Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 7th June 2010

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

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

Public: Kevin Martin

1. **APOLOGIES:** None
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None
3. **CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**: Proposed by AR, seconded by LHF.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**:

Community (LHF to lead)

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

LHF had little to report. She has received advice that if people see travellers attempting to settle on land at the weekends, they are to contact Councillor Chris Williams on 01295-770792.

During the meeting PC Katrina Pedlar arrived and reported a burglary at Spinney Bank earlier that day. Katrina encouraged extra vigilance and the use of Smart Water to mark property to assist in its recovery.

Roads (JB)

b) Traffic, Roads and Drains

Traffic- Frequency of visits of police enforcement camera- The Police prioritise mobile camera sites based on the severity of the speeding problem. A full speed survey is undertaken at each mobile camera site every six months. As this site has only just been set up, it's too early to say how regularly the Police will be enforcing on this road.

Roads- Some smallish holes appearing in road but will wait until drainage work is complete before reporting.

Badger update- Streetscene will remove bodies.

Drains- They are aiming to finish by the end of this week, though there might be a little bit of tidying up to do the following Monday, depending how much of a clear run they get in the next couple of days. The digging around service pipes and cables can cause delays and is completely unpredictable.

Overall everything has gone really well. The only significant delay has been a wait for Severn Trent Water to move and repair their pipe where our culvert crosses the road. This section is now fully working again after what must be decades of being disconnected.

Verges will be left as tidy as possible. The weather is currently conducive to successful re seeding of the areas.

LHF commented that the works have been very efficient and tidy. The men involved were to be complimented. The council agreed with these comments.

Environment/Maintenance (AR)

c) Playground: AR reported that Mark Worrall is to have the lease reviewed by his solicitor but does not wish to pay the legal charges for this and has sought the monies from the playground committee or ADPC. Sarah Rutherford of the Playground committee is currently considering a response to this request.

HHW informed AR that ADPC had received an order acknowledgement from Wicksteed which has been sent in error to the previous clerk, Margaret Maughan's address and was made out to

ADPC. She informed AR that she had contacted Wicksteed and spoken to Les who was going to amend the address details to Sarah Rutherford's address. HHW gave the paperwork from Wicksteed to AR for SR's information.

d) St John's:

LHF confirmed that Jo Cross is about to do a new sign for the church. In addition, Graham Nabb is doing one hour of bell ringing on St John's Day, 24th June, from 7pm. The event will celebrate 141 years since the church was opened. The bell ringing will be an annual event. Posters to advertise the event will go onto notice boards. ACTION: LHF & JB

The churchyard was strimmed 10 days ago. It was agreed that the agents would undertake this at the beginning and end of the growing season to assist ADPC to plan its works in the intervening time. ACTION: AR to advise agents

e) Upkeep of 'green areas'

John Glover has contacted AR to discuss the issues and concerns raised about the state of the green areas. John has confirmed that he will undertake a full days work this week. HHW confirmed that John had called her that day and reiterated this.

The quote for tubs was discussed and agreed:

11 x 27" tubs

6 x 17" tubs

4 x red geraniums per 27" pot

3 red geraniums per 17" pot

Total geraniums = 65 @ £1.50

Total cost of project: £97.50 to Sue Harris. ADPC thanked Sue for her work on this matter and look forward to seeing the results.

Communication/Administration (JB)

Post Office-A letter was requested from Larry to confirm that we would like the Post Office to continue if he sells his business. This has been confirmed by JB and delivered to Larry. Nothing has been heard on the matter since.

5. COUNCIL REPORTS:

1. **Elections** – As a result of the General Election our Parish has a new MP, Jeremy Wright who represents the new constituency of Kenilworth and Southam, created from parts of the former constituencies of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwick & Leamington, and Rugby. This year unlike the General Election of five years ago where only 58% voted, the turnout was 72%. Amazingly, Warwick & Leamington had a turnout of 85%, the highest in the country. One constituency, North Warwickshire, the Conservative candidate had a majority of 54 votes after three re-counts. Jeremy is very much a constituency MP and I know he wants to become involved with our community. At the same time as the General Election, there were County and District Council elections in our area. The County Council results did not alter the political balance but at the District Council the Conservative administration increased its majority by 1 over the LibDems.

2. **High Speed Rail Link** - The County Council has taken the lead as far as negotiations are concerned and working with various District and Borough Councils we are letting the Ministry of Transport know that we do not support the proposal to route the High Speed Link from Birmingham to London through Warwickshire but that they should consider more appropriate routes that follow the main transport corridor along the spine of England that basically follows the M1. Further consultation on this project is expected in the autumn.

3. **Travellers' Site in Warmington** – You may recall that travellers occupied land in Warmington last Spring Bank Holiday. They were refused planning permission when they tried to regularise their occupation. They appealled against the decision by the District Council to refuse planning permission but this Appeal was dismissed. This decision is considered a Landmark Decision and the travellers have been given 18 months to vacate. Originally, we had asked them to evacuate the site in four months but the Inspector quoting personal health and educational circumstances of the site occupants allowed them 18 months to find appropriate accommodation.

