MINUTES OF AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 1st November 2010

1. APOLOGIES: Andy Rutherford. Councillor Chris Williams notified that he would be late in attending.
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: SR and DH regarding planning for Park Drive Cottages.
3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Proposed by LHF, seconded by DH, signed by SR.
4. MATTERS ARISING: ACTION

Community (LHF to lead)

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

There have been reports of dangerous driving in the village, anyone seeing such incidents should report them to PC Rod joy with as much information as possible.

LHF has attended two police meetings recently and the following matters are highlighted: There is a chief Constables Award for an outstanding Neighbourhood Watch participant. Secondly, Speed Aware packs are available from PC Rod Joy. JB is seeking a poster to put up which LHF will chase up on her behalf.
ACTION: LHF

The horse that had been reported missing has been located. It had bolted.

Roads (JB to lead)

b) Traffic, Roads and Drains

JB presented the results of covert traffic survey which took place on 14th September

NE bound 7 cars - average speeds 40mph SW bound 7 cars - average speeds 29.5mph

JB has asked to be informed if any action is planned regarding the 40mph speeds.

Roads: The markings which have appeared on the village footpaths are for the proposed slurry seal sites next year, they will be done providing budgets are still available to cover the proposed amount, if not sites may have to be reduced or removed. Depending on budgets it may necessary to defer some activities completely.

DH raised the issue of a recent and serious road accident at the cross-roads of AD and Arlescote. The Air Ambulance and Fire Service were in attendance. Comments were made upon the safety issues of that stretch of road and the speed of traffic. LHF will make enquiries about the accident to see if ADPC need to take the matter further. ACTION: LHF

DH also noted the decline in the condition of the bridge near the B4100. It appears to have sagged once more which is a hazard to any vehicle going at speed. JB undertook to raise the issue with Patch Byrne. ACTION: JB

Drains- nothing to report.

Environment/Maintenance

c) Playground (LHF) – Sarah Rutherford is looking into play equipment in the end of season sales. The Playground group currently hold £2k, with the fete committee set to donate a further £2k and ADPC due to provide another £1k once the 25 year lease is signed (and not until this is completed). The signing of the lease has not progressed. The land has not been registered and consequently the Fete Committee are investigating the registration and relevant legal fees.

d) St John's (LHF) – A leaf blower is being sought to use prior to the Carol Service on the 19th December. **On the 18th December there will be a general tidy up session at St John's from 10am.** Pews need to be dusted and leaves cleared away. **All volunteers are welcome to help get the church ready for our annual gathering.**

LHF has purchased candles for the event at a cost of £16.49. Drinks have been purchased on sale or return so the final invoice will be provided to ADPC after the event.

e) Upkeep of 'green areas'

The verges have had an extra cut. Consideration will be given to a further cut in November if the PC feels that it is necessary.

Village tidy up day: **A big thank you to everyone who assisted in planting, digging and pruning on 30th. Thanks to Margaret Maughan for the donation of plants for the nature area.** All jobs on the list were completed. It was lovely to see some young members of the village taking part. The pruning of the berberis outside the RR has revealed that one window will need some attention in the near future. The bench by the lower notice board also requires some attention. After discussion it was decided to ask Pete Wallace to quote for the work. ACTION: LHF

Councillor Chris Williams arrived at this point in the meeting.

The upkeep of the flower bed by the playground needs to be considered. It was decided to write a piece for the Compton Chronicle describing all areas which will need some input and ask for volunteers to take on the routine maintenance or suggest what should be done.

HHW confirmed that only one quotation for 2011 has been received and this covered all areas of work for AD.

f) Cemetery – review of rules

JB recapped upon the initial establishment of the AD Cemetery: The lawn grave area was designed on the war grave principle (to have only a memorial of limited size at the head of the grave with the rest of the grave laid to lawn). In this manner the limited area available for burial is best utilised. In addition maintenance is easier to accomplish with large mowing machinery being used to keep the area in a neat condition.

JB told the meeting that she had been informed that it is usual for up to four burials of cremated remains can be interred in a plot where a burial has previously take place

It was decided to slightly alter the drafted cemetery rules: Nothing can be planted on burial plots or plots for cremated remains with the exception of spring bulbs. Plots for cremated remains can be marked by unpolished light natural stone- clarification is to be sought on exact size of marker stones. Chris Williams will make enquiries in to who would be the best person to approach with regard to this. ACTION: CHRIS WILLIAMS

An area was selected for the burial of cremated remains. A new plan of the cemetery will be drawn up professionally. HHW will investigate this.

Communication/Administration (SR to lead)

Village Design Statement – CW commented on a number of aspects of the VDS: There is no map in the current document and this is necessary. Agricultural considerations need to be included also. The list of suppliers should be removed as it implies a preference. The report also needs to be more localised. JB acknowledged the comments.

Prior to CW's council reports, SR noted the recent report on the implications surrounding the cuts in housing benefits in the local area. CW said the report was being reviewed by the Council.

5. COUNCIL REPORTS – Councillor Chris Williams

1. **Fiscal Matters –** Inevitably, the main focus of the County Council's activities centres around producing a balanced budget for the next three years. The details of Wednesday's Comprehensive Spending Review by the Coalition Government concentrated on dealing with the national deficit. Public sector bodies throughout the country are all having to play their part and Warwickshire County Council is facing its biggest spending challenge to date. Although exact figures are still to be confirmed we may face an unprecedented funding gap of some £60 million over the period 2011-2014. As I have been updating the Parish Council over the last few months, WCC has been planning for the challenges ahead. WCC has already made significant efficiency savings but the reality is that this is not enough to close the gap. Major changes will be required which will undoubtedly have an impact on all our services and there will have to be tough choices when it comes to implementing the cessation of some services completely.

For example, some of the savings yet to be evaluated cover such issues as closing, or limiting the opening times, of household waste recycling centres; considering how much subsidy should be given to bus services; safety camera activity; highways maintenance activities and countryside activities such as charging to use country parks and limiting the activities of the Countryside Access Team. All worthy causes but will have to be balanced against the supply of finance.

We will shortly invite the residents of Warwickshire to comment upon our proposals.

2. **High Speed Rail -** The government has announced amendments to the initial proposal to construct a High Speed Rail link between the Midlands and London. These modifications include introducing softer gradients thereby minimizing the use of viaducts and in the case of Ladbroke, altering the route to some 500 metres north of the village. The government has also indicated that the line should be extended beyond Birmingham and on to the north-east in one direction and Manchester and Scotland in the other direction. The link will also have a spur to Heathrow and the original proposal to end at Euston has now been abandoned and the current thinking is for the line to join up with HS1 and the direct link to Europe via the Channel Tunnel. The final proposals will be available for consultation in late spring/early summer next year but it does appear that the Coalition Government has made a commitment to underwrite the cost of the project which it is intended to be privately financed.

3. **Governance –** The District Council in an attempt to reduce costs is considering reducing its present number of elected Members from 53 to nearer 40. This will result in the present 3 and 2 Member Wards probably being reduced to single Member Wards. It will require a government boundary review which will probably be carried out at the end of 2011. Once the new boundaries have been decided there will be an election, possibly in 2013 where every member of the Council will be required to stand re-election. Presently, the Council is elected by thirds and it is hoped that the new system will bring Stratford into alignment with other districts where elections are held for the full council on a four year basis. The disadvantage of this proposal for Parish Councils is not only will they have an election next year, but a strong possibility of a further election in two years time. Parish Councils are presently co-terminus with their District Councillor. Interestingly, next year's election will require two elections, one for the District Council and at the same time the Referendum will be held regarding the Alternative Voting proposal. The following week the Parish Council elections will be held. Apparently, it is not possible to conduct three elections on the same day.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Was distributed.

HHW read an email from npower which had arrived on 1.11.10 requiring a response by 2.11.10 regarding the renewal of the unmetered inventory and unmetered supply certificate. HHW confirmed that she had responded stating that nothing had changed. She also requested greater notice in future.

