Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 10th May 2010

The meeting opened at 7.45pm following on from the AGM

Present: Jill Burgess, David Hutt, Lily Hope-Frost, Andy Rutherford, Helen Hide-Wright,

Public: Michael Carter.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Sarah Richardson, Chris Williams
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None
3. **CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**: Proposed by AR, seconded by LHF.

JB highlighted an amendment to last month's meeting: Page 307, Paragraph 3. Second sentence should have read "the verges didn't include STRIMMING" rather than "cutting."

4. **MATTERS ARISING**:

Community (LHF to lead)

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

LHF had nothing to report. The one email she had received on the subject from Keith Hicks of Fenny Compton referred to a situation a significant distance from Avon Dassett.

Roads (JB)

b) Traffic, Roads and Drains

Roads- Cracks on the pavement over the motorway bridge have been mended.

Complaint received from the residents of Home Farm House with regard to the deterioration of the patches in the road outside their front door. Information passed on the Patch Byrne for action.

Regarding dead badgers on the roadside, Highways will remove them from the carriage way onto the verge. There does not seem to be a responsible department for removing them from verges.

Drains- email from Nigel Chetwynd- A work gang is due to start week commencing 17th May. A completely new highway drainage system will be installed from opposite St Joseph Church down to just behind the bus stop. There will be 6 new gully's connected to the new pipe and 2 sections of pipe to replace a little further up the hill. The existing old stone culvert will be left in place as a secondary system and also because it might well have other things connected to it.

There is also a little more jetting and drain survey work to do at the bottom of the hill on the double bend to make sure that separate part of the system is working properly. It should take about 3 weeks to complete, but as always depends on weather and what utilities are encountered. There should not be much disruption as most of the work is just within the verge or at the very edge of the road.

Environment/Maintenance (AR)

c) Playground

The draft lease remains with Mark Worrall. AR confirmed that Mr Worrall was busy at present but he did not foresee any problem with him signing the 25 year lease.

AR confirmed that the Playground fundraising was going well with £10,300 in their funds. This consists of money fro the Fete committee, a SDC grant, raffle income, the Co-op and several other donors. AR and the PC thanked the Playground Committee for their work on this

area. AR hoped that private donors would now start to contribute to the funds.

The committee requested an update on the funds which were available to them from ADPC. After some discussion it was agreed that a sum of £1,000 was confirmed and could be released to the project once Mark Worrall had signed the 25 year lease.

JB thought that the remaining £400 of funds should be retained to assist the Village Design Group.

d) St John's: LHF confirmed that she has submitted a piece to the Compton chronicle and the ADPC website via SR.

The recent bell ringing event had been a huge success and a very pleasant day. Around 160 bell ringers attended. SR, LHF, JB, Margaret Maughan and Suzanne Kirkbright had served the refreshments which were enjoyed by the attendees. Their efforts were much appreciated. The Inn at Farnborough provided a sumptuous range of sandwiches and a lovely range of cakes were supplied by many people in the village.

AR noted that there is a bee's nest near to the door of the church. He is going to enquire about moving the nest in the hope of preserving the bees. **ACTION: AR**

e) Upkeep of 'green areas'

AR: The village Tidy up Day had been successful in terms of tasks undertaken. It was a pity that more Villagers had not turned out to assist in the work and it is hoped that more will come along to future days. The Church cemetery had been mowed and strimmed and was looking good. A new sign has been installed into the nature area and weeding was undertaken there too.

Issues have been raised by a number of residents concerning the works undertaken on the day and these have all been answered by the PC in writing. Correspondence is on file. AR commented that the people operating the equipment used to strim the weeds and spray them were proficient in their use of these pieces of equipment. No-one in the play area had raised any concerns on the day or subsequently.

AR had walked through the village afterwards with John Glover to show him what had been done. John is keen to complete his work and ADPC noted the high standards he has achieved already, the difference he has made to the village and the positive comments received from the public.

JB commented that the green areas are a fluid part of ADPC's work in that the scope of the work changes year on year as well as during the season's. ADPC continue to welcome feedback to the Councillors where there are concerns (and praise!) for the works being undertaken. The individual contractors undertake works for ADPC and therefore any concerns or comments about their work should be dealt with through (the) ADPC rather than directly with the contractors.