4. **Core Strategy** – The recent change of central government has produced a dilemma with regard to our Core Strategy. The previous government had a policy of imposing housing numbers on local authorities. The new government has already indicated that this policy will not be implemented and we will revert to the previous method of 'predicting and providing' housing allocation. Is essence, this has meant that the whole Core Strategy will have to be rewritten to accommodate the new philosophy being implemented. I will keep you updated of events.

5. **Community Development Fund** – For the fourteenth year we are continuing our much appreciated Community Development Fund from the County Council. The purpose of the fund is to help communities particularly in the more deprived parts of the County to address issues of local concern for them. Local organisations and community groups are able to apply for grants up to £8,000 for one off projects that will provide lasting benefits to their community. Regretfully, the rules are that if an organisation received a grant for a particular project last year, they are only eligible to receive funding once but they may apply on any number of occasions for different projects. We will be running a workshop for prospective applicants on Thursday 17th June at Stratford-upon-Avon. The purpose of this workshop will be for applicants to find out more information about the fund and to seek further help with their applications.

SR asked CW about sites for travellers in Warwickshire and CW confirmed that Warks CC is actively seeking inclusive sites as part of its core strategy.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: JB confirmed that ADPC was experiencing continuing difficulties with receiving the post to the correct address. JB and HHW have been working on resolving this for some months.

Correspondence was distributed.

7. PLANNING: No new applications had been presented.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Proposed by LHF and seconded by AR.

Balance at close of business 31/5/10

Current Account	£712.68
Savings Account	£6457.05

Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting)		**Cheque No**
Clerk	£290.45	1028
Sue Harris (May cleaning)	£10.00	1029
Green Area Contractor	£40.00	1030
Stratford DC Council Tax	£175.01*	1031
Green Area Contractor	£140.00	1032
Total cheques	£655.46	

* This cheque replaces cheque number 1013 (Found on p308 of minutes for April 2010) which did not arrive at the SDC and has been cancelled with the bank (26.5.10 by phone by HHW when the reminder arrived from SDC and the problem was identified). HHW also phoned SDC and explained about the missing cheque and appraised them that a new one would be issued from the 7th June meeting of ADPC.

HHW confirmed that Bill Robinson of WALC had undertaken a thorough internal audit of the accounts. The Council expressed their gratitude for Bill's work at short notice. ADPC had passed the audit. Mr Robinson had raised several points for the Council to consider:

1. HHW confirmed that she pays tax on her income.
2. HHW to sign Agenda's and post them 6 days before any meeting.
3. Items can be discussed under AOB at meetings but decision cannot be taken unless they have been tabled via the agenda. Decisions have to take place at regular meetings via an agenda posted 6 days previously, or emergency meeting.
4. Section 137 payments – anything non-standard has to be listed separately in the accounts.
5. Cheques ideally should be listed in the agenda. However with some invoices arriving on the day of meetings, it was agreed to issue cheques under and appendix system similar to Harbury. SR to provide details of this to HHW. ACTION: SR
6. New column in accounts to list minutes page where the cheque/s is/are listed. The Council felt that the current system was adequate.
7. Quarterly update on expenditure compared to budget. Supporting paperwork to be included in future.
8. HHW has been given authority to operate internet banking.
9. Possibly change page numbering of minutes. This was rejected by the Council who felt that the existing system worked very well.
10. If planning application comes from the parish and is supported by ADPC a comment should be registered. "No Comment" response is not acceptable. The Council felt that this referred to one case which was a one-off situation.
11. Who is responsible for the church graveyard? JB confirmed that SDC are responsible.
12. Document on computer detailing plots, who are in them and any reservations. This is held on paper and the Council felt that this is adequate.
13. Fidelity insurance? Half of precept plus all of deposit £10k. Insurance against someone running off with the money. David Hutt will look into this. ACTION: DH
14. Risk Assessment. Was already undertaken my JB and Bill Robinson.
15. Improve paying in book for handling the cash? Due to the small monies involved and the rigorous recording, it was felt unnecessary to change the system.
16. Receipts and Payments on computer in electronic form. Does this need to be in paper form too? This was not accepted as it would create more work which would be a cost to the Council.

The accounting statements were approved by the Council. The annual governance statement was approved by the Council.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JB reported that Nature Area photos and a piece sent to WALC at their request for inclusion in Annual Report

JB has been communicating with Roger Thatcher at SDC who has been enquiring about the ongoing use of the quarry for 4x4 events. Info has been passed to him from David Hick who continues to monitor the situation.

LHF noted that an energy supply company called EDF are currently in AD offering economic electricity. HHW confirmed that ADPC has recently renegotiated a 2 year deal which reduced their electricity costs however; EDF is worth remembering when this time elapses.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 5th July 2010.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm