Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 2nd August 2010

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

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

Public: Mike Lewis.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Andy Rutherford, David Hutt.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None

3. **CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**: Minutes proposed by LHF, seconded by SR.

Councillor Williams confirmed that the grants from Southam were not available to ADPC.

4.MATTERS ARISING:

Community (LHF to lead)

a. **Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch**

A large, expensive trampoline had recently been reported stolen. It was taken from a paddock/garden during the night.

LHF was pleased to report that generally Crimestoppers had achieved a number of arrests in the last year and that figures for burglaries and thefts were down.

b. **Traffic, Roads and Drains**

Traffic (JB): A reply has come from the speed management co-ordinator regarding feed back from police speed enforcement monitoring-'I doubt the information will be shared with the PC as the Police have a huge number of sites they monitor. To keep every parish informed of what is happening with each site in their ward is just not feasible I'm afraid as there simply isn't the resource to do that.'

Roads- all pot holes through the village were filled at the beginning of July. Outstanding jobs are few and include repairing the footpath on Church Hill.

Two street lamps, one in Park Close and the other opposite St Joseph's, were reported as not working on July 14th. Repairs were due to be undertaken within 5 working days of the report being received.

Drains- nothing to report. New drain cover in nature area still outstanding.

Environment/Maintenance (AR)

c) Playground: An update from AR was read by JB- 'Things are progressing well with the playground and it is anticipated that we will be able to provide a better picture of exactly where we are in September - by then I would hope to have finished the lease and the works should be done.' Councillors thanked the playground user group for the installation of the new equipment which was being heavily used.

d) St John's: JB and HHW confirmed that posters have been displayed and circulated via email for the proposed children's art competition. HHW offered to publicise the competition through church notices because of the religious links. **ACTION: HHW**

LHF confirmed that an extra cut had been undertaken by SDC through Chris Dobson and Matt Austin. The works were excellent and ADPC were grateful for this assistance. LHF had since had confirmation that a further cut would take place in September/October 2010.

LHF has reported a dead tree close to the boundary to The Old Rectory.

LHF had had a response from The Churches Conservation Trust on the possibility of installing a public convenience at the church. It was felt that the listing of the building, consequent building restrictions, lack of funds and lack of grants in the current economic climate, all indicated that the project could not be undertaken.

e) Upkeep of 'green areas'. JB read an update for AR. He reported that the growing season was coming to an end. JB suggested that the Councillors undertake their maintenance review by walking through the village in October to list what needs to be undertaken in the following year.

ACTION: Councillors

Communication/Administration (SR) None

JB had received a request from Warmington Fete for the load of the display boards for an art exhibition on 4th September. ADPC felt that as long as the boards could be returned within a couple of days, the request could be met.

A request was heard from Mike Lewis for the use of the cemetery car park on Saturday 14th August for parking for a family event. He kindly made a donation to ADPC of £10.

It has been suggested that the Open Gardens day contribute to the PC for the use of the cemetery car park on that day. ADPC discussed this and concluded that charitable events should not be subject to any extra costs, however, donations to ADPC from private functions would be welcome.

JB read a message from AR which stated that his work commitments meant that is was likely that he would have to stand down from ADPC in the next few months. He hoped that he would still be able to contribute in a more informal way after he leaves the council. Everyone at the meeting was sad to hear this news after all of the contributions which AR has made to AD and the Council.

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

1. **Fire Service Review** – The County Council debated the outcome of the consultation into the future of Warwickshire Fire Service on Tuesday 20th July. I am pleased to report that as a result of the consultation held at the end of last year, Fenny Compton Fire Station will not now be closed as was originally proposed. However, there will be some closures, namely, Studley, Warwick and Brinklow. The areas covered by those Fire Stations earmarked for closure will be serviced by Fire Stations that are either close in proximity, or enlarged by additional fire tenders. The main thrust of the Fire Service Review is far more than just deciding which fire stations are to close. It is all about producing a better fire service for Warwickshire. For example, real fire training at the Fire College at Morton-in-Marsh and improved management leading to a reduction in absenteeism will improve the availability of crews at full time and retained fire stations. Warwickshire was one of the poorest counties carrying out Home Fire Risk Assessments and to this end the Fire Service would like to publicise a free 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. **Windfarm at Knightcote –** The Planning Inspector dismissed the Appeal by Broadview Energy to site a 60m Meteorological Mast close to Knightcote. The Appeal was dismissed for the following reasons:-

   (a) It would have an adverse impact on the local landscape
   (b) The proposed mast would harm the local landscape
   (c) The proposed development would harm the character and appearance of the area
   (d) The Inspector was not convinced that the scheme would minimise the impact on wildlife
   (e) The Inspector was unable to deduce that the proposals by Broadview would comply with policy PR.1 which provides that proposals that would damage features of local distinctiveness would not be permitted unless significant public benefit would arise from the scheme

Despite not winning the Appeal, Broadview have indicated that they will submit an application in September for the erection of five Wind Turbines. The Planning Department has attempted to engage with Broadview but without success. SDC is currently preparing a master plan which indicates where, in our district, the siting of windfarms might be appropriate. I doubt that Broadview will come forward with the proposal that they demonstrated at an Exhibition held in Knightcote on Monday 12th July. The Inspector's comments clearly indentify that any such proposal would be in conflict with agreed policies. Time will tell if their aspirations come to fruition with a planning application. Currently, Warwickshire is identified as an unsuitable location for the production of alternative energy due to poor meteorological conditions.

3. **High Speed Rail** – The proposed Public Consultation into the route of HS2 between London and Birmingham which was scheduled to be heard in the autumn, has been deferred until the spring. Certain additional requirements have been added by the government. Namely the route should connect with HS1, the Channel Tunnel link; a spur should be erected going directly to Heathrow and the feasibility into continuing beyond Birmingham to Manchester and Glasgow are to be added to the Feasibility Study. Currently, the government has been unwilling to provide technical information, namely noise envelope and technology to be used on the line when it is constructed. Until this information is available the County Council is in a difficult position with regard to either supporting, or opposing the proposal. As it stands, the view is that the route would cause extreme harm to residents of Warwickshire and this harm greatly outweighs the economic benefit that might accrue to the West Midlands.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton Division - WCC
Member for Fenny Compton Ward - SDC
27.07.10.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was distributed. It was decided that the information on Open Spaces would be made available at the coffee morning on 3.8.10. **ACTION: HHW**

7. PLANNING: There were no new applications.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Balance at close of business 31/7/10

Current Account	£971.09	
Savings Account	£5,363.32	
Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting)		**Cheque No**
Clerk	£157.75	1040
Sue Harris (June cleaning)	£10.00	1041
nPower	£17.27	1042
W. Sherriff	£7.66	1043
W. Sherriff	£6.21	1044
Green area contractor	£140.00	1045
Total cheques	£338.89	
Income		
Feldon Archaeology	£5.00	
Sarah Richardson (Rent for field)	£10.00	
Mike Lewis (Donation)	£10.00	
Total	£25.00	

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

LHF summarised the recent Open Garden Event. There were 411 visitors generating £2,055. Teas generated £742.50, plant sales, £56.00 and a donation of £3.25 giving a grand total of £2,856.75. LHF recognised the great works by many volunteers in AD to make the day the success it was.

LHF had received her home fire safety check. She found it to have been very professional and would recommend others to undertake the service which is free of charge.

ADPC confirmed that the Christmas Gathering will take place on the 19th December 2010, commencing in the early evening

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 13TH September 2010.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm