grant Application Authorisations: None.
- d) COVID-19 Support Group Mobile Phone: £11/month + VAT, 31 day notice is the revised contract.
- e) Payments for authorisation at meeting:

T. Gill Covid-19 Phone (Feb 2021)	£ 13.20
Hide-Wright Feb Expenses	£ 15.00
Hide-Wright Overtime	£ 312.00
C. Dancer (Feb 2021)	£ 30.00
Michael Mann Farmers (Fencing Repairs)	£ 174.00
W Robinson – Audit Fees	£ 150.00
Zoom Subscription April 21-April 22	£ 120.00
SLCC subscription	£ 70.12
HR Dept	£ 500.00

Payments made since last PC meeting: None.

MEMBER REPORTS: Avon Dassett Fete Committee is reviewing whether it can or cannot hold a fete this year which is scheduled for 7th August 2021. Avon Dassett Open Gardens is due to take place on the first Saturday in July.

13) DATE OF MEETINGS (by video conferencing, until further notice):

2021 Meeting dates: 12 April, 10 May, 7 June, 5 July, 2 August, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm

Avon Dassett Parish Council

Project Business Case

St John's Church Avon Dassett – Electricity Upgrade

Management Summary	<p>St John's Church is an underutilised asset in Avon Dassett and this project is to put in place an enhanced electricity distribution board to enable future projects to improve the church's infrastructure to enable it to be more widely used for the benefit of the local community and businesses.</p> <p>Contact has already been made with the Churches Conservation Trust and the Rev Niki Chatterton who have given approval in principal to the enhancements proposed within this project</p>
Reason why	<p>The present church was built in 1868 on the site of an earlier church dating from the Norman era. The architect was Charles Buckeridge. The church was declared redundant on 11 May 1983, and was vested in the Churches Conservation Trust. It is still used very occasionally for concerts or community events. Between May 2007 and September 2008 work was carried out on the spire at a cost of about £700,000, with the result that the church bells were rung on 21 February 2009, the first time for some decades.</p> <p>The church is still able to be used for religious services and community events but there are a number of limiting factors including the lack of adequate lighting and heating.</p> <p>Within Avon Dassett there is also a lack of facilities where functions can be held, the Reading Room is too small and The Yew Tree lacks a hall of any size.</p> <p>If St John's church is to be more widely used then the first upgrade that is needed it to upgrade the electricity distribution board. This will enable then enable further planned work to be undertaken to provide adequate lighting and possibly some form of heating. It is also possible that security equipment could be installed to increase the level of security in the building. This could be an important enhancement as there was criminal activity in 2020.</p>
Options:	<p>There is the option to do nothing which will mean that St John's church will remain an under-utilised asset.</p> <p>Seek quotations to upgrade the distribution board to a level where it meets perceived needs. A quotation should cover a short term option to meet immediate needs and also to cover all of the perceived needs both in the short and long term.</p>
Results/ benefits	<p>Better use of the facility Responding to demand Income generation for the Churches Conservation Trust and also local businesses</p>
Permissions	<p>Formal permission will be required from the Churches Conservation Trust. Contained within this request will be the details of the quote and the work to be carried out and also a cost benefit analysis from their perspective.</p> <p>The project will also need to ensure that Western Power are included in the authorisation requests. Please see Appendix A for letter requesting permission from the Churches Conservation Trust. Please see Appendix D for the Western Power workplan.</p>
Timescale	By April 2021

Estimated costs	<p>Estimates have been received for the installation of the consumer box are attached in Appendix B but estimates for the upgrade to the meter are awaited.</p> <p>Partial funding for this project can be achieved by the utilisation of ring fenced funds held by the Parish Council which are left over from the steps project.</p> <p>Additional funds will be available from the sale of plaques to be placed on the steps where there is no plaque at present. There are 8 such steps. The original donation was £100 per step so there should be adequate funds from this source. The project has already received tentative enquiries from 6 local residents who have expressed a desire to purchase a plaque.</p> <p>The plaques were made by a local tradesman and it has been confirmed that this tradesman is still in business and is available to make further plaques if required.</p> <p>When the project is presented to a meeting of the Parish Council there should be an agreement to meet any shortfall from reserves in the unlikely event that expected sales of plaques does not materialise.</p>
Risks	<p>Expected additional funding does not materialise. The Churches Conservation Trust does not give the necessary permission.</p>
Overall appraisal	<p>This is a most worthwhile project and if completed will provide considerable benefit to the village for a reasonable cost.</p> <p>The project has been presented for discussion at the December 2020 meeting of Parish Council and again at the March 2021 meeting and the Parish Council will now advertise that there are additional steps for sale in an effort to make the project self funding.</p>

