Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Tuesday 6th April 2010

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

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

Public: Jenny Sherriff, Michael Carter, Pauline Carter, Audrey Butler, Jill Lewis, Mick Lewis, Mary Edgington, Heather Coupe.

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

Community (LHF to lead)

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

LHF explained that at the last meeting some figures had been submitted which had been disputed. In response to this an apology and explanation had been received from Patrick Devereaux who had confirmed that Avon Dassett remains a low risk, low crime area.

Neighbourhood watch had reported little with the exception of one individual causing ongoing problems. CW informed the meeting that the aforementioned person had been involved in a road accident and had been arrested.

Roads (JB)

b) Traffic, Roads and Drains

Traffic- Enforcement camera was spotted in the village after the last meeting. Poonam reported that the highest speed recorded was 31mph.

Roads- All pot holes from Top Lodge to crossroads with B4100 are scheduled to be mended. It was noticed that some had already been filled.

Jill met with Patch Byrne to look at footpath on Church Hill. Patch has agreed to patch the cracks for this year but the whole path will be resurfaced in 2011.

Fly tipped rubbish at the Arlescote side of the crossroads has been reported.

Drains- email from Nigel Chetwynd stated; Avon Dassett is the next drainage project he will be working on, after clearing other pending projects. He hopes to have the scheme prepared by the end of April and then agree a time slot with the contractor.

Environment/Maintenance (JB read AR's notes)

c) Playground

Playground lease is drafted and under review by the Worrall's. Further grant applications lodged and awaiting decisions. AR understands that Alysoun Glasspool has now submitted written applications for funds from PC and fete committee/Parish plan holdings. Inspection report contains all of the usual complaints and he will look to try and resolve some of these as we progress with the playground project.

d) St John's: Probation service visited on 20th March at the request of Martyn Dalman. Much of the scheduled work was completed. As this visit was not requested by us we have not been charged and the visit scheduled for 14 March will still go ahead. Work will be completed in the church yard and the over grown bank at Lower End will also be tidied up.

Graham, who leads the bell ringers, would like to ring St John's bells 6 times per year. LHF asked what the PC thought of Easter, Christmas, Harvest, St John's Day (24th June) and other major festivals. Everyone agreed this would be a marvellous idea.

1st May: LHF is looking for volunteers to provide food for the bell ringers. The numbers are likely to be around 100 people so if 10 people could provide 10 rounds of sandwiches and cakes could be donated, the day will be a success. The food will be sold at £1.50 for sandwiches, £1.50 for cake and 50p for tea. The bells will be rung between 1 and 2 pm. ***Anyone who would like to donate cakes or some time on the day should contact Lily.***

e) Upkeep of 'green areas' 307

JB thanked everyone for coming to share their thoughts on the upkeep of the village green areas and asked for their views to be shared over the next 10 minutes although the debate continued until 8pm:

Audrey Butler spoke on behalf of herself and her husband Bob. She confirmed that she had already written a letter to the PC. She felt that Mick Harris was good at filling in all of the ruts on the verges and keeping them looking good. She could not see how ADPC could fault his work and felt it was wrong that he had not been awarded this element of the work. She considered that there were other issues in awarding the contracts and suspected a clash of personalities. She commented that Mick had apologised for the difficulties he had caused last year. She said that many people in the village were upset by how the contracts had been awarded.

Mary Edgington read the conclusion from her letter. She said that the verges didn't include cutting and who was doing this. SR confirmed that this was part of that contract. She agreed that the council should award on economy but could not believe that Mick was not the cheapest. JB responded by saying that the tender's have been discussed at an open meeting last month and had been awarded on a fair and equitable basis. LHF and SR commented on how competitive the quotes had been this year.

Jill Lewis commented on the footpath up the hill stating that Mick had done a lot on this path. JB confirmed that Bitham residents had worked on this area during the past year. LHF added that only a small piece at the top of the hill needs to be done.

