AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 14th February 2005

Present — L. Hope-Frost, K. Martin, D. Brangwyn, Cllr Williams & Clerk

In Attendance — Bob Butler & Jeremy Davies

1) Apologies: — A. Fraser, P. Worrall & Issy Seccombe

2) Declaration of Interest: — None

3) Confirmation of Minutes: — The minutes were proposed by K.Martin and seconded ~~by L. Hope Frost, they~~ were then signed by the Chairman.

Stck · D. Brangwyn.

4) Matters Arising:
Reading Room – The look of the new door was disappointing and it was suggested that a new latch was purchased. It was noted that the lobby had woodworm and needed new tongue and groove, which Pete Wallace had agreed to do. Clerk to chase plumber.
Lamp posts – There were two unsightly lamp posts in the village which it was suggested should be replaced. Cllr Williams offered to speak to Warks CC.
Flowering Tubs – L. Hope-Frost had contacted the company who look after the plants for the pub. Although a quote had not yet been received it was anticipated that it would be too high. It was suggested that the council ask Green Interiors to quote.

5) Correspondence: A reply from Tony Perks at Stratford DC to the Access Statement was read out. Due to the contradictory wording of the letter Cllr Williams offered to refer the matter back to Tony Perks. (reference to the reading room).

A letter was received from the WRVS requesting a donation. However, as a large donation is already made by Stratford DC the request was refused.

The matter of gritting and accidents on the Farnborough Road was also discussed.
Planning – A notification had been received in respect of an extension to The Pump House Cottage. After consideration the council raised a number of objections, which were stated on the notification.

Permission was received to the extension at Spikes Cottage.

6) Financial Statement:
Balances as at close of business on Monday 14th February

Current a/c	£ 523.77	credit
Deposit a/c	£6790.06	credit

Cheques to be issued:

L. Hope-Frost 14th March 05.

1) A. Del Principe (clerk's pay)	£	70.00
2) R. Butler	£	12.03
3) Warks CC	£	180.76
4) M. Harris	£	50.00
5) P. Wallace	£	80.00
6) WRCC	£	7.50

An amount of £130 had been paid directly into the bank account from Stratford DC in respect of the section 136 reimbursement.
Payment of the cheques was proposed by K. Martin and seconded by D. Brangwyn.

7) Council Report: See attached.

8) Any Other Business:

a) It was noted that there was a large pothole outside Sinclair. The clerk was asked to contact John Brown.

b) It had previously been discussed that Fenny Compton had invited Avon Dassett to contribute to the Compton Chronicle. The matter had been passed to Alysoun who seemed interested. However, in order to cover the ~~increased circulation~~ start up costs the Chronicle had asked the council for a grant of £100. This was agreed.

9) To Receive Questions from the Public:

1) A comment was made on the effect of the withdrawal of the section 136 reimbursement.

Date of Next Meeting as agreed by all councillors

Monday 7th March @ 7.30pm in the Reading Room

Meeting closed @ 9.30pm.

J. Hope, Chair 7th March 06

Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 14.02.05.
District Councillor's Report

1. We are in the midst of reviewing policies for the next twelve months and with its effect on the Council Tax for next year. It must be remembered that the District Council element of the Council Tax we all pay, Councillors included, is something like £115 per average Band D dwelling. Savings to be considered for this year include a reassessment of the travel token system and a reduction in the amount of money being provided for community projects. In our area this will mean we will have £10,000 less for projects such as the refurbishment of the Village Hall. Further savings will be effected by making reduced contributions to South Warwickshire Tourist Board and cutting out the support the Council gives to the public art gallery in Stratford. Amongst other proposals are to cease the support given to WRCC with their Parish Plan consultancy arrangement. The service will be brought in-house and undertaken by the Planning Department themselves. This arrangement will save the District Council £30,000 over three years. A further proposal is to stop the arrangement whereby 136 expenses for Grass Cutting, Maintenance of Playground etc will no longer be refunded. Parish Councils will have to precept in future for this sum of money. This proposal will not take effect until April 2006 and any maintenance costs incurred during the year 2005-06 will be refunded through the 136 system. I can confirm that as a cost saving measure the Council will **not** be closing public toilets nor will they be changing the refuse service to a by-weekly collection. My crystal ball is still cloudy at the moment but I do not expect the SDC proportion of the Council Tax increase to be more than 4% which equates to less than 10p per household per week.

2. The Council is working closely with the ODPM and achieving success in correcting the criticisms that were made last summer of the Council's performance. It should be remembered that the Council's frontline services such as refuse collection, street cleaning, planning, environmental health and housing policies were all praised but we were criticised for relationship problems between Councillors and Officers. The Government also considered our plans for the future were not sufficiently expansive. These shortcomings have been admitted and identified and we look forward to a better performing Council by next summer.

3. The important changes to planning that were introduced last year have inevitably had to be amended. It was originally proposed that an applicant should have 12 weeks to appeal against a planning decision. This resulted in a tremendous overload of work for Government Inspectors who had to hear the Appeals. In some cases the length of time increased dramatically to 18 months. The Government has now relaxed decisions and applicants have up to 6 months after receiving refusal to appeal against the decision.

CRW
14.02.05.