Avon Dassett Parish Council
The Reading Room
Avon Dassett
Southam
Warwickshire
CV47 2AL

Phone: 07713 892835

Email: avondassett.clerk@googlemail.com

Wednesday, 3 February 2021

Mrs L Beattie
The Churches Conservation Trust
Society Building
8 All Saints Street
London
N1 9RL

St John's Church Avon Dassett

Dear Leigh-Anne

Avon Dassett Parish Council have been concerned for some time about the lack of use St John's Church in our village is having. As you will be aware there was a considerable amount of money spent in the renovation of the fabric of the building and it is of great concern to us that it cannot be more widely used for the benefit of the village and the wider community.

One of the main factors limiting the use of the building is the lack of a useable electricity supply which is something that we would like to address. We have contacted a local electrician who is known to some residents of the village and he has confirmed that the supply to the inside of the building is robust and more than adequate for most if not all of the perceived usage of the building. The area that needs addressing is the consumer unit which will need an upgrade. There is also the possible need to need to replace the existing meter depending which option of upgrade is agreed. We have confirmed with the proposed contractor that the will be no work required to the structure of the building.

Having spoken to Patrick we understand there are two concerns:

- the Churches Conservation Trust have concerns about the possible increase in the ongoing costs for electricity after the work has been completed. We understand this but would suggest that when the church is used for a function a reasonable hire charge is agreed not only to cover this but also any other costs that are appropriate
- the costs for this would be covered by the Parish Council and by a finding raising exercise which would ensure that and costs are fully covered

I attach for your information a copy of the Parish Council business case which provides more detail about the proposed work and the perceived benefits.

Based upon the above it will be appreciated if you will kindly give us your formal approval to progress with the work.

Yours sincerely

H Helen Hide-Wright

Helen Hide-Wright
Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer
Avon Dassett Parish Council

Cc: Lily Hope-Frost: Patrick Joel

Appendix B

The single phase option would keep the meter that you have and we would just replace the distribution board and give you 2 x 32Amp supplies on 4 twin gang switched sockets.(8 x 13amp standard sockets). Both on 30ma RCD's. This in effect will give you 64 amps of usable power (which is 13.8 KW or about 7 kettles all being boiled at once.

This is the cheapest option and we would install the new board (which would still have 8 spare ways to use in future) for £329.60 excluding the vat

The next option is to go 3 phase. The church has 3 phase available but you would need to upgrade the meter to a 3 phase meter. This I believe would be done free of charge by the electricity supplier (you would need to verify that)

The difference in price between a 4 way TPN (three phase and neutral) board and a 6 way is only £20 saving, so I will continue to quote the 6 way.

6 three phase ways is equal to 18 single phases but because you are now using 3 supplies with a 60 amp cut out on each (suppliers main fuse) you in effect now have a total of 41.4KW or about 20 Kettles all on at once. If the cut outs are 100Amp which I think they may well have been then the maximum KW available would be around 70 KW. The chances of the church wanting that much power would only occur if you attempted to heat the church using bar or infrared heaters, which I would strongly advise against due to the silly expense of the running cost.

A 6 way TPN board with a 300ma 100 amp RCCB Incomer, 3 x 32 amp 30 ma RCBO's feeding 6 twin gang switch sockets and a new TT earth system leaving 15 spare ways would cost £968.48 excluding Vat.

All work will be carried out to the latest IET wiring regulations and in both cases we will increase the size of the earth cable to 16mm, we will supply the meter tails and supply a Installation certificate.

PLEASE NOTE: This plan ONLY shows assets owned by Western Power Distribution. Electricity assets owned by IDNO's (Independent Network Operators) MAY be present in this area. Information is given as a guide only and it's accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

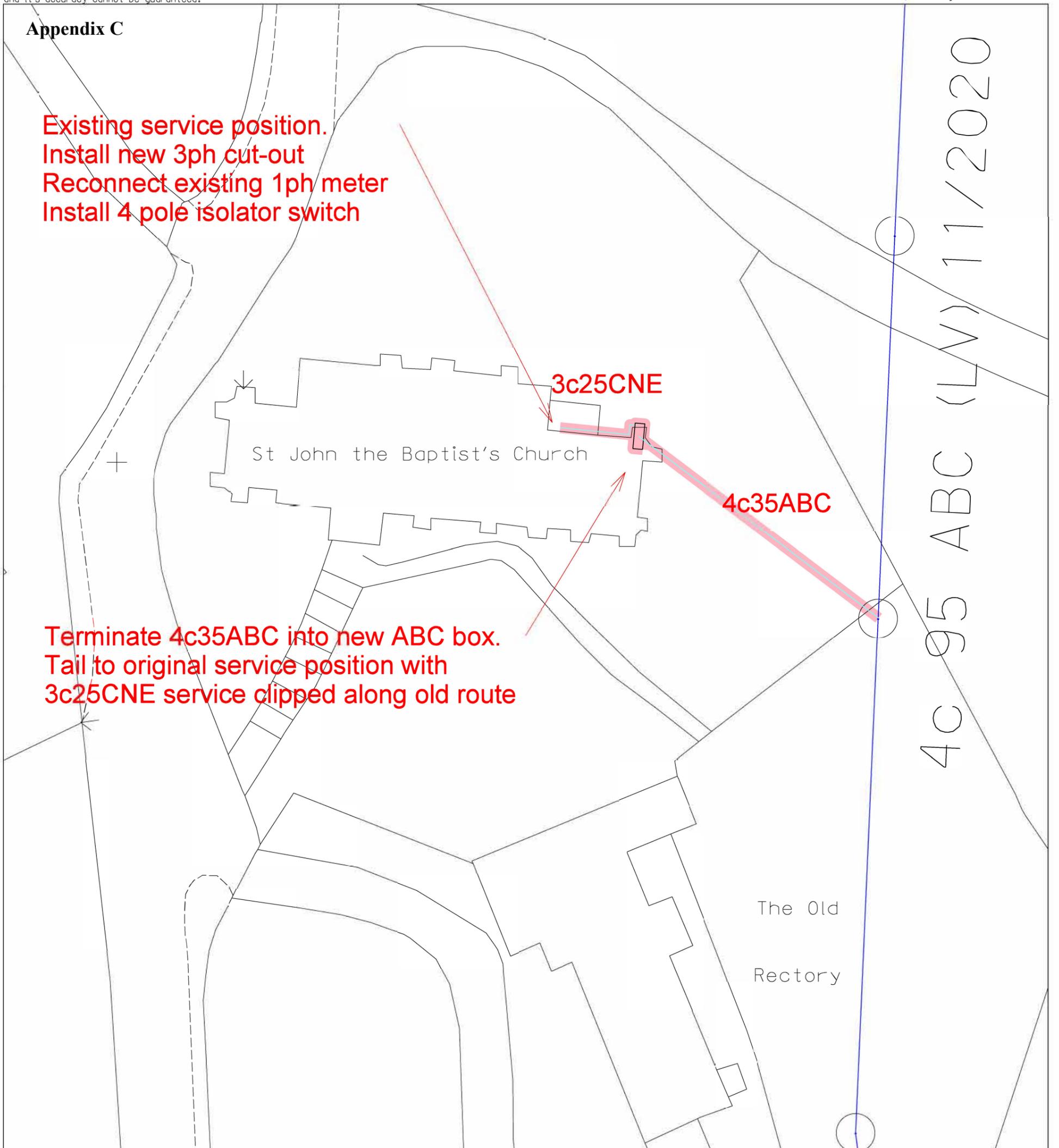
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Appendix C

**Existing service position.
Install new 3ph cut-out
Reconnect existing 1ph meter
Install 4 pole isolator switch**

**Terminate 4c35ABC into new ABC box.
Tail to original service position with
3c25CNE service clipped along old route**



REV.	DATE	SCHEME PROGRESS BLOCK	DRN	CHK'D
*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*



TITLE
 • St. John Baptist Church
 • Avon dassett. CV47 2AH
 • OH service replacement

UNDERGROUND CABLES 132KV L.V ₀ 33KV SERVICE 11KV STREET LTG. HV EARTH LV EARTH EARTH ELECTRODE	OVERHEAD LINES 132KV L.V ₀ 33KV SERVICE 11KV STREET LTG.
SERVICES CABLE SIZES AS SHOWN DUCT & ALKATHENE TUBE SURF TELECOMS S—S PROPOSALS TRAFFIC SENSITIVE AREA YES/NO	PYLON ☒ POLE ○ STAY — HOUSE METER POSITIONS - EXTERNAL ■ INTERNAL ● PILOT CABLES P—P ALTERATIONS DISMANTLED

DEVELOPER.
 BUILDER.
 ARCHITECT Drg. No.
 O₀S₀ MAP.
 SCALE 1:300 @ **A3**
 PARISH.
 11kv DIAG.
 LV. DIAG.
 PLAN No.