JB read through the procedure that the PC had followed:

1. None of the PC members has a personal or prejudicial interest in the awarding of these contracts.
2. 40% amount of the parish council budget was spent on village maintenance in 2009/10 (the figures are not yet complete because we are not at the end of the financial year yet). PC members unanimously agreed that this needed to be reduced - and the contracts awarded suggest that we will reduce this percentage by half
3. Four councillors met in December to walk around the village to look at the maintenance needs for 2010/11. A list of work was drawn up and agreed by all members. This was then put out to tender.
4. The tenders for village maintenance for 2010/11 were discussed fully at the PC meeting of March 2nd, which was open to the public.
5. The content of individual tenders is confidential.
6. Contracts were awarded on the basis of best value for money and risk, that being the risk of having all of the work awarded to one person and then that person being unable to fulfil the work for whatever reason.
7. Two out of the three contracts awarded have been accepted. We await confirmation from Mick at to whether he will undertake the work offered.
8. Volunteers are still welcome to assist in the maintenance of the village and we are grateful for all such help. There is a village volunteer day planned for 24th April.

SR stated that the PC would make a significant saving on maintenance of these areas and whole committee reinforced the fact that the contracts would go out to tender again in a year's time. JB added that last year some voluntary labour had been withdrawn and certain areas of the village had declined. It had cost the PC a significant sum to correct this situation and it was important that this was avoided in future. JB also went on to say how much the PC and village as a whole, recognised the efforts of Mary Edgington and Mick Harris.

SR undertook to respond to each of the letters which had been written to the PC on this area.

At the close of the debate, the public were invited to stay for the rest of the meeting which they did, with the exception of Audrey Butler who needed to return home.

Other information on the upkeep of village green areas. (JB read notes from AR) Cemetery car park - will carry out some fence maintenance prior to its use in May. Sheep may be back in that area for a week or two to bring the grass length down.

JB informed the meeting that she now has laminated dog fouling signs for anyone who would like one.

f) Village Spring Clean, 24th April (JB)

Outdoor jobs for the day: Bonfire in St John's Church Yard, cementing in of sign board at Nature Area, dig

out conifer under RR window and remove self seeded trees, strim verge opposite Avon Carrow lower entrance. Inside jobs will involve the cleaning of St John's.

g) Best Kept Village Competition (LH-F)

It was debated whether to participate this year but as the rules have not changed, it was deemed best not to.

Communication/Administration (SR)

The security for the laptop needs updating and SR is dealing with this.

Beacon Event: Held recently, this was a major success. JB and LHF had met senior representatives of business and councils. The ADPC website is highly regarded and held up as a model of excellence for other councils. JB and SR were thanks and praised for their work on this area.

5. COUNCIL REPORTS (C Williams)

Reports will be posted separately as not currently available to the Clerk.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Insurance renewal was discussed and it was agreed to reduce some cover and increase some excesses. HHW to write to Zurich to seek new quote on the policy. **ACTION: HHW**

Speed aware: JB commented on the posts and the replacement cost of £400. It was concluded that this was an excessive cost.

7. PLANNING: Knight's farm was discussed and SR, JB and LH-F made no representation. Comment on website pending awaiting comment from DH. **ACTION: DH and HHW**

Empty homes update from Carol Roberts: St John's cottage is being investigated and it is hope that progress will be made soon.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance at close of business 31/3/10

Current Account	£544.80
Savings Account	£5069.56

Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting)		Cheque No
Clerk	£179.87	1011
W Sherriff (March coffee morning)	£8.40	1012
Council Tax	£175.01	1013
Warmington & Arlescote PC (Grit Bin)	£197.65	1014
Sue Harris (March cleaning)	£10.00	1015
W Sherriff (April coffee morning)	£5.97	1016
WALC membership fee	£84.00	1017
Total cheques	£660.90	

Income	
Tess Richardson – Schooling horse in cemetery car park	£20.00
Gardening Club (Heather Coupe) – hire of RR	£ 5.00
Richard – Avon Carrow Management - Hire of RR	£ 5.00

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS Jenny Worral's set of RR keys will be held by LHF for her use as well as AR's use.

Jenny Worrall, on leaving the village, has donated a number of items for sale with the proceeds gong to the village cause.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: Jenny Sherriff asked about what could be done about a noisy cockerel. CW advised that this was acceptable in a rural setting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 10th May 2010. The meeting closed at 9.10pm