Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 1st March 2010

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

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

1. Apologies: Andy Rutherford.
2. There were no declarations of interests.
3. The minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed save for the following amendments by Chris Williams and affecting his Council reports: **Budget** – It would seem that the District Council's budget will be settled at a figure of an increase in Council Tax of 1.5%. This equates to an increase for the District Council Band D Taxpayer of some 34p a month. There are no significant cuts in front line services but over £2 million of savings have been achieved through efficiency, natural wastage of labour and better use of partnership working.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Community

a) Policing: LHF gave an update on crime figures which appear to have risen. CW responded by stating that the figures were disputed by the police. LHF said there were no new developments with Neighbourhood Watch.

Roads

b) Traffic, Roads and Drains: JB has not received an update from Poonam regarding the speed enforcement camera.

Roads: Potholes at the crossroads with Arlescote have been filled but have deteriorated since. CW spoke to Patch on the 1.3.10 and the latter is formulating preventative measures.

JB confirmed that the exposed drain shaft near to the aforementioned crossroads has been dealt with.

The grit bin which was discussed at the last meeting has been purchased by Warmington Parish Council and has been positioned on the Arlescote Road, near to the crossroads with Avon Dassett Road. The bin has not been filled with salt yet despite JB requesting this. CW will speak to Patch and remind him to fill the bin with salt. **ACTION: Chris Williams**

ADPC had worked with Warmington Parish council on the procurement of the salt bin. ADPC has offered some financial support towards the purchase and are awaiting information from their clerk: Chris Walker.

Drains: JB read a report from Nigel Chetwynd, "A recent road survey at Lower End showed that it would be difficult to get surface water to flow round the bend and into the ditch."

"The CCTV survey carried out before Christmas showed up some significant problems further up the hill including blockages and old pipe work which is in poor condition."

"The best option would be to replace the poor section of the highway drainage system with a new 225mm pipe and also add additional gullys. This would mean that more of the flow water can be collected into the

drainage system thus reducing the amount of water that cascades down the road. If there is enough money left after this it may be possible to install a new section of highway drainage at the bottom of the hill near the bends to flow out to the ditch as originally intended."

Environment/Maintenance

c) Playground: JB suggested that as AR was not present, discussions on this matter would be carried forward to next month. JB confirmed that the playground sign had been put back onto the post.

JB requested that all Parish Councillors should consider maintenance requirements for their areas of responsibility. **ACTION: All ADPC Councillors**

JB had reported the state of the litter bin by the playground gates but nothing has happened.

The date of Saturday 24th April 2010, 10.00am onwards has been set for volunteers to meet and undertake a tidy up of the village. Date to be advertised in Compton Chronicle and on the website **ACTION: JB putting item into CC**

JB to seek assistance from the probation service to send a team to AD in the week ending 23rd April 2010 to tidy St John's churchyard. LHF and JB will meet the team at the churchyard to assist them in prioritising the works. **ACTION: JB and LHF**

d) St John's: LHF confirmed that the arrangements for the bellringers event are being finalised. An article about the event will go into the Compton Chronicle.

LHF asked for anyone to come forward who can volunteer to make sandwiches and cakes in anticipation of the 100 or so visitors who are expected to attend. The bell ringing will take place between 1-2.30pm. LFH to speak to Sandra Rice to discuss catering details and pricing of refreshments. **ACTION: LHF**

LHF confirmed that there will be some bell ringing on Easter Sunday around noon.

LHF will contact the Churches Conservation Trust and confirm that with the bellringing event and later, Open Gardens, it is not possible to hold another fundraising event in between. **ACTON: LHF**

e) Upkeep of 'green areas': All of the tenders were considered and it was decided to engage with three contractors in order to achieve value for money.

Mick Harris: Cemetery

John Glover: Verges

Michael Mann: Playground

Total cost of the works to be calculated and sent to SR. **ACTION: HHW**

Communication/Administration

Emergency Plan: JB stated that the Emergency Plan is not due for renewal until August. Andy Rutherford has some concerns about the roads but was not present to comment. JB asked the Councillors to look at their areas of responsibility and add any items for discussion to the agenda of the next meeting.

ACTION: PARISH COUNCILLORS

Parish Plan: Sandra is asking people to contact her if they need a copy of the

Welcome Pack.

Lay-by: CW gave an update and stated that the proposal was not supported. The reasons for this was that the cost was put at £25k, it would impact on 2 cars and therefore have little benefit to the community.