Enq No. 387549JCMR 1 of 2

Avon Dassett Parish Council 1st March 2021 County Councillor's Report

Budget 2021/22

On 8th February the Council set the budget for 2021/22. This time last year the Council set a budget which put us in a financially secure position, had good reserves and austerity was a word from the past. Now that seems a lifetime away and the Warwickshire has changed. On 25th March 2020 the crisis had taken hold and we went into lockdown most of us expecting that the problem would be over in 4 – 5 months. The government has helpfully pumped significant amounts of money into Warwickshire to support the economy and into WCC in the form of Covid emergency funds. This support was both vital and welcome but despite the support of central government our overall income has dropped.

As a result, extra funding for Adult Social Care provision will be through a 3% precept on our Council Tax over two years. We have elected to take 1% in 21/22 and 2% in the following year. This will be on top of the 1.99% already budgeted for in last year's MTFS. So, for the year 21/22 we intend to increase the Council Tax by 2.99% in total which represents an increase of 86p per week on an average Band D property.

One word describes this Budget – Recovery. We are confident of our approach which will mean that Warwickshire's communities and economy will be able to recover more quickly. Here are some of the major items we are funding in the budget:-

1. £9.1m into our Children's Social Care Services;
2. £8.2 million to protect the Elderly and Vulnerable;
3. £3.8 million to continue support for children with disabilities;
4. £1.5 million into Home to School Transport;
5. £1.3 million to offset the lower interest return on our investments

We have a plan for an even better Warwickshire in the future. This includes:

1. Leading the COVID recovery across Warwickshire – Distributing millions of pounds across Warwickshire in grant funding to hundreds of local businesses.
2. Protecting Warwickshire's most vulnerable residents – Throughout the pandemic the Conservative-led County Council has protected and supported our most vulnerable residents.
3. Giving our children the best start in life – By working closely with Warwickshire's nurseries and schools.
4. Building safe, vibrant, local communities throughout Warwickshire – The last year has been tough for everyone but local communities have come together to support each other.
5. Millions more in funding for Warwickshire's vital infrastructure – We are investing in our essential services to ensure Warwickshire remains the best place to live and work.
6. Facing the challenge of climate change – Warwickshire Conservatives are committed to helping make our county a greener and more environmentally friendly place to live, work and raise a family.

After a lengthy debate the Conservative proposal for the next year was passed by a majority of 35. This proposed that the increase next year should be set at 2.99% for the Warwickshire County Council budget allocation.

Covid-19 Update as at 18th February 2021

This week it is encouraging news that our area rates of infection have moved down below the 100 mark as we move towards what we all hope will see the lifting of some restrictions next month and await the update from the PM on Monday.

The figures have dropped again across the district over the last seven days to 83/100,000 from 114 last week, which is encouraging as our current levels are now comparable to the rates of infection at around the end of September.

The over 60's day rate has also fallen to 74/100,000 (94 last week) (with 31 cases over the last seven days) – a 20% decrease in the number of cases to the previous week, which when compared to other districts in Warwickshire for all ages is Nuneaton & Bedworth 179/100,000, North Warwickshire 171/100,000, Warwick 97/100,000 and Rugby 168/100,000. So Stratford and Warwick Districts still have the lowest case rates by far.

According to the government's dashboard 21 new people had a confirmed positive test result in the district as reported on 18 February and between 12 – 18 February 111 people had a confirmed positive test which is a decrease of 23% to the previous 7 days.

The situation regarding SWFT Hospital Beds is now 41 (51) confirmed cases of COVID-19 but there are 7 (7) patients in ICU (figures in brackets are from 12 Feb). Capacity levels have also improved with 80 unoccupied general and acute beds.

The cumulative deaths across the area from the start of this second wave (28th August 2020) have sadly increased by a further 7 to 117 with 35 occurring in care homes, 73 in hospital, one in a hospice and seven at home and one in a communal establishment, out of a total of 692 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now increased to 538 from 497 last week within a total of 2912 all cause deaths. The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district is 285 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 1138.

The locally led Lateral Flow Testing facility for people without coronavirus symptoms in Stratford at the Courtyard Theatre has now carried out 12,444 tests with 51 positive results.

The vaccine rollout continues to go really well and the efforts by our NHS staff, GP practices and volunteers has just been incredible and my thanks go out to each and every person involved. The sites across Warwickshire are continuing their relentless work. All sites are now actively vaccinating those in Group 5 and younger adults with underlying health conditions are also being contacted by the NHS. As always the message remains focused – Stay at Home, Stay Safe and Take Care.

I am still undergoing chemotherapy treatment for the foreseeable future and therefore I will not be joining you at your meeting for which I apologise but should you have any queries or issues that I can help you with please do not hesitate to contact me by email and I will reply as soon as I am able.

Cllr Chris Williams

Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division

chriswilliams@warwickshire.gov.uk

01.03.21.

**Avon Dassett Parish Council 1st March 2021
District Councillor's Report**

1. Support for parishioners re the census

Sarah.Richardson@warwick.ac.uk

2. Roadside waste collection

Once roadside waste has been collected contact Street Scene and they will send Biffa out to collect it. If bags are left, they will be treated fly tipping.

3. Foot Paths and NFU

The NFU are in discussion about allowing footpaths to be diverted around the edge of fields.

4. County Council elections due on the 6 May.

5. At the Council meeting today the main item for discussion is:

The merger of two district councils, Stratford on Avon District Council and Warwick District Council. At this stage Council are being asked to consider whether it wants to adopt the proposed vision and make preparations for a submission to central government. There would however be a further decision required of Council

The proposal does not relate to unitary government across South Warwickshire, although this may be a later option. It has to be borne in mind that Warwickshire County Council have made a submission to MHCLG on a single Warwickshire Unitary Council.

Council Tax Harmonisation

There were several questions surrounding the 3 options which were highlighted within the Deloitte's report. It was explained that if South Warwickshire Council was created that any decision on Council Tax would be reserved to that authority, however, slides were shared which provided more context and illustrations on the 3 options these are provide as follows:

If South Warwickshire Council is formed then there would need to be a standard level of Council Tax at district level over that, the current proposed levels of Council Tax are:

- Stratford on Avon DC - £149.12
- Warwick DC - £176.86

This means that there is currently a difference of £27.74 across the two areas which would need to be considered. The Deloitte's report provided 3 Options:

Option 1

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p	£ : p
Stratford DC	149.12	154.12	159.12	164.12	169.12	174.12	179.12
Warwick DC	176.86	176.86	176.86	176.86	176.86	176.86	179.12

Option 2

	2021/22 £ : p	2022/23 £ : p	2023/24 £ : p	2024/25 £ : p
Stratford DC	149.12	154.12	159.12	176.86
Warwick DC	176.86	176.86	176.86	176.86

Option 3

	2021/22 £ : p	2022/23 £ : p	2023/24 £ : p	2024/25 £ : p
Stratford DC	149.12	154.12	159.12	177.99
Warwick DC	176.86	181.86	186.86	177.99

The question of Council Tax harmonisation is more complicated when considered over the whole of Warwickshire given the various levels of Council Tax. The expected district levels of Council Tax for 2021/22 across the county are as follows:

- Stratford : £149.12
- Warwick : £176.86 – difference from SDC - £27.74
- Rugby : £ 155.66 (plus special expenses) – difference from SDC - £6.54 (plus special expenses)
- Nuneaton & Bedworth : £244.66 – difference from SDC - £95.54
- North Warwickshire : £217.30 – difference from SDC - £68.18

Engagement with the Public.

It was clarified that there are no plans to undertake a full referendum on the proposals, however, there was a commitment to undertake meaningful consultation with the public. There would also be consultation with the business community and the Council's other stakeholders.

All of this consultation would be undertaken before the Council considered before any submission is considered at a future meeting of Council.

In relation to the other mergers of district councils undertaken recently, ie West Suffolk, East Suffolk and Somerset West & Taunton, there is no evidence that referendums on these proposals were undertaken.

What would be the impact on the Council if the proposals are not accepted?

The savings arising joint working with Warwick DC have been included within the Medium Term Financial Plan which is being considered by Council on 22 February 2021. These savings total around £3m over this period, and by year 5 of the plan they are included at £1.25m per annum.

