

Avon Dassett Parish Council

Agenda

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Avon Dassett Parish Council will be held in The Reading Room on 4 September 2023 at 7.00pm, to which you are summoned for the transaction of the following business

Summons	Clr Mike Blakeman, Clr Trevor Gill (Vice Chair), Clr Liz Hirst, Clr Alex Jackson, Clr Darrell Muffitt (Chair)
Invitees	The General Public, Clr Chris Mills (WCC), Clr Natalie Gist (SDC). Clr Nigel Rock (SDC)
Meeting Chair	Clr Darrell Muffitt
Minute Taker	Joanne Jarman (Parish Clerk)

The meeting is open to the public and the press, who are welcome to attend the duration of the meeting* and may raise questions or comment on agenda items during Public Participation. Members of the public are not expected to speak at any other time during the meeting.

***Occasionally members of the public may be asked to leave the meeting if the council resolves to consider 'confidential business'**

- 1. Record of Members Present**
- 2. To Receive Apologies and the Reasons for Such Absence**
- 3. To receive Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest**
- 4. Public Participation - to receive any questions or presentations from the public**
(15 minutes will be allowed for this item)
- 5. To approve the Minutes of previous meeting:**
 - 5.1 Ordinary meeting held on 3rd July 2023
- 6. To receive Progress Reports on Outstanding Items not covered later on the agenda (See Clerk's Report)**
 - 6.1 To confirm the completed actions – see Parish Clerk's report
- 7. County and District Councillor Reports**
 - 7.1 Warwickshire County Council
 - 7.2 Stratford District Council
- 8. Planning**
 - 8.1 Application reference: 23/02099/LBC – Meadow Cottage, Lower End – install secondary glazing to front elevation windows
- 9. Projects Group**
 - 9.1 To receive a progress update on the Projects Group
 - 9.2 To consider the installation of a Clothes Bank
- 10. Community**
 - 10.1 To receive an update on the refurbishment of The Reading Room
 - 10.2 To receive an update on the Burial Ground
 - 10.3 To receive an update on St John's Church
 - 10.4 To approve the request for a speed survey
 - 10.5 To receive an update on community policing/neighbourhood watch
 - 10.6 To receive an update on the playground
 - 10.7 To receive an update on the War Memorial
- 11. Highways, Street Lighting and Footpaths**
 - 11.1 To receive an update on highways, street lighting and drains
- 12. Finance**
 - 12.1 To approve the payments in the schedule attached to this agenda
 - 12.2 To review the financial statements to 31st August 2023
 - 12.3 To confirm receipt of £140 from NGS Open Gardens to support planting of the tubs in the village
- 13. Councillor Roles and Responsibilities**
 - 13.1 To review councillor roles and responsibilities

14. Oversight of Financial Results of Village Events

To consider the Parish Council's role in the oversight of financial results of village events

15. Correspondence

Volunteers to lead projects

16. Councillors' Reports

To report on minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda

17. Items for the Next Agenda

To raise items for future agendas.

18. Date of the next meeting: 6th November 2023



Parish Clerk – Joanne Jarman

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Avon Dassett Parish Council

Clerk's Report – 4th September 2023

Agenda Reference	Update
6	COMPLETED ACTIONS
6.1	The grant application for the children's play equipment was submitted to the National Lottery on 7 th July 2023. An application for CIL funds has also been submitted.
6.2	The Post Office has confirmed that it no longer needs the safes being stored at the Reading Room. Cllr Gill is arranging for them to be disposed of.
6.3	Reading Room keyholders – a list has been uploaded to the Councillor's shared drive
6.4	Mowing contract to be checked to see who should pick up after mowing – the contractor has confirmed that they collect grass at the cemetery; mulch mowers are used in all other areas. This is consistent with the quote.
	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS
	Contact to be made with the Diocese to establish its plans for St Joseph's – Cllr Gill
	STWA to be contacted to ask that laybys rather than traffic lights be provided and that notice of road works is given – Cllr Gill/Clerk
	WCC Highways to be invited to the village to discuss the issues – Cllr Gill/Clerk
	PLANNING
8	Planning application 23/01736FUL – Lorien, Lower End – relocation of front door and alteration to windows and addition of rooflights and erection of porch – no objection response submitted
8	A questionnaire from Sworders the agents for the landowners at Moat Close – Land at Avon Dassett: Local Housing Needs Questionnaire – has been sent out to the village. The Parish Council was not consulted on this questionnaire. Following Cllr Blakeman's note on the village WhatsApp, residents who contacted me were directed to the minutes of the meeting held with Sworders on 5 th April 2023 or to send comment or concerns to Sworders at post@sworders.com .
8.1	Application reference: 23/02099/LBC – Meadow Cottage, Lower End – install secondary glazing to front elevation windows. As the application is for secondary glazing withing a listed frontage, Cllr Blakeman can see no reason why the Parish Council would not support this application.
	COMMUNITY
10.4	Speed survey – Cllr Jackson attended the surgery held by the Southam Safer Neighbourhood Team where concerns about speeding through the village were raised. The PCSO has suggested that a speed survey is requested. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. District Councillor Gist has also made contact with the police to highlight the problem with bikers racing through the main road in the village. The police advised that they will try to deploy speed guns in the village.
14	OVERSIGHT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS OF VILLAGE EVENTS
	A resident has suggested that the Parish Council has a duty of fiduciary care over the public funds raised from charitable events undertaken in the village each year.

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of Avon Dassett Parish Council

3rd July 2023 at

The Reading Room, Avon Dassett

All attended were requested to follow the meeting protocol

The meeting commenced at 19.00

1. PRESENT

Cllr Trevor Gill (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Liz Hirst

Cllr Alex Jackson

Cllr Darrell Muffitt (Chairman)

Cllr C Mills

Cllr N Gist

Joanne Jarman (JJ) – Parish Clerk (minute taker)

Three members of the public were present.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Blakeman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman informed the members of the public that the meeting is being recorded as a trial for future meetings to allow residents to view the meeting remotely. No member of the public objected to the meeting being recorded.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three members of the public were present.

A resident thanked the previous Parish Council for its work over the last 4-years and gave a special mention to former Cllr Baxter for his support with a particular planning application.

One of the organisers of the Soapbox Derby gave an update on the weekend. Thanks were passed to the whole village for its support and for accepting road closures in good spirit. It is estimated that between 3,500 to 4,000 people attended the event. The event went well, and the change in format to one driver per cart, made the event more efficient leading to the event closing sooner than planned and roads opening early. Top speeds can reach over 55 mph. There was one crash; the first aider attended, and the driver was kept in hospital overnight but has since recovered. An investigation into the crash is underway. Coverage on local and social media has been positive and the event was well received. Thanks were passed to the Parish Councillors who supported the event and to the public and village charities. A tap, paid for by the Soapbox Derby, was installed on the fete field and this will benefit future users. Campers and caravanners have indicated that they will return next year. Thanks were passed to those people from outside of the village who helped organise the event. The event is a credit to the village and the community and is seen to be one of the most exciting soapbox events across the country. Marshalling is difficult and there can never be enough volunteers, parking is also an issue; toilets were difficult to source. Given the number of people visiting the village the pub takings should have increased. It was noted that the Plunkett Foundation also supported the event. The amount raised is yet to be finalised. The Chairman thanked the organising team and acknowledged that the event promotes the village and the pub. Cllr Hirst added her thanks.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 15th May 2023 were approved:

Proposed: Cllr Gill

Seconded: Cllr Hirst

Unanimously approved

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 15th May 2023 were approved:

Proposed: Cllr Hirst

Seconded: Cllr Gill

Unanimously approved

6. TO RECEIVE PROGRESS REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS NOT COVERED LATER ON THE AGENDA

The Clerk's Report Appendix A forms part of these minutes. The completed actions are referred to in the report.

Updates on the outstanding actions were noted as follows:

Adult and Children's play equipment – one application will be made for SDC CIL funds which has a deadline of 14th July 2023; an application to the National Lottery will be submitted for the balance of the project.

Applications will be sent to the Clerk for submission.