Nature Area: Pete Wallace putting sign up and a hedgehog box is being installed. This LHF reinstated her offer to fund one of the small animal houses. JB confirmed that the grant funds were almost fully utilised.

Beacon Event: JB will be arriving at this event at 9.30am on the 12th March and LHF will join her at around 11am.

Information from Balvinder needs publicising. **ACTION: JB to send info to HHW**

5. COUNCIL REPORTS:

District Councillor's Report

1. **Core Strategy** - The Draft Core Strategy is now out for consultation. In essence, there are no provisions for housing that could have an impact upon Avon Dassett. The nearest area is Kineton where there is a proposal to provide 200 houses on land behind Kineton High School. This does cause Kineton a dilemma inasmuch as any increase in housing provision would impact on the road infrastructure and would possibly lead to the rebuilding of Kineton High School. Interestingly, the Core Strategy also calls for the District Council to identify land to meet the demand of the Travelling fraternity. Currently, within our district the government has decided that we have an underprovision for travelers. This is proving difficult to resolve as it appears that there is a reluctance for communities to support land allocation for travelers. In conclusion, the thrust of the Core Strategy is to provide land allocation sufficient to meet government allocations. In reality the government is imposing 3000 houses more than we, the District Council, should be allocated. In the event of a new Conservative government replacing the existing government, we are claiming that one of their first projects would be to remove the burden of additional housing which would render the Core Strategy redundant for the time being.

2. **District Council Budget –** At the meeting of the District Council last Monday the Council Tax was set for an increase for next year at 1.5%. One of the recommendations from the Budget Debate was that Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council should enter into negotiations to share management costs. Examples quotes were a reduction from 2 to 1 Chief Executive and significant savings at senior staff level. It is anticipated that if implemented these savings could amount to approximately £500,000 per annum.

County Councillor's Report

1. **Highways** – After the euphoria last month of reporting that Avon Dassett had been successful in achieving grant support for its play area, I am sorry to say that the Parish Council's application for funding to provide a lay by for cars that park dangerously on the hill was not supported. This year funding has been reduced for such projects to cover the cost of repairs to potholes caused by the recent bad weather.

2. **County Budget** – The final budget was set at a figure of 2.4%. We have already started the process of evaluating next year's areas for disinvestment. It is highly probably that we will not be able to emulate this year's low figure. This is the lowest tax that has been set for over ten years.

3. **Fire Service** – You may have read in the paper that three Fire Officers were arrested in connection with the Atherstone Fire where four firemen died. The investigation into the Atherstone Fire is now with the Police Authority and the County Council consider the Police actions in arresting these firemen was excessive and unnecessary.

Fire Service Review – The Fire Chief has indicated that he will be in a position to report his

findings before the end of this month. It does appear that some of the original concepts that fire cover will be provided through the Oxfordshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire Fire Services have not crystallized. This has lead to a rethink as to how an improved fire service could be achieved with the drastic measures that were original proposed.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: Had previously been circulated. Several new items were brought to the attention of the meeting: Flood prevention literature and a sample, Consultation core Strategy letter with deadline for response, Parish election Procedures, Jo Whitehead letter regarding a house in AD, road Safety pack, Remittance advice from WCC regarding Nature Area.

7. PLANNING – Comments on Kennels: Whilst this application falls outside of Avon Dassett parish we wish to make the following comments:

1. As there is no existing agricultural activity on this site we question whether a dwelling should be permitted.

2. We question whether the breeding of greyhounds comes under the umbrella of agricultural activity. **ACTION: HHW to post comments on website**

Tree preservation order on The Old New House: Notice is still not posted on the WCC website.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: **Balance at close of business 01/3/10**

Current Account	£557.30
Savings Account	£5,462.19 **

** (Includes £434 from WCC: Nature Area)

Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting)		Cheque No
Clerk	£164.01	1003
W Sherriff (Feb coffee morning)	£9.19	1004
Banbury Farm Supplies	£20.68	1005
Pete Wallis	£80.00	1006
Jill burgess (kettle	£11.96	1007
Sue Harris (Feb cleaning)	£10.00	1008
Margaret Maughan (Norton Security)	£64.99	1009

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – LHF informed the meeting that she has joined the Warwickshire Rural Community council.

LHF gave an update on the parking on the village green. It was felt that this had improved.

Spring cleaning date for St John's set for 24th April.

Dog fouling signs to go up in parts of the village. CW to supply to JB. **ACTION: CW**

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Tuesday 2nd April 2010

The meeting closed at 8.55pm