If the Council had to find savings from within its operations rather than working more closely with Warwick this would undoubtedly impact upon the ability to continue to deliver the Council's discretionary services. Examples of the Council's discretionary services include:

If the formal Council Tax Resolution is approved,

- the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows: 2020/21 2021/22 % Increase.
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council £144.12 to £149.12 3.47%
- Warwickshire County Council £1,488.87 to £1,533.51 3.00%
- Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner £237.97 £252.96 6.30% Sub-total £1,870.96
£1,935.59 3.45%
- Town and Parish Councils (average) £62.44 £65.17 4.37%
- TOTAL increase; £1,933.40 £2,000.76 3.48%

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL 2020 - 2021 FINANCIAL YEAR

Monday, 22 February 2021

	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Net Receipts</u>	<u>Variance With Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Receipts					
Precept	£15,610.00		£15,610.00	£0.00	£15,610.00
Bank Interest	£3.32		£3.32	£3.32	£0.00
Burial Ground	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous - Funds From Village Functions	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Hire of Reading Room, car park etc	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Mowing Refund From Stratford District Council	£539.39		£539.39	£539.39	£0.00
Freedom of Information Fees Received	£500.00		£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
Election Fees Re The Use Of The Reading Room	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
VAT Reimbursement	£1,037.23		£1,037.23	£1,037.23	£0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£17,689.94	£0.00	£17,689.94	£2,079.94	£15,610.00

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Ring Fenced Funds/Fds Received</u>	<u>Net Expenditure</u>	<u>Variance With Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Payments (Annual expenses)					
The Reading Room					
Reading Room: Cleaning	(£30.00)		(£30.00)	£150.00	£180.00
Reading Room: Electricity Supply	(£410.95)		(£410.95)	£189.05	£600.00
Reading Room: Maintenance	(£1,600.39)		(£1,600.39)	(£1,100.39)	£500.00
Reading Room: Rates	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Reading Room	(£2,041.34)	£0.00	(£2,041.34)	(£761.34)	£1,280.00

Administration**Staff costs:**

Clerk's Pay	(£4,275.08)		(£4,275.08)	£474.92	£4,750.00
ADPC Pension Contribution	(£1,036.66)		(£1,036.66)	£163.34	£1,200.00
Employee Pension Contribution	(£79.11)		(£79.11)	(£79.11)	£0.00
Administration Expenses	(£304.51)		(£304.51)	£175.49	£480.00
ADPC Training	(£307.20)		(£307.20)	(£157.20)	£150.00
Audit Fees	(£362.50)		(£362.50)	£37.50	£400.00
Data Protection	(£35.00)		(£35.00)	£15.00	£50.00
Election Fees	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Councillors' expenses	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
WALC Subscriptions	(£243.00)		(£243.00)	(£113.00)	£130.00
Insurance	£0.00		£0.00	£650.00	£650.00
Total Administration	(£6,643.06)	£0.00	(£6,643.06)	£1,166.94	£7,810.00

Village Maintenance

Street Light Maintenance	(£145.15)		(£145.15)	£4.85	£150.00
Street Light Electricity Supply	(£381.57)		(£381.57)	£368.43	£750.00
Village Maintenance & Mowing	(£2,239.20)	£539.39	(£1,699.81)	£1,300.19	£3,000.00
Tubs Etc	(£277.10)	£0.00	(£277.10)	(£27.10)	£250.00
Total Village Maintenance	(£3,043.02)	£539.39	(£2,503.63)	£1,646.37	£4,150.00

Playground

Playground Lease & Inspections	(£99.00)		(£99.00)	£51.00	£150.00
Playground Equipment and Repairs	£0.00		£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Playground General Maintenance	(£70.00)		(£70.00)	£180.00	£250.00
Total Playground	(£169.00)	£0.00	(£169.00)	£481.00	£650.00

Communications & IT Expenditure

Avon Dasset Parish Council Website	(£176.32)		(£176.32)	£143.68	£320.00
Communications & Surveys	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
IT Software, Hardware & Consumables	(£862.87)		(£862.87)	(£562.87)	£300.00
Total Communications & IT Expenditure	(£1,039.19)	£0.00	(£1,039.19)	(£419.19)	£620.00

Miscellaneous

Coffee Morning Expenses & Xmas Gathering	£0.00		£0.00	£150.00	£150.00
Other - Section 111	(£214.40)		(£214.40)	(£214.40)	£0.00
Other - Section 137	(£60.00)		(£60.00)	(£60.00)	£0.00
Defibrillator	£0.00		£0.00	£200.00	£200.00
Community Projects	(£500.50)		(£500.50)	£249.50	£750.00
Total Miscellaneous	(£774.90)	£0.00	(£774.90)	£325.10	£1,100.00

TOTAL PAYMENTS

(£13,710.51)	£539.39	(£13,171.12)	£2,438.88	£15,610.00
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Ring Fenced Funds

	<u>01 April 2020</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>22 February 2021</u>
Defibrillator	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00	£250.00
St John's Steps Appeal Funds	£86.19	£0.00	£0.00	£86.19
IT Equipment & Software	£562.53	£3.32	£0.00	£565.85
Playground Lease Grant	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00
Neighbourhood Watch	£185.00	£0.00	£0.00	£185.00
Village Cemetery	£575.00	£0.00	£0.00	£575.00
Reading Room Maintenance	£8,810.00	£0.00	£0.00	£8,810.00
Parish Plan	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
Playground Maintenance	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00	£250.00
Village Maintenance	£230.00	£0.00	£0.00	£230.00
Deposit Account Balances As At:	£13,148.72	£3.32	£0.00	£13,152.04

Closing Period Bank Balances As At:**22 February 2021**

Current Account	£12,845.81
Deposit Account	£13,152.04
Total Bank Balances	£25,997.85

Signed.....
Chair Avon Dasset Parish Council

Avon Dassett Parish Council Financial Statement

Balances as at close of business:

Monday, 22 February 2021

Current Account:

£12,252.69

Deposit Account

£13,152.04 (Ring fenced funds and interest received)

Bank transactions

Current Account:

Date	Payee	Details	Budget Category	Receipt	Payment
02 February 2021	T. Gill	Covid Phone Nov & Dec	Community Projects		(£13.20)
02 February 2021	H. Hide-Wright	Expenses Jan	Administration Expenses		(£15.00)
02 February 2021	Warwickshire County Council	Street Light Maintenance	Street Light Maintenance		(£145.15)
02 February 2021	Boss HR	Inv 1178	Other - Section 111		(£43.20)
02 February 2021	Darrell Muffitt	WALC Training	ADPC Training		(£19.20)
02 February 2021	H. Hide-Wright	SLCC Training	ADPC Training		(£36.00)
11 February 2021	Stratford District Council	Mowing Reimbursement	Mowing Refund From Stratford District Council	£539.39	£0.00
18 February 2021	1 & 1 Internet	ADPC Website	Avon Dassett Parish Council Website		(£9.59)
22 February 2021	H. Hide-Wright	Salary (Feb)	Clerk's Pay		(£318.72)
22 February 2021	H. Hide-Wright	Working From Home Allowance	Administration Expenses		(£26.00)
22 February 2021	NPower	Electricity	Reading Room: Electricity Supply		(£23.00)
				£539.39	£1,242.18

Deposit Account

Date	Payee	Details	Budget Category	Receipt	Payment
09 February 2021	Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	IT Software, Hardware & Consumable:	£0.10	
				£0.10	£0.00

Ring Fenced Funds

Defibrillator	£250.00
St John's Steps Appeal Funds	£86.19
IT Equipment & Software	£565.95
Playground Lease Grant	£200.00
Neighbourhood Watch	£185.00
Village Cemetary	£575.00
Reading Room Maintenance	£8,810.00
Parish Plan	£2,000.00
Playground Maintenance	£250.00
Village Maintenance	£230.00
Deposit Account Balances As At:	Monday, 22 February 2021
	£13,152.14

Payments For Authorisation

Payments For Authorisation

T Gill	Covid-19 Phone	Community Projects	(£13.20)
Hide-Wright	February Expenses	Administration	(£15.00)
Hide-Wright	Overtime Payment	Clerk's Pay	(£312.00)
C Dancer	Cleaning - February 2021	Reading Room: Maintenance	(£30.00)
Michael Mann Farmers	Cemetery Fencing Repairs	Village Maintenance & Mowing	(£174.00)
W Robinson	Internal Audit Fees	Audit Fees	(£150.00)
Zoom Video Communications	Zoom Annual Subscription	IT Software, Hardware & Consumables	(£120.00)
HR Dept	HR Dept	Section 111	(£500.00)
SLCC	Subscription	ADPC Training	(£70.12)
			(£1,384.32)

Dated:

Monday, 22 February 2021

Signed

Chair Avon Dassett Parish Council