Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 6th September 2010

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

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

Public: Ray Randerson, Alistair Fraser.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Andy Rutherford, Councillor Chris Williams.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** Non-prejudicial interest, Sarah Richardson and David Hutt re: 1 and 2 Drive Cottages and Park Drive. Note: A non- prejudicial interest was declared by S Richardson at the planning meeting held on 23rd August 2010.

Jill Burgess**:** Village Design Group includes JB's husband and friends.

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

4. **MATTERS ARISING**:

Community (LHF to lead)

a. **Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch (LHF)**

The maintenance equipment belonging to Robert Gregory has been stolen recently. Ray Randerson and Alistair Fraser confirmed that a number of other, similar thefts, had taken place in the last week.

b. **Traffic, Roads and Drains**

Traffic (JB): Traffic- no update.

Roads- cracks in carriageway along the length of Farnborough Lane have been reported. JB has requested an update on the repair of cracks in Church Hill pavement. The dead badger was reported and removed at the beginning of the month.

Drains- drain blockage at Bitham Hall back gates has been reported.

Environment/Maintenance

c) Playground: No further information.

d) St John's: Art Competition - No entries have been forthcoming.

LHF – Graham Nabb has confirmed that he will be ringing the church bells for ¾ of an hour on the 11th September at 1.30 pm. The Ride and Stride Documents are in the church and Georgina Runnicles has been actively publicising the event. Thanks go to Georgina.

LHF has reminded Matt Austin about the need to complete the work in the churchyard.

e) Upkeep of 'green areas'. It was decided that on the 18th September, 10 am at the Cemetery, the PC's will meet to walk through the village and identify ongoing and one-off maintenance needs for the following year. It was agreed that the area in front and around the reading rooms needs to be dealt with, including the removal of the bushes in front of the notice-board**.** This will be undertaken by PC's on 18th

Communication/Administration (SR) None

JB: Made a statement about decision making for ADPC: "As I have recently been called upon, as Chair of the PC, to make a decision outside of a Parish Council meeting I though it might be helpful if the situation was clarified. This is a quote from Alison Hodge, County Secretary of the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils:"

'...it is illegal to delegate power to an individual councillor including the chairman, to make decisions unilaterally…'

5. COUNCIL REPORTS: County and District Councillor's Report 324

Councillor Williams had informed that Clerk in advance of the meeting that there was no report for this month and was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was distributed. Npower have confirmed that their recent billing was erroneous with the readings being transposed. The matter has been dealt with and the council has received a £30 credit.

7. PLANNING: Three applications were discussed and comments registered for the clerk to enter on the SDC planning website. **ACTION: CLERK**

Village Design Statement: Draft VDS document was circulated for comments.

Email from the Urban Design Officer at SDC to S Mullane outlining what is currently happening.

"Congratulations on your hard work on this project."

"The draft document would need to go through a process of consultation with officers here at the District Council, and comments may be made on the content of the document, which may require some amendments in line with District Council policies. The draft document would then need to go to the East Area Committee to be formally adopted by the District Council as a material consideration."

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: September 2010

Balance at close of business 31/8/10		
Current Account	£980.20	
Savings Account	£5,003.54	
Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting)		**Cheque No**
Clerk	£201.83	1051
Sue Harris (June cleaning)	£10.00	1052
Chubb	£98.41	1053
W. Sherriff	£6.91	1054
Green area contractor	£140.00	1056
Clerk (baby sitting)	£15.00	1057
Total cheques	£472.15	
Income		
Npower credit for billing error	£30.00	
Humphris	£200.00	

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: JB informed the meeting that the money from sale of Worrall's donated goods- is currently £378 and will be banked by the Clerk tomorrow.

Well done to the fete committee for putting on another great day and evening.

The smoke alarm information is now on the website.

JB reminded everyone that two compost bins are still available should anyone want them.

The PC was sad to hear the news of the death of Pat Mitchell.

Cemetery: The Clerk read the following statement: "Had I known on Wednesday evening what I know now, I could have stated categorically that graves have to be allocated sequentially, without exception."

"However, on Wednesday evening I was presented with having to make a decision. My lack of experience meant that the matter was referred to the PC with my guidance which was to follow sequence. I sought guidance from NALC and our internal Auditor but their responses came in after the emergency meeting on Friday."

"Whilst the decision affecting the forthcoming burial clearly cannot be changed, all the advisors and an independent Parish Clerk have confirmed that plots have to be allocated in sequence without exception."

"I apologise that the lack of time to research this matter fully and my lack of experience in dealing with burials for ADPC has lead to a decision taking place which now clearly breaches the regulations of the cemetery. I can assure you that no further compromises will be made to the policy and trust that we are all now clear, including the Cemetery Warden, on what the policy is on the allocation of plots."

The Parish Councillors agreed that the next plot to be allocated will be number 5 and regretted the breach of regulations which was made on compassionate grounds. They agreed that the rules will be adhered to in future.

The regulations of the Cemetery are available on the ADPC website.

Review of Cemetery Rules will be included on the October Agenda

Ray Randerson requested to be kept informed of what is happening at the Cemetery. The Councillors confirmed that he should liaise with the Clerk for this information.

Ray Randerson asked about the maintenance of the Cemetery and JB confirmed that the contract had been offered to a contractor who has subsequently declined the work, some time into the cutting period. This left the area without a contractor and Andy Rutherford volunteered to undertake the mowing of the cemetery for this season The maintenance of green areas is about to undergo its annual review and hopefully the matter will be resolved when new contracts are offered.

Date of next meeting: 4th October 2010

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm