AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 7 November 2005

Present	L Hope-Frost; D Brangwyn; J Burgess; A Fraser; K Martin; Cllr D Booth; Cllr C Williams; Clerk
In Attendance	I Hiley (part attendance); R Husband; J Sherriff
1. Apologies:	None
2. Declaration of Interest:	None

3. Confirmation of Minutes:
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by K Martin and seconded by D Brangwyn; they were then signed by L Hope-Frost.

4. Matters Arising:
   a) Reading Room – Alterations are required to the carpentry work carried out in October in order to facilitate easy storage of tables. Once this work is completed it was agreed that the storage unit be painted.
   A Fraser proposed that plans be provided to clarify precise requirements for future works.
   Quotes to be obtained to repair porch.
   Quotes to be obtained for ramp for disabled access to Reading Room; it was decided that a grant would not be sought to support this.
   J Burgess supplied a cleaning schedule for the Reading Room; June Kipling is contracted to carry out this work.
   Councillors are requested to donate spare refuse sacks for use in the Reading Room.
   b) Best Kept Village Competition – Letter from Alison Chappell, Chief Officer, WRCC read to the meeting. Cllr Williams agreed to contest certain factual errors contained within this letter with Ms Chappell on behalf of the Parish Council.
   c) Dog Fouling – The Council approved the content of a draft letter to accompany the District Council leaflets sourced by Cllr Williams.
   d) Playground Equipment – Cllr Williams stated that the opportunity for grants for playground equipment had been missed for this year; next year the District Council would consider applications for funding up to 50% of costs.
   D Brangwyn proposed that an extraordinary meeting of parents with young children be held to ascertain their requirements for the playground. Cllr Williams advised that the closing date for next year's grant applications is likely to be circa early April, by which time quotes should be obtained and a decision on spend would have to be made.
   J Burgess was asked whether the Fête Committee would consider contributing to costs of playground improvements. It was agreed that parents of young children be contacted in the new year in order to meet the April 2006 deadline specified above.
   A Fraser commented that the bench in the playground requires repair or replacement.
   R Husband suggested that picnic tables would be an asset to the playground environment; the Council supported this. Clerk to bring Wicksteed catalogue to next meeting.
   e) Delegated Budget for Minor Works 2006/07 – The deadline for this year's submission was 7 November; however Cllr Booth stated that this scheme is ongoing and submissions may

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be made in future years. Discussion ensued regarding the merits (or otherwise) of kerbing for inclusion in future grant submissions. Cllr Booth advised that successful grant applications would be dependent on identification of a real benefit to the community; in the light of this, it was agreed not to apply for a kerbing grant within this scheme.

f) Budget 2006/7 – Budget to be discussed at next meeting when sufficient information should be available to finalise Precept requirement.
A Fraser to obtain quotes for: i) mowing of burial ground and playground; ii) mowing of paddock adjacent to burial ground; and iii) hedge cutting. (Note: the cessation of reimbursement under Section 136 in 2006 rules out future claims for specific mowing costs.)
Attention was brought to unpaid electricity bills. Npower engineer to inspect wiring of meter in Reading Room on 15 November in order to facilitate a resolution to queries raised with the unpaid bills. In addition to this, Clerk to ascertain what is covered by three outstanding 'unmetered supply' bills.
The Parish will have to meet any election expenses in 2006.

5. Correspondence:
Bank mandate for J Burgess – signed by all Parish Councillors; Clerk to return forms to bank.
Planning – An application was considered from I Hiley, The Tower, Avon Carrow regarding addition of exhaust flue on first floor rear elevation; there was no representation to make. Planning consent was granted to fell an Ash tree at Corner Cottage, 1 Lower End. Queries were raised about the flag pole application.

6. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 7 November 2005:

Current account	£302.65 credit
Deposit account	£6,854.30 credit

Cheques to be issued:

a) J Kipling	£32.00
b) M Maughan (Clerk's Pay)	£100.00
c) A Sheasby	£163.90
d) M Harris	£96.00
e) W Sherriff	£6.98

The payment of cheques was proposed by A Fraser and seconded by J Burgess.

7. Council Report:
Cllr Williams presented his report – see attached.

8. Any Other Business:
a) Cllr Booth outlined recent reorganisation of WCC – a new Chief Executive has been appointed and the number of departments reduced from 9 to 6. A combined Children's Social Services and Schools Department has been created to which a new Director has been appointed. Adult Social Services is now a separate department, the head of which has yet to be appointed.
Council's rating of 'excellent' in CPA last year is expected to be 'good' in latest assessment due to: i) under-performance of Adult Social Services in relation to other departments; and ii) the 'raising of the bar' against which standards are measured.

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b) J Burgess proposed that Councillors meet to discuss planning applications whose deadlines fall outside the timeframe of ordinary meetings. It was agreed that extraordinary meetings of the Council be held to satisfy planning notification deadlines where necessary, adhering to Cllr Williams's advice that the public must be given 7 days notice of these sessions.
It was recommended that all Councillors attend the next District Council-run training session for 'Planning for Parish Councillors'; it is understood that the next session will take place in January 2006.
c) J Burgess requested that traffic calming measures be taken – possibly in the form of signage - to reduce speed on Farnborough Lane and the lane leading from the B4100. Cllr Booth warned that traffic calming measures are likely to be expensive. Cllr Booth suggested that we contact Graeme Fitton at the County Council – Clerk to action.
d) It was suggested that 2 fir trees sited next to the burial ground be felled; A Fraser proposed that they be used as Christmas decoration in the village.
e) A Fraser asked Jerry Davies to remove grass cuttings in the corner of the playground and proposed that area be turfed.
f) A Fraser stated that the basketball area requires attention.
g) Council agreed that a damaged gate-post at the the corner of the burial ground be re-set by Michael Mann when he next mows the burial ground. A Fraser to authorise Michael Mann to carry out work.
h) A Fraser requested that minutes of meetings be posted on village noticeboard – Clerk to action.
i) A Fraser identified requirement for repair of bus shelter bench and suggested that Pete Wallace be asked to quote for this work.
j) A Fraser identified requirement for repair of pot holes in main road – Clerk to contact Highways Agency.
k) A Fraser to contact BT with the intention of moving telegraph pole at junction with B4100.
l) It was noted that a large 'chalet'-style wooden structure had been erected at Spinney Bank. Cllr Williams to report to appropriate planning authority.
m) Date of next year's Fête: Saturday 5 August 2006.
n) D Brangwyn felt the parking of 2-3 cars on roadside opposite Spinney Bank/Spikes Cottage was dangerous. Spikes Cottage has no off-road parking, however R Husband agreed to move cars further up from the bend whilst pointing out that one of the cars was from Spinney Bank. L Hope-Frost to write to request that this vehicle be parked on the drive at Spinney Bank.
o) L Hope-Frost submitted 2 notices reference the sale of Christmas cards and the date/venue of this year's carol singing gathering; note to be prepared by Clerk and issued. It was agreed to include the date of the Fête within this notice.
p) J Burgess volunteered to purchase pansies for planting in the tubs in Main Street.

9. Questions from the Public:
a) A dead tree in contact with an electricity pole opposite St John the Baptist Church requires attention – clerk to contact Highways Agency.
b) There is no working light above the entrance gate to St John the Baptist Church.
c) R Husband asked that Councillors consider the usefulness of documents received from local and district authorities to the Parish Plan 'team'.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 5 December 2005 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

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Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 07.11.05.
District Councillor's Report

1. The Council has been considering ways of improving rural transport requirements. Councillors will recall that the travel token system was suspended. The government has decreed that from 1st April 2006 there will be free fare concessionary travel arrangements for all pensioners. The implications of this requirement, which everyone agrees will be a good thing for the community, will have to be considered. The consideration for Stratford is the issue of travelling into other districts, eg. From this parish to Banbury, or from this parish to Leamington Spa. It is hoped that the existing half-price countywide bus pass will be replaced with a free fare countywide bus pass.

   In addition to the introduction of free bus passes the district is piloting local community bus services, eg. Wellesbourne is operating a parish-run service around hinterland villages ensuring that people who do not have access to either their own transport or public service are able to make visits to shops, medical centre and other essential amenity requirements.

2. The Council was evaluated in mid-October to measure the progress it is making following the review of all its services carried out in the summer of 2004. Initial indications are that the inspectors were delighted with the improvements that are evident at the present time.

3. Planning performance statistics. As a result of reorganisation within the Planning Department, our service is exceeding national targets. Currently, the government sets a target that we should determine all planning applications within eight weeks as being 65% of applications received. For the last six months our average is 86%. The implications of this success is that the Council is likely to receive a substantial grant, possibly more that £500,000 as a contribution towards improving the planning service. This money must be spent on items such as, improving IT technology or employing staff to undertake specific projects. It cannot be absorbed into the general running of the Council and unfortunately, will not have any implications for the setting of Council Tax next year.

CRW
07.11.05.