JB asked if the PC would like her to complete two questionnaires on behalf of ADPC: Open spaces questionnaire and Rural Services Questionnaire. The PC agreed to the proposal. ACTION: JB

7. PLANNING

- Affordable housing

JB read an email from Phil Ward- Rural Housing Enabler. Land previously identified was found to be unsuitable. However another plot has been identified and is under review. Phil Ward is in discussions with Planning and the land owner and will report back to ADPC.

<u>Update on planning meeting 18th October 2010</u>

Planning Application: 10/01580/FUL erection of temporary log cabin for equestrian/agricultural worker and part change of use of existing agricultural barn to equestrian use.

ADPC had nothing further to add to previous comments.

As two members of the Parish Council had declared a prejudicial interest in planning applications 10/02040/LBC and 10/02024/FUL and one member was unable to attend the meeting, after consultation with members of the council not having a prejudicial interest, it was agreed to pass a resolution to delegate power to the clerk to make a response on behalf of the Parish Council. The delegation is possible under the Loc Gov Act 1972 s101.

Proposer: Jill Burgess Seconded by: Andy Rutherford

When the resolution was passed Sarah Richardson left the meeting.

Comments were made about the size of plans received recently and the Clerk logged a comment on behalf of the Parish Council. The response was as follows: "As a cost saving measure all plans sent out to Ward and Parish Council's are now being sent A3 to scale. If any residents wish to view the plans on a larger please do not hesitate to contact us and we can then arrange a viewing of at our offices in Elizabeth House, Church Street." ADPC continues to question the viability of such small scale plans. CW commented that it is likely that all plans will be in electronic form soon. The PC felt that this would raise another set of challenges when considering plans at their meetings. SR noted that often there are no support documents on the website and suggested that the PC log each time that this occurs in order to encourage an improvement in the service.

Planning matters considered at the current meeting (1.11.10)

Due to the Declaration of interest made by SR and DH, JB proposed that they leave the meeting at the end of the main session once power had been delegated to the Clerk. This was accepted unanimously.

The following applications were considered:

Treetops Farm: No comments

Old School: No Comments.

No 4 Park Drive Cottages LBC and FUL: were considered later in the meeting once DH and SR left.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT November 2010.

Appendix A

Balance at close of business 31/10/10

Current Account	£1149.23	
Savings Account	£7754.03	
Cheques issued (Prepared prior to meeting)		**Cheque No**
Clerk	£206.03	1063
S. Richardson (Refund for pansies)	£30.00	1064
Green area contractor (extra cut)	£70.00	1065 ****
W. Sherriff	£10.65	1066
Green area contractor	£140.00	1067
Sue Harris (cleaning)	£10.00	1068
NPower	£17.47	1069
L. Hope-frost (Candles)	£16.49	1070
Total cheques	£500.64	

**** Note: This cut was over and above the agreed quotation and agreed by ADPC as a one off extra cut.

Cheques were signed by JB, countersigned by LHF.

Income

JB: Sale of compost bin following advert in CC	£10.00 cash
S. Richardson (Schooling of horses)	£20.00 cheque

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Village Design Statement (JB) - feed back from ADPC has been passed on to the team. CW has had a copy of the draft document for comment (see earlier comments). The team has received some feed back from SDC which they are working through at the moment.

Remembrance Day wreath laying is on Sunday 14th November at 12.15 at the War Memorial. All welcome.

Christmas Cards will be on sale at the Coffee morning tomorrow and possibly the December one too if stocks allow. The cards will also be on sale at the Avon Pub on 21st November from 12.00.

LHF noted that the road beneath Fenny Compton Rail Bridge will be closed to all but pedestrians on 14th November from 8.00 am until 5.00pm.

At this point SR, DH and CW left the meeting (9.25pm). LHF, JB and HHW remained. The planning application for No4 Park Drive Cottages was discussed. The comment to be lodged was that the drive is a shared private drive not simply a private drive associated with one property.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.