MINUTES OF AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 4th October 2010

1. APOLOGIES: Jill Burgess, Andy Rutherford.

   Public present: Michael Carter, Ray Randerson

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: SR and DH regarding planning for Park Drive Cottages.

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Proposed by DH, seconded by LHF, signed by SR.

4. MATTERS ARISING: ACTION

Community (LHF to lead)

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

LHF had received a report of excessive speeding which is being referred onto the police along with another driving issue.

At a recent police meeting the reported cases of anti-social behaviour had risen by 9%.

Keith Hicks of Fenny Compton Neighbourhood Watch has delivered three new signs to LHF for installation in AD.

Roads (JB to lead)

b) Traffic, Roads and Drains

SR read JB's note: Traffic - the next visit from Speedaware team is on 14th October. JB will request feedback from this visit.

Roads and drains- nothing to report

Environment/Maintenance (DH/AR to lead)

c) Playground – No update. **ACTION: HHW to seek update on lease and inspection report from AR**

d) St John's – LHF confirmed that the bells had been rung on Ride and Stride day which was supported by 14 visitors to the church. Graham Nabb will ring the bells at the Christmas gathering on the 19th December, the timings of which were confirmed: 5.00 pm Old Rectory drinks, 5.30 pm St John's, 6.30 pm Children's event at the Reading rooms.

LHF has identified a number of children who are keen to take part in the children's event on the 19th. Any interested in participating should make themselves knows to LHF or a member ADPC.

LHF will purchase supplies for the event including candles.

e) Upkeep of 'green areas'

SR read from JB's notes: All councillors met on 18th September to walk around the village to establish maintenance needs for 2011.

It was suggested that we have another volunteer day on Saturday 30th October 10.30 am at the Reading Rooms to tackle some small maintenance jobs and to replant the tubs. It was also suggested that we could invite the village children to assist with the planting.

ACTION: SR to advertise volunteer day and sponsoring tubs in the CC

LHF confirmed that the church is owed one more cut this year.

Issuing of tenders: It was decided that the mowing contracts would continue with some slight alterations: the cemetery cuts will increase from 7 to 10 per season. Mowing continues to be a major expenditure for ADPC and the council are concerned to keep costs down. It was decided that tenders would be invited with a deadline of 22nd November. Tenders will be discussed and awarded in December 2010. The process will be advertised in the Compton Chronicle and on notice boards in Fenny Compton and Avon Dassett. **ACTION : SR and HHW**

JB offered to meet with the new maintenance people and walk round the village with them once the

contract has been awarded.

f) Cemetery – review of rules

SR read the following note from JB: A document has been put together showing the events which led up to the use of plot 6 rather than plot 5. This will be kept in the Burial Folder. Hopefully it will be enough, come the 2011 audit, to clarify why the rules were not adhered to. I would recommend that in future the rules are followed as stated to save us further unnecessary personal distress and potential censure from external bodies. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

A document was discussed which integrated advice on the management of burial areas from various sources. It was decided that the current regulations would be modified to integrate many of these points. It was confirmed that plots would be allocated strictly in numeric order, that plots are numbered on the burial plan and that this would be adapted to include an area for cremated remains. The plan will be brought to the meeting in November 2010 for marking of the new area. Each plot for cremated remains will be of a specified dimension.

Chris Williams advised the Council to contact Fenny Compton PC to ascertain their regulations and also advised that change of use may require a planning application. **ACTION: HHW**

Ray Randerson addressed the meeting seeking clarification on who could dig the plots for the burial of cremated remains. The meeting concluded that this was a role for the undertaker or funeral director.

Ray Randerson will seek a deputy warden and present a list of candidates to ADPC.

Once the new plan is drawn up the master plan will be stored and maintained by the Clerk and a copy sent to the warden.

Communication/Administration

Remembrance Day – LHF will approach Fr Bill to see if he can attend. JB to approach Ian Hiley.

Christmas Cards – It was decided to sell the existing stock

5. COUNCIL REPORTS : County and District Councillor's Report presented by Councillor Chris Williams

1. **Waste Recycling –** The District Council recently received the accolade for being the 5th best authority out of 360 Boroughs and Districts for achieving over 62% of all waste collected being recycled. Last year we were proud to be rated 65th nationally and this rise to 5th is only achieved by the support of all the communities. There is still some way to go and we are aware that urban areas are not as efficient as recycling waste as the rural areas.

2. **Fiscal Matters –** The County Council is still evaluating ways in which we can achieve savings this year of some £20 million and over the next three years a total saving of £100 million. We have assumed that our reduction in finance will be based on a figure of approx. 25%. However, the government intends to announce a Savings Review on 20th October which could mean even greater reductions in our finance. We have already initiated certain changes in policy. For example:-

   (a) We are not being as active in the Speed Awareness Schemes as in previous years.
   (b) We are considering turning off street lighting in Warwickshire from 1.00 a.m. until 5.00 a.m. although this proposal is not supported by the Police. 60% of street lighting is concentrated in urban areas and the proposal will be to continue lighting at road junctions. Thought was given to reducing the brightness of the lights but the cost of installing dimmers in each light exceeds any fiscal saving.
   (c) In the Highways Division, to implement the savings required would mean we can only maintain roads on a 10 cycle and do little else. A proposal to reduce gritting to A-Class roads only has, I am glad to say, been rejected. The support previously given to the maintenance of footpaths and bridleways will undoubtedly have to be reduced.