Overall the tidy up day had achieved many tasks. The next day would be publicised with fliers in the Compton chronicle in the hope of encouraging more volunteer to come forward. ACTION: LHF

JB and LHF spoke about the strimming at the Graveyard section of the Church. AR offered to strim this area every 3 weeks or so. JB was delighted with this offer and it was agreed with thanks to Andy.

<u>Communication/Administration</u> <u>(JB)</u>

Parish Plan Update- VDS- Document now in final draft – the team are in process of printing a sample copy off and costing up production. JB will update the PP Action Plan on the website.
ACTION: JB

5. COUNCIL REPORTS: Due to the General Election there were no council reports for this month's meeting

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Insurance renewal was discussed and it was agreed to stay with the original quote as the changes to cover which were looked at did not result in a major reduction in the premium.
ACTION: HHW to renew policy and issue cheque.

Correspondence was handed out. JB asked if anyone was interested I joining the Warwickshire Community council. No-one declared an interest in this.

7. PLANNING: No new applications had been presented. The Clerk confirmed that the amended plans had been dealt with via comments on the Council Website. She had give feedback to the Council asking them to be clearer in what the amendments were and providing feedback dates.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance at close of business 30/4/10

Current Account	£729.18
Savings Account	£7906.87

Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting)		**Cheque No**
Clerk	£212.00	1018
Sue Harris (April cleaning)	£10.00	1019
Mowing contractor	£40.00	1020
Npower	£390.08	1021 **
Npower	£13.77	1022 **
Npower	£17.08	1023
Zurich Insurance	£649.58	1024
W. Sherriff (May coffee)	£3.91	1025

Cheques 1021 and 1022 have been cancelled due to Npower issuing new invoices. New invoices came after these cheques were written and before a credit note was issued to cover the original amounts. New cheques need to be issued for £469.12 and £16.42 respectively once new cheque book arrives.

Total cheques £932.57

Cash: £2.90 for sale of postcards. Action HHW to bank 11.5.10

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JB reported receiving a letter from Mary Edgington dated the 13th April 2010. She will be addressing this letter. After discussion it was decided that:

Letter from Mary Edgington-

1. The quote from the minutes *should* state strimming and not cutting. The minutes have been amended accordingly.

2. We cannot include detailed information on all subjects therefore the summary in the minutes should stand. Minutes by definition are an overview of a meeting and generally consist of a list of action points and who is responsible for carrying them out.

3. The two questions asked by Mary in her letter about the benefits to the village in changing the verges contractor were covered in our reply to her. Anyone wishing to see the original letter and/or our reply should get in touch with the Clerk.

4. Regarding the final point of Mrs. Edgington's letter, the contribution made by the clerk during the discussion on mowing tenders, we sought clarification on this matter from Alison Hodge, County Secretary for Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils whose job it is to represent and advise Parish and Town Councils. She replied: 'as the advisor, chief

administrator and proper officer for the council, the clerk has every right to address the council in order to give information'.

JB will reply to Mrs E with the above information.

AR confirmed that he too had received a letter from Mary Edgington regarding the work at Lower End. He has written and delivered a response to this letter which is now held on file with the clerk along with Mary's letter to him.

JB had been approached by Ariadne Uslu via the Clerk to see if ADPC would enter the Best Village Competition because of the Nature Area Project. After discussion the ADPC decided we should not enter the NA for the competition as the village has made its position clear on this matter in the past not to put itself forward because of the onerous paperwork involved with the competition. JB will register this with Ariadne.
JB will send a copy of the chair's report and some photo's and a piece on the nature area for inclusion in WALC's annual report.
ACTION: JB

LFH confirmed that after costs, she had been able to send £276.00 to the Churches conservation Trust from the bell ringing event.

Dog Fouling signs are available from JB.

Ian Highly has produced a very professional "coffee table" book of photography of Avon Dassett. The book was circulated at the meeting and gained high praise. It was felt that it would be popular throughout the village and therefore the Council would publicise its availability. The price is confirmed at £10.00.

A date was fixed for the sale of goods donated by Charlie and Jenny Worrall Sat 19th June, 10am to 2pm, Reading Rooms. JB and LHF will run the event. All proceeds will go to village projects.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 7th June 2010.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm