AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 10th May 2010

Present J Burgess; D Hutt; A Rutherford; Lily Hope-Frost, Helen Hide-Wright

In Attendance: Michael Carter

1. Apologies: Sarah Richardson; Cllr C Williams

2. Declaration of Interest: None

3. Confirmation of Minutes:
   The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by Andy Rutherford and seconded by Lily Hope-Frost; they were then signed by J Burgess.

4. Chair's Report:
   Jill Burgess presented her report – see Appendix 1.
   The Councillors and Clerk expressed their gratitude for the work that she has undertaken on behalf of the village.

5. Financial Report:
   See Appendix 2. Jill Burgess thanked the Clerk for the preparation of Parish Council accounts and completion of the year's audit documentation.

6. Charities' Report:
   None was presented to the meeting.

7. Election of Officers:
   LHF proposed that Jill Burgess be re-elected as Chair and Sarah Richardson as Vice Chair; this was seconded by AR.

   The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Appendix 1

Avon Dassett Parish Council
Chair's End of Year Report 2009/10

It was with great pleasure and quite a lot of relief that we welcomed Helen Hide- Wright to the post of Parish Clerk in October 2009 following 3 months when parish councillors took on the clerk's role whilst the vacant position was advertised. Helen has fitted in to the team seamlessly and has proved to be as efficient and industrious as her predecessor, Margaret Maughan, which is no mean feat! I hope we will have a long and happy working relationship.

The parish council has had another productive year and several projects have progressed or been completed.

Though the police no longer attend our monthly meetings we are kept well informed of local crimes via the Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch bulletins.

We learned earlier this year that the static speed camera would not be available again in the future due to technical problems. However, as the regular mobile camera visits revealed that speeding in the village was a real issue, a referral to the police resulted and we are now scheduled to get police speed enforcement visits periodically. We will continue to get visits from the mobile speed camera also.

Significant progress has been made on the village roads with a number of long standing problems being addressed. Unfortunately the very severe winter weather has caused several more pot holes to form. We are in regular contact with County Highways and update them on any serious concerns we have. We are grateful for information received from villager residents alerting us to problem areas.

The grant we were awarded in 2008 for improved drainage in the village has been carried over to the coming financial year and we expect work to commence within the next few weeks. This work should make a significant difference to the amount of surface water running through the village during periods of heavy rain.

Several of the Action Points in the Village Parish Plan are still ongoing and one has no further action.

1. Playground-The Playground Management Group has been active during the year and has been successful in securing its first grant and is in the process of applying for more.

2. Village Meeting Places-
i**) St John's Church** was used to exhibit the village photograph competition in May 2009 and for a Local History lecture in July. The newly restored bells were rung several times last year and on Easter 2010. St John's hosted a bell ringing event on Mat 1st this year which attracted well over a hundred bell ringers from all over the country. The bells will also be rung throughout the year on special occasions.

ii) **The Nature Area** project was completed in April this year and is now an appealing area with seating and colourful planting.

3. Welcome Pack- A request was made to villagers for updates to the Welcome Pack and no new information was received

4. Transport-
Parking- The proposal for a new parking lay-by at Lower End was not chosen for implementation by Warwickshire County Council.

5. Housing-
i) There has been no further development with regard to the potential site suggested to the Rural Housing Organiser at the beginning of 2009.

ii) The Village Design Statement group have met regularly through the year and are in the process of finalising the draft document.

The Parish Website has once again been held up as an example of good practice. It has even been referred to as a local feature in a recent sale advertisement for a village property!

We have used Warwickshire Probation Service 'Pay Back Scheme' three times during this year to help with the construction of the Nature Area and the heavy duty maintenance of St Johns church yard. Though the church yard continues to be managed by Stratford District Council their maintenance programme has been reduced to two cuts per year. The burden of extra maintenance has thus fallen on the Parish Council to finance. Using the Probation Service has been a very cost effective way of managing this area.

Thanks

I would like to thank Sue Harris for cleaning the Reading Room and our contractors for maintaining the burial ground, playground and village verges.

Thanks also to Chris Williams our district and county councillor for attending our monthly meetings and for his advice and support during the year.

There are so many people in Avon Dassett who play their part for the good of the village and its environment for instance:

the volunteers who met in November to clear and plant the nature area and all those who donated bulbs, seeds and plants, Lily Hope-Frost for opening the church every weekend for visitors to enjoy, all the villagers who are the 'eyes and ears of the Neighbourhood Watch, the Playground Committee who are determined to improve this very useful facility, the villagers who routinely pick up litter, the villagers who have taken part in the two Church cleaning sessions, Mary Edgington for planting and watering the village tubs and all the new tub monitors who have taken responsibility for watering the tubs near their properties, Jenny Sherriff for organising the coffee mornings and keeping the Reading Room diary up to date, Ray Randerson the burial ground warden, Sarah Richardson for maintaining the Parish Website, the Fete Committee for their hard work throughout the year which provides the village with a great day out in August, the Children's Christmas Party and the Seniors Christmas Lunch, Pete Wallace for his numerous woodwork projects, the Village Design Statement group, the trustees of the village charities and anyone else who contributes their time willingly to village causes no matter how small and who's work is rarely seen but always noticed.

Finally, thanks to my fellow councillors, also volunteers, elected by Avon Dassett parish residents, who give their time freely to attend monthly meetings and training courses and work diligently throughout the year on behalf of this parish.

Jill Burgess
Chair 2009/10

Appendix 2

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING 10 MAY 2010

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank Balance @ 31 March 2009:	£4638.44
Precept for 2009/10:	£7000.00
Receipts during 2009/10:	£2485.77
Payments during 2009/10:	£8509.85
Balance carried forward @ 31 March 2010:	£5614.36