Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 5th July 2010

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

Present: Jill Burgess, David Hutt, Lily Hope-Frost, Sarah Richardson, Helen Hide-Wright, Councillor Chris Williams

1. APOLOGIES: Andy Rutherford

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: One amendment was made to the previous month's minutes. Page 314, paragraph 3, the action point for the organisation of works should have read LHF rather than AR. Minutes were proposed by LHF, seconded by DH.

4.MATTERS ARISING:

Community (LHF to lead)

a. Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

LHF and Councillor Williams had recently attended a Community Forum and had met PC James Barber who had been in attendance at the recent burglary at Spinney Bank.

There were no further crimes or incidents to report.

LHF highlighted the campaign for home checks for fire risk. Councillor Williams stated that Warwickshire does have a high incidence of fires in the home and recommended the free safety check which includes an assessment of the risk of fire in the home, operations/installation of smoke alarms etc.

At the aforementioned meeting, Keith Hicks informed LHF that Neighbourhood Watch currently has a balance of monies available. Consequently LHF has requested a further two signs to go up in the village stating that it is a Neighbourhood Watch area.

Roads (JB)

a. Traffic, Roads and Drains

Traffic-The tubes across the road in the village are there to measure speed. The Police regularly monitor mobile camera sites in order to decide what level of enforcement each camera site warrants. JB has requested feedback on their findings.

Roads- All pot holes in the village have been marked ready for repair. A defect has been raised for the weed spray through the village; it should be carried out before the end of July.

Drains-from Nigel Chetwynd- the drain survey crew have checked out the system at the bottom of the hill as promised. The good news is that it all works and we now know where everything goes. JB will do a copy of the plan for the PC once it has been received. There was one blocked gully and pipe on the little service road, which they cleared and cleaned. They also found a buried chamber which was dug out. There will be a new manhole cover fitted to have better access for cleaning. The pipe then continues down the private track and into the large new system (in the end house) which was installed to the watercourse. The old pipe down to the new system was clogged up but the jetting appeared to clear it and checks were made. Thanks have been passed on to the crew.

Drain cover in nature area is in very poor repair and has been reported. JB has reported blocked drain at Bitham Hall back drive

Environment/Maintenance (AR)

c) Playground: AR had sent in a report to JB who read his comments: The committee has not received any more grants as it appears that funding for such projects is tightening up. The lease with the Worrall brothers appears to be making progress without the need for another set of conveyancing solicitors. Alsters Kelley are progressing the matter and it is hoped that the lease will be signed within the next few weeks.

St John's: LHF confirmed that 11th September is Heritage Open Weekend as well as Ride and Stride. LHF proposed launching a Christmas card competition that weekend and thought that children could be encouraged to enter. The competition would have the theme of St John's church.

LHF confirmed that Katherine Geddes has a grant which is available for a very short time and wondered about asking for monies for the installation of a public convenience at the church. SR confirmed that this was identified within the parish plan as a community need. It was felt that LHF should try to obtain funds for this project. **ACTION: LHF**

The churchyard had recently been strimmed by AR and Rob Husband who was thanked for this work.

The bees are back at the churchyard and AR is dealing with this matter. **ACTION: AR**

The bell ringing on St John's Day had gone well. JB apologised for her oversight in forgetting to put the item on to the website.

Graham Nabb may also ring on the 11th September.

e) Upkeep of 'green areas'. There will be another cut of the top graveyard before Open Garden's. AR commented that someone has been interfering with the electric fencing and broken a couple of posts so AR has removed it.

There have been many complaints about the flower tubs and the village generally. AR has been speaking to the contractors to try address these problems. Concern had also been expressed about the failure to dispose of waste after strimming. A letter will be sent to the contractor to highlight the areas of concern in the hope of future improvements. **ACTION: Parish Councillors, HHW**

Councillor Andy Rutherford has offered to discuss the tubs with concerned residents if necessary.