ACTION: applications for SDC CIL funds and to National Lottery to be submitted to the Clerk for submission – Cllrs Gill and Hirst

ACTION: Contact to be made with the Diocese to establish it plans for St Josephs – Cllr Gill

ACTION: STWA to be contacted to ask that laybys be provided rather than traffic lights and that notice be given of road works – Cllr Gill

7. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 Warwickshire County Council

Cllr Mills presented his report. Appendix B. He noted the support available to residents as detailed in his report.

Cllr Gill asked when the results of the Councillor grant fund will be available. Cllr Mills confirmed they are expected by the end of this month.

7.2 Stratford District Council

Cllr Gist presented the report. Appendix C. There is to be a consultation on offering an annual parking permit costing £50 annual fee allowing 4 hours of parking in certain areas in Stratford to people of state pension age. Cllr Hirst raised the issue of "app parking" in the town and its inaccessibility to certain sectors of the public; Cllr Gist confirmed the council is aware of the issue but she will take it back to the council.

The reports were accepted.

8. PLANNING

None

9. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Sarah Richardson presented the report from the Annual Parish Assembly. Appendix D.

The report had been circulated on the morning of the meeting.

Sarah confirmed that some proposals that arisen out of the Assembly. Cllr Muffitt noted that the proposals within the report will be taken to the Projects Group for consideration. Preferred methods of communication were discussed.

Sarah thanked residents for attending and noted the success of the format of the Assembly; it was noted that new volunteers came forward.

Cllr Muffitt thanked Sarah for her ideas and energy, noting how the Assembly enabled engagement with people who do not normally attend and who are willing to volunteer.

10. PROJECTS GROUP**10.1 To receive a progress update on the Projects Group**

No meeting has been held. The report from the Parish Assembly will be integrated into Projects Group and a report sent out via Mailchimp to update residents. Cllr Gill talked through the actions currently being taken in preparation for the next meeting.

Cllr Gill was confirmed as chair of the Projects Group.

10.2 To approve the terms of reference for the Projects Group.

Proposed: Cllr Gill

Seconded: Cllr Jackson

Unanimously approved

11. COMMUNITY**11.1 To receive an update on the refurbishment of The Reading Room**

Quotes for cupboards have been requested. Two safes belonging to the Post Office are not being used and need removing to create space for cupboards.

ACTION: Contact details for the Post Office to be sent to the Clerk so she can ask them to remove the safes – Cllr Gill/Clerk

Cllr Muffitt confirmed that the keys are working.

ACTION: List of keyholders to be sent to the Clerk – Cllr Gill

11.2 To receive an update on the Burial Ground

It was reported that the gate post needs replacing; a post has been bought and installation will be arranged. Quotes are being obtained to cut down low hanging branches. Thanks were passed to the resident who has cut the Cemetery car park grass twice.

11.3 To receive an update on St John's Church and to confirm the use of the funds raised by the sale of plaques for the steps

The Clerk's report contains a summary of the St John's Steps Appeal position.

Cllr Gill proposed accepting the recommendation to accept the position as stated.

Cllr Muffitt seconded.

Cllr Gill gave an update and noted that it needs to be established if there is a water supply at the church.

Cllr Muffitt noted that using St Joseph's church for the village would be of benefit due to its central location. It was noted that St John's churchyard mowing was later than usual this year. Cllr Gill noted that the Parish Council pays for four cuts per annum.

11.4 To receive an update on community policing/neighbourhood watch

Cllr Jackson has made contact made with Southam Police and has asked for a monthly update. She attended a meeting about joy riders where it was recommended that residents report incidents to 101; this could result in the police taking action. The need for more volunteers for the Speedwatch campaign was discussed; a police speed van has been requested, but the presence of two police cars in the village on an unrelated matter on Sunday had a positive impact of reducing speeding in the village. Resident will send contact details of the Fenny Compton Speedwatch to Cllr Jackson.

11.5 To receive an update on the playground

Cllr Hirst gave an update on the playground; the Fenny Compton footpath volunteers have filled in the areas under the gates with hardcore. Cllr Hirst will ensure the area is safe for children.

11.6 To receive an update on the War Memorial Grant Application

This has been put on hold due to a resident volunteering to lead the project.

12. HIGHWAYS, STREET LIGHTING AND FOOTPATHS**12.1 To receive an update on highways, street lighting and drains**

A list of reported issues is included in the Parish Clerk's report. Cllr Gill confirmed that WCC Highways will be invited to visit the village to discuss all areas. A further issue concerning the need for a footpath to be tarmacked was also noted.

ACTION: WCC Highways to be invited to visit the village to discuss the issues in the village– Cllr Gill/Clerk

13. FINANCE**13.1 To approve the payments in the schedule attached to this agenda – Appendix E**

Proposed: Cllr Gill

Seconded: Cllr Hirst

Unanimously approved

13.2 To review the financial statements to 30th June 2023 – Appendix F

Proposed: Cllr Muffitt

Seconded: Cllr Hirst

Unanimously approved

14. POLICIES**14.1 To adopt the Cemetery Rules**

Proposed: Cllr Gill

Seconded: Cllr Muffitt

Unanimously approved

15. CORRESPONDENCE (For Information Only)

None

16. COUNCILLORS REPORTS**To report on minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda**

Footpaths group – Fenny Compton footpath group was joined by volunteers from the village; they replaced the railway sleeper bridge. Hard core has also been put down under the gates at playground. Thanks were passed to the resident who donated the sleepers.

Verges – these are being left in a poor state after mowing and look untidy.

ACTION: Contract to be checked to establish if the contractors should pick up after mowing - Clerk

17. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Roles and responsibilities
- Budget strategy implementation

18. MEETING DATES

4th September 2023

The meeting closed at 20.03.

ACTIONS summary:

- Applications to SDC CIL funds and to National Lottery to be submitted to the Clerk for submission – Cllrs Gill and Hirst
- Contact to be made with the Diocese to establish its plans for St Joseph's – Cllr Gill
- STWA to be contacted to ask that laybys be provided rather than traffic lights and that notice is given of road works – Cllr Gill
- Contact details for the Post Office to be sent to the Clerk so she can ask them to remove the safes – Cllr Gill/Clerk
- List of keyholders to be sent to the Clerk – Cllr Gill
- WCC Highways to be invited to visit the village to discuss the issues – Cllr Gill/Clerk

- Contract to be checked to establish if the contractors should pick up after mowing - Clerk

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL**PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS SINCE LAST MEETING*****CURRENT ACCOUNT***

Date	Payee	Details	Expenditure	Income
28 June 2023	EDF Energy	Electricity - June	£341.00	
03 July 2023	Google	Google accounts	£9.20	
04 July 2023	C Dancer	Cleaning	£90.00	
04 July 2023	D Hicks	Tubs	£180.50	
04 July 2023	WM and DM Watts	Coffee morning	£19.35	
04 July 2023	Frank Mann	May mowing	£800.40	
04 July 2023	J Jarman	Clerk expenses	£32.40	
06 July 2023	TFM Farm and Country Superstore	TGill re gatepost	£38.38	
10 July 2023	Avon Carrow Management	Reading Room rent		£30.00
12 July 2023	Red Horse Vale	Weed clearance - Reading Room	£105.00	
13 July 2023	Avon Carrow Management	Reading Room rent		£5.00
17 July 2023	J Jarman	Clerk's salary	£341.04	
19 July 2023	1&1	Emails ets	£5.99	
19 July 2023	1&1	Website fees	£44.40	
21 July 2023	BT	Reading Room phone	£39.50	
24 July 2023	WM and DM Watts	Coffee morning	£10.39	
24 July 2023	S Corns	Weed clearance - Reading Room	£75.00	
24 July 2023	Frank Mann	June mowing	£582.00	
25 July 2023	Total Energies	Electricity - June	£85.08	
02 August 2023	Google	Google accounts	£9.20	
08 August 2023	E.On	Reading Room E.On final balance	£45.14	
08 August 2023	Frank Mann	July mowing	£218.40	
08 August 2023	C Dancer	Cleaning	£30.00	
18 August 2023	J Jarman	Clerk's salary	£341.04	
18 August 2023	1&1	Emails ets	£5.99	
18 August 2023	1&1	Website fees	£19.20	
21 August 2023	BT	Reading Room phone	£39.50	
23 August 2023	WM and DM Watts	Coffee morning	£14.05	
25 August 2023	Total Energies	Electricity - June	£88.20	
29 August 2023	Open Gardens	Open Gardens		£140.00
			£3,610.35	£35.00

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Date	Details	Income		
10 July 2023	00 January 1900	Interest received	£14.57	
09 August 2023		Interest received	£15.87	
			£0.00	£30.44

FOR AUTHORISATION**PAYMENTS FROM PRECEPT**

MW and DEM Watts	Coffee mornings - October to December	60.00
Frank Mann Farmers	Mowing - July estimate	900.00
Frank Mann Farmers	Mowing - August - estimate	900.00
C Dancer	Cleaning - October to December	90.00
Clerk	Travel - September meeting	16.20
Numbers Plus	Annual Service - Defibrillator	118.80
		£2,085.00

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL 2023 - 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD TO
31st AUGUST 2023

	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Net Receipts</u>	<u>Variance With</u>	<u>Budget</u>
				<u>Budget</u>	
Receipts					
Precept	£7,805.00		£7,805.00	(£7,805.00)	£15,610.00
Interest received	£70.37		£70.37	£65.37	£5.00
Burial Ground Fees	£150.00		£150.00	£150.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous - Funds From Village Functions	£140.00		£140.00	£140.00	£0.00
Income related to Church Steps	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Hire of Reading Room, car park etc	£235.00		£235.00	£185.00	£50.00
Mowing Refund From Stratford District Council	£0.00		£0.00	(£400.00)	£400.00
Freedom of Information Fees Received	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Coronation grant	£0.00		£0.00	(£220.00)	£220.00
Election Fees Re The Use Of The Reading Room	£0.00		£0.00	(£220.00)	£220.00
VAT Reimbursement	£103.33		£103.33	(£996.67)	£1,100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£8,503.70	£0.00	£8,503.70	(£9,101.30)	£17,605.00

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Funded</u>		<u>Variance With</u>	<u>Budget</u>
		<u>From</u>	<u>Net Expenditure</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
		<u>Reserves</u>			
Payments (Annual expenses)					
The Reading Room					
Reading Room: Cleaning	(£124.90)		(£124.90)	£235.10	£360.00
Reading Room: Electricity Supply	(£834.57)		(£834.57)	£15.43	£850.00
Reading Room: Maintenance	(£195.99)		(£195.99)	£154.01	£350.00
Reading Room: WiFi	(£197.50)		(£197.50)	£162.50	£360.00
Total Reading Room	(£1,352.96)	£0.00	(£1,352.96)	£567.04	£1,920.00

Administration					
Staff costs:					
Clerk's Pay	(£1,705.20)	£0.00	(£1,705.20)	£3,044.80	£4,750.00
Administration Expenses	(£33.49)		(£33.49)	£446.51	£480.00
ADPC Training	(£462.00)		(£462.00)	£268.00	£730.00
Audit Fees	(£140.00)		(£140.00)	£310.00	£450.00
Data Protection	£0.00		£0.00	£35.00	£35.00
Election Fees	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£750.00	£750.00
Councillor and Clerk expenses	(£188.40)		(£188.40)	£11.60	£200.00
Subscriptions	(£205.50)		(£205.50)	£94.50	£300.00
Insurance	£0.00		£0.00	£850.00	£850.00
Total Administration	(£2,734.59)	£0.00	(£2,734.59)	£5,810.41	£8,545.00

Village Maintenance					
Street Light Maintenance	£0.00		£0.00	£180.00	£180.00
Street Light Electricity Supply	(£467.95)		(£467.95)	£932.05	£1,400.00
Village Maintenance & Mowing	(£1,857.58)	£0.00	(£1,857.58)	£642.42	£2,500.00
Tubs Etc	(£180.50)		(£180.50)	£69.50	£250.00
Total Village Maintenance	(£2,506.03)	£0.00	(£2,506.03)	£1,823.97	£4,330.00

Playground					
Playground Inspections	£0.00		£0.00	£150.00	£150.00
Playground Equipment and Repairs	£0.00		£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Playground General Maintenance	£0.00		£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Total Playground	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£650.00	£650.00

Communications & IT Expenditure					
Avon Dassett Parish Council Website	(£131.97)		(£131.97)	£228.03	£360.00
Communications & Surveys	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
IT Software, Hardware & Consumables	(£541.92)		(£541.92)	(£191.92)	£350.00
Total Communications & IT Expenditure	(£673.89)	£0.00	(£673.89)	£36.11	£710.00

Miscellaneous					
Coffee Morning Expenses & Xmas Gathering	(£74.22)		(£74.22)	£105.78	£180.00
Other - Section 111	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Other - Section 137	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Other - Section 145	(£1,018.16)		(£1,018.16)	(£768.16)	£250.00
Defibrillator	£0.00		£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Community Projects	£0.00		£0.00	£550.00	£550.00
Total Miscellaneous	(£1,092.38)	£0.00	(£1,092.38)	£137.62	£1,230.00

TOTAL PAYMENTS	(£8,359.85)	£0.00	(£8,359.85)	£9,025.15	£17,385.00
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NET INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO DATE	£143.85	£143.85
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TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL RESERVE

NET INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE AFTER TRANSFER TO RESERVES	£143.85	£143.85
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Closing Period Bank Balances As At: 31 August 2023

Current Account	£5,233.41
Deposit Account	£21,472.96

Total Bank Balances	£26,706.37
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Agenda item 14 – Oversight of financial results of village events

Email from resident:

I would like to suggest the Parish Council has a duty of fiduciary care over the public funds raised during the Charitable events undertaken in the village each year and management of a likely reputational risk. These events include the Dasset Show, Down Hill Derby and the National Gardens Scheme. They usually raise up to at least £10,000 in gross income and out of the net proceeds, donations of up to £3,000 are made to Charities.

This matter does not include the Avon Dasset Community Benefit Society as the results are fully in the public domain. However, it could be severely affected by any breach of a cross over reputational risk.

For some years the summary results of these Charity events, but not all of them, have been published on the Parish Council website. These events are now taking on more than a purely local significance and likely complex contractual and accounting arrangements. The Parish Council should accordingly demonstrate this duty of care fully by publishing each event's summary results each year. A second level of scrutiny would be for it to obtain from the management of each event independent assurance of the results, accounting records and system of internal control.

I wrote to the Parish Council some years ago concerning this duty of care. but received no formal response. This was at a time when it was alleged a former landlord may have misappropriated funds. While the appointed charity confirmed it had received no funds by some months after the event, no further action was taken because of lack of available evidence. It was also before the ADCBS was established.

Would the Parish Council formally raise this matter at its next meeting and advise me of the action it proposes to take. I would be willing to discuss this matter with councillors if that would help them consider the appropriate steps to take.

Agenda item 15 – Correspondence

Email from resident:

I have received a copy of a questionnaire regarding communications in the village. I see that this initiative is being led by a village resident but, once again, I do not recall any communication from the Parish Council requesting volunteers to lead or get involved in this project. On several occasions, the Parish Council has communicated the view that it needs involvement from residents of the village in its projects. However, it does not appear ever to reach out to residents as a whole to ask for their participation. It seems that there is some kind of behind the scenes process to decide who will be involved in projects, with residents as a whole not being given the opportunity to participate.

Please can the Parish Council explain at its next meeting why this is the case, and why it does not actively seek a wider cross-section of the community to get involved in the projects it is trying to progress? It would be a simple process for the Parish Council to send out a request for volunteers for a particular project in the same way that it circulates meeting agendas and minutes.

It may be that these discussions and decisions take place at the Parish Council meetings. However, not everyone is able to go along to these meetings, and this should not be taken to mean that a resident is not interested in getting involved in other ways. On the face of it, the current situation is neither transparent or a fair reflection of the willingness of villagers to get involved in helping the

village to move forward. Nor does it appear to try to take advantage of any specific skills that residents might have.

I look forward to your comments.