AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 5 December 2005

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

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

4. Matters Arising:
   a) Reading Room – Alterations to the carpentry work carried out in October are due to take place on 6 December. The storage unit will be painted at this time.
   Quotes had been received from David Finch for repairs to porch and building of a ramp to enable disabled access to the Reading Room. A Fraser/K Martin to obtain additional quotes for this work so that an informed decision may be made.
   A Fraser to carry out woodworm treatment in the New Year.
   b) Best Kept Village Competition – Cllr Williams provided an update of discussions he has had with Allison Chappell on behalf of the Parish Council. Ms Chappell and Mrs Cranfield have declined invitations to attend a Council meeting. Ms Chappell to contact Cllr Williams once she has had the opportunity to clarify various issues with Mrs Cranfield.
   c) Playground Equipment – R Husband agreed to canvass parents of young children to ascertain their requirements for improvements to the playground. Cllr Williams warned that it may not be possible to satisfy parents' aspirations due to fiscal constraints.
   It was suggested that a maximum of £5,000 be spent on upgrading the playground environment; however, it was acknowledged that this may have to be a project for the longer term.
   J Burgess to apply to the Fête Committee for a contribution to playground costs.
   d) Budget 2006/7 – Budget issues discussed by the Council.
   Quotes sourced by A Fraser for mowing of burial ground and playground were incorporated within the draft budget.
   The unresolved issue of unpaid electricity bills (due to queries with billing tariffs and/or possible faulty meter settings) meant that the deposit account reserve could not be accurately predicted. K Martin to provide contact number for Mark Johnson in order to determine correct instructions regarding storage heater switches. Clerk to continue ongoing discussions with Npower to resolve billing issues.
   A precept of £7,500 was proposed for 2006/7; it was agreed that precept documentation be completed at the January 2006 meeting.
   e) Traffic Calming – J Burgess presented information provided by Jerry Birkbeck of the County Council's Environmental Design Team for Rural Traffic Management.
   J Burgess to progress.

9th January 06

R Husband identified a road traffic survey consultant who resides in the village; it was suggested that this consultant be asked to attend the next meeting of the Council.

5. Correspondence:
Electoral Register - to be copied and issued to all Councillors.
Repairs to Bus Shelter Bench – quote received from Pete Wallace was accepted by the Council. Clerk to request that works be carried out at Mr Wallace's earliest convenience.
Highways Authority - in response to e-mail from Clerk, John Brown agreed to carry out repairs to road although he felt that, due to the shallow nature of the potholes, the repairs may not be long lasting.
With reference to the crumbling brickwork on the raised pathway opposite The Old School House, Mr Brown agreed to log repairs with the appropriate agency and offered to make good the top brickwork using red-coloured filler. Clerk to forward Council's agreement to this proposal.
Planning – An application was considered from Mr Graham Rice, The Coach House, Bitham Hall, regarding various tree works; there was no representation to make.
An application was considered from Miss Yvette Enwright, Pump House Cottage, regarding enlargement of existing dwelling house and erection of garage with new vehicular access from road. Whilst not wishing this application to be considered by the Committee, the Council requested that the development be conditional such that the road-facing elevation of the garage be in stone.
Planning consent was granted for the addition of a metal exhaust flue on the first floor elevation at The Tower, Avon Carrow.
Two letters had been received from Les Greenwood regarding the flag pole application. Cllr Williams kindly offered to respond to these on behalf of the Parish Council.
At the suggestion of Cllr Williams, Clerk to respond to District Council via e-mail for all future planning applications, where possible.
Note: An extraordinary planning meeting was held on Monday 21 November to consider an application from Mr & Mrs J Davis, The Old Pump House, for a single storey front and side extension to dwelling; there was no representation to make.
A provisional date was set for the next extraordinary planning meeting on Thursday 22 December at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room, should responses to applications be required prior to the next ordinary Parish Council meeting. Clerk to advise.

6. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 5 December 2005:

Current account	£236.27 credit
Deposit account	£6,465.64 credit

Cheques to be issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's Pay plus expenses)	£110.16
b) J Kipling (cleaning)	£16.00
c) Npower (unmetered supply)	£291.66
d) L Hope-Frost (supply of paint)	£9.33

The payment of cheques was proposed by K Martin and seconded by A Fraser.

L. Hope - Frost. 9th Jan 06.

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

8. Any Other Business:
   a) Cllr Williams recommended the attendance of all Councillors at a training course run by Stratford District Council: 'Parish Councils – Planning Applications and Development Control'. The course will take place between 6 pm and 8 pm on 27 January 2006 and 17 February 2006. Councillors to notify Clerk of preferred date. Clerk to e-mail response to pauline.burton@stratford-dc.gov.uk.
   b) Cllr Booth outlined recent reorganisation of WCC – see minutes of 7 November.
      Additional resources required for Adult Social Services which is considered to be under-funded.
      Changes to library services were outlined; mobile buses to be improved.
      Council Tax issues ongoing.
      Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance Services to be regionalised. County Council to ensure that Warwickshire 'gets a voice' in the new arenas.
   c) A Fraser requested that street cleaning be undertaken through Avon Dassett and Warmington hill to clear loose chippings that have resulted from recent frosts. Clerk to contact appropriate authority.
   d) A Fraser identified oak tree obscuring road sign (opposite stables off B4100). Clerk to action.
   e) L Hope-Frost advised that David Finch would repair damage to stone structure known locally as 'The Gnome's Loo' (!) w/c 5 December.
   f) L Hope-Frost notified the Council that £116-78 was raised from the sale of Poppies.
   g) L Hope-Frost to ask Charlie Worrall to cut-back bushes that overhang and part-obstruct the pathway (opposite the Old School House parking area).
   h) J Burgess to purchase pansies for planting in the tubs in Main Street.
   i) Cllr Williams reported that the owners of Spinney Bank had been invited to submit a planning application for the large 'chalet'-style structure that has been erected on their land.
   j) L Hope-Frost to speak to appropriate authority reference the faulty light over the lichgate at St John the Baptist Church.
   k) L Hope-Frost to make enquires regarding the street lamp formerly sited at Spinney Bank with a view to possible re-use elsewhere in the village.
   l) Clerk asked for background information to enable submission of Section 136 application to be made by 31 December 2005; this request was met in full.

9. Questions from the Public:
   a) R Husband identified faulty street light by St John the Baptist Church; Clerk had already reported this to appropriate Council Department.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

    Monday 9 January 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

    Meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

L. Hope-Frost.
9th Jan 06.

Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 05.12.05.
District Councillor's Report

1. The Council has completed its reorganisation of its management structure. Two new Strategic Directors have been appointed, previously there were three, and we now have eight Heads of Service instead of thirteen. This reorganisation will, I am sure, lead to a more efficient and effective management structure. At the same time, this will produce savings which are more than necessary at the present time.

2. At the Executive last week, the Council agreed to reduce Council Tax discounts for second homes from 50% to 10% and the removal of discounts on long term empty properties after the initial six month exemption has expired. Interestingly, Mr Prescott has announced today that the government intends to requisition any house that has remained empty for more than 12 months for use as possible social housing material. The whole point about the District Council's initiative and to a lesser extent the government's initiative is to introduce long term empty properties into the housing market and produce a more balanced stock of housing. Currently, new developers are required to contribute 30% of any development towards the provision of social housing. Government pressure on councils is requiring any future development to produce a balance of at least 50% social housing. At the District Council we believe that this will produce an unsustainable mixture of housing and amounts to unacceptable social engineering.

3. The Council was awarded £5million towards making Stratford a World Class site. For a long time it has been felt that Stratford prevents a tired image and the £5million initiative is only part of a final scheme that will cost £20million. The initial project will revolve around improving the front of the theatre and pedestrianising part of Stratford. At the same time, SDC, through its own initiatives, are seeking to regenerate the market towns throughout the district so be assured that it is not just Stratford that is receiving attention.

CRW
05.12.05.