Much hard work has gone into the complete replacement of compost in the tubs by LHF and others. The parish Council wish to thank Diane Anderson for storing the compost bags and Gina Forsythe for allowing the PC to dispose of stones from the tub at her property.

Communication/Administration (SR) None

5. COUNCIL REPORTS: County and District Councillor's Report

1. **Fire Service Review** – The County Council is due to debate the outcome of the consultation into the future of Warwickshire Fire Service on Tuesday 20th July. I am hopeful that Fenny Compton Fire Station will not now be closed as was originally proposed but I am sure some Fire Stations in Warwickshire will be amalgamated where there is presently duplication of service and the general operation of the Fire Service will be enhanced. The Fire Service would like to publicise a free service by the Fire Service where domestic properties are checked to ensure that there are no fire risks. Where appropriate they will also install, at no cost, a Smoke Alarm. The contact for this service is Mark Styzaklra - Home First Safety Risks, Warwickshire Fire Service on 01789 293271.

2. **Impact of Government Fiscal Policy** – Warwickshire is already feeling the effect of cuts imposed by central government. We have already lost some £6 million of grant aid which had been allocated to this financial year. This aid has now been withdrawn and any expenditure already implemented will have to be found from existing budgetary proposals. Indications from central government suggest that reductions in expenditure in the region of £100 million over the next four years will have to be found. Clearly, some functions currently carried out by the local authority will be outsourced to other organizations. This edict from central government not only applies to Warwickshire but also to district and unitary councils throughout the country. For example, the withdrawal of grant aid will affect the Highways Safety Initiative. This particularly refers to the use of fixed Speed Cameras which fortunately are not prominent in our part of Warwickshire. Further cuts will also be

imposed on the Police with their antisocial behaviour initiative as well as cut backs in education. A question mark arises over the proposal for students to stay in education until their 18th birthday. The previous government whilst introducing this scheme, made no provision for funding either staff or buildings to accommodate this extension of the education system. This is just the beginning and as I predicted earlier this year Local Government at both District and County level will change significantly.

3. **State of the District Debate –** Stratford on Avon District Council and their local strategic partners held a public event entitled ***'The State of the District Debate'*** . Just as national government is involving the public in crucial decision making, the District Council and its partners want to engage with local residents about the big issues that affect them and the whole district. Previous debates have been held in the Council Chamber but this year the District Council is keen that this debate should involve as wide a group of residents as possible. A wide range of radical proposals was suggested as to where savings could be implemented. Also debate was robust as to what direction the District Council will take when the undoubted cuts are made. It is expected to hold further meetings before the Budget is finalized in February next year.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was distributed.

7. PLANNING: Three applications were discussed for comments to be posted on the planning website: Hillside Farm and Post Box Cottage.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

FINANCIAL STATEMENT July 2010 Appendix A

Avon Dassett Parish Council

Balance at close of business 30/6/10

Current Account	£852.16		
Savings Account	£5757.31		
Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting)		**Cheque No**	
Hilda Bacon	£97.50	1033	**
Clerk	£209.34	1034	
Sue Harris (June cleaning)	£10.00	1035	
Green Area Contractor	£140.00	1036	
Lily Hope-Frost	£14.97	1037	Compost
Lily Hope-Frost	£20.00	1038	Tub
Lily Hope-Frost	£119.76	1039	Compost
Total cheques	**£611.54**		

* This cheque had previously been authorised at the APDC meeting on 7.6.10.

Income

nPower £20.00 Refund for error in billing as requested by HHW

Warwick DC £200.00 Hire of RR for election.

BUDGET REVIEW: HHW went through planned versus actual expenditure. Cllrs approved current expenditure/income.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JB suggested that a list of routine 'green areas' maintenance jobs could be compiled to go in the September CC with a request for volunteers for next season.

JB discussed Fete displays and councillors agreed to work on this. **ACTION: ADPC's**

Clerk to send in a photo and a short written piece to go onto the display. **ACTION: HHW**

JB confirmed that Worrall sale had raised over £140 and additional items were still on sale.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 2nd August 2010. **The meeting closed at 9.05 pm**