Overall the policy framework will be based on the principle that those services for which we have a legal requirement will be maintained and those services which are identified as 'nice-to-have', but not essential will be cut.

There will be no Capital Projects within the Highways Division this year so I am afraid any proposals to realign, or materially change the highways will not occur.

3. **Concessionary Travel – P**reviously Concessionary Travel arrangements have been administered by Districts and Boroughs. From 1st April 2011 this service will be operated by the County Council. When the government introduced Concessionary Travel for everyone of pensionable age some two years ago, it was expected that the main beneficiaries would be people without access to their own transport to allow, for example, assisted travel from villages to local market towns for weekly shopping etc. Unfortunately, the provision of Concessionary Travel has been greatly abused. It was not expected, for example that people would use Concessionary Travel to visit Cheltenham Races, or to take their holidays in the Lake District paid for using Concessionary Travel. Under the new ethos, those who have a need for Concessionary Travel will be provided with the opportunity to receive assistance and those who can afford it will not receive the Concession.

4. **Age Concern –** Warwickshire has a significant problem inasmuch as it has an ageing population far greater than the national average. At the present time we are just about providing sufficient Care Homes in the County to meet demand but we the growing age problem and the shortage of capital finance it is recognized that we will not be able to provide sufficient Care Homes for the expected demand. It is an unfortunate statistic in Warwickshire that at least 80% of those people entering Care Homes die within 18 months. Rather than spending insufficient money on expanding the Care Home Service the proposal is that we improve the Home Care Support in the hope that people can stay in their own homes rather than transferring into Care. This is a process that is practiced in other countries and Warwickshire will be one of the first counties to adopt this initiative.

5. **High Speed Rail –** Evaluation of the High Speed Rail link between Birmingham and London continues. Modifications to the line through Warwickshire have been amended and I am pleased to report that they are proposing that the line passes 500 metres north of Ladbroke rather than through the village. The government has requested that proposals must be provided indicating that Manchester, Glasgow and beyond will be included with spurs to Birmingham Airport and, interestingly, to Heathrow. The government has also requested that rather than stopping at Euston, the line should connect through to the High Speed Rail link connecting St Pancreas with the Channel Tunnel. These proposals have delayed the consultation process until early next summer; originally Public Consultation was expected this autumn.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – was circulated. Documents from Mary Edgington were passed from Michael Carter to ADPC for the attention of JB.

JB's Note: A letter from Graham Raspin requesting the use of the Reading Room on 5th May 2011 for Election has been returned. Jenny Sherriff was notified of the date in a written note from the Clerk.

It was decided to add the support of ADPC to the NALC campaign opposing the possible postponement of the election. ACTION: HHW

7. PLANNING

The planning decision for Treetops Farm is still pending. A letter has been submitted to Stratford District Council concerning this planning application which states that the PC meeting scheduled for 13th September was changed 'at the last minute' and an individual was unable to attend. It should be noted that the Parish Council meeting scheduled for 13th September had to be brought forward to 6th September in order for it to be quorate. The statutory notices, as required by the Local Authority, were placed on village notice boards seven days prior to the meeting advising the parish of the new date.
A planning meeting was been set up for the 12th October to discuss Treetops Farm and No3 Drive Cottages.

Village Design Statement – It was confirmed that the VDS is currently with AR. LHF will ask AR to get the report to JB for feedback and then it will be sent on to CW who advised that the VDS will need to be adopted by ADPC prior to its consideration and potential adoption by SDC. **ACTION: LHF**

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT October 2010

Avon Dassett Parish Council

Balance at close of business 30/9/10		
Current Account	£1,048.46	
Savings Account	£8,503.75	
Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting)		**Cheque No**
Clerk	£293.49	1057
W. Sherriff	£8.60	1058
Green area contractor	£140.00	1059
Clement Keys	£141.00	1060
Sue Harris (June cleaning)	£10.00	1061
Michael Mann	£140.00	1062
Total cheques	£733.09	
Income		
Rental of Cemetery Car Park	£25.00	

Quarterly budget update was presented by HHW to the council. There were no questions.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - None

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: Michael Carter asked for clarification on who could use the play area as he was concerned that the equipment could be damaged by users who were too big for them.

ACTION: AR to confirm the specification of equipment for publishing at the playarea.

MC suggested that the PC could consider asking people to sponsor the tubs in the village. LHF confirmed that this was already under consideration but that there had not been a positive public response. SR went on to state that a number of people were watering the tubs in the growing season.

MC asked if the green areas should have a plan which marks out the areas for cutting. SR confirmed that this was being produced along with guidelines about avoiding the bulbs for at least 6 weeks after they had finished flowering.

Ray Randerson asked where the income was from for the Cemetery Car park. SR confirmed that it was from the schooling of horses.

RR asked that the car parking for open gardens should be subject to a charge and the income should go towards the upkeep on the Cemetery. The PC advised that Open Gardens is a charitable event and it was unlikely that the organisers would concede to this request but that Mike and Jill Lewis would be approached with this request. **ACTION: LHF**

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 1st November 2010

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.