Minutes of Avon Dassett Parish Council

Monday 4th January 2010

Present: Jill Burgess, Sarah Richardson, David Hutt, Andy Rutherford, Helen Hide-Wright, Chris Williams.

1. Lily Hope-Frost sent in her apologies.
2. There were no declarations of interests.
3. The minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed.
4. MATTERS ARISING:

Community

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch: There was nothing to report

Roads

b) Traffic, Roads and Drains : The drains have been cleaner and checked with no apparent problems found. JB has contacted Patch Byrne for feedback on the inspection ands is awaiting his response. The potholes reported last month have not been repaired. It was thought that the cold weather has halted repairs for the time being. JB has reported the potholes again.

Environment/Maintenance

c) Playground – AR summarised the recent inspection report findings. There were no major concerns. He suggested to the ADPC that a decision on the playground should be deferred until the February meeting when he hoped that a couple of members of the playground committee could attend and report on the way forward. ADPC agreed with this proposal.

d) St John's : The current works are on-going. Nothing new to report.

e) Upkeep of 'green areas' : The parish Councillors met on the 29th December and walked through the village to establish what maintenance was required. A list has been produced to assist in the tendering process. It has been decided that sheep could graze the car park area by the grave yard, keeping the grass down and reducing the costs to the Parish Council to maintain the area. It was decided that if this went ahead, a notice should be fixed to the gate, detailing the owners contact number in case of emergency such as the sheep escaping.

Grass cutting tender process will commence shortly. JB and HHW to meet and discuss the way forward. Action: JB & HHW

Compton chronicle article to be prepared communicating the strategy to villagers and inviting other cost saving ideas to be put forward. Action: JB

Communication/Administration

5. COUNCIL REPORTS: County Councillor's Report

1. **Budget -** The setting of the 2010/11 Budget and Medium Financial Plan is progressing well. The choices when balancing a budget equates between pressures and resources. Clearly, efficiency savings, charging fees, a cut in some services and an increase in Council Tax are all possible sources of revenue. The pressures are fundamentally the services we supply and can only be cut by reducing funding. The indications at the moment are that the Council Tax will be in the region of an increase 2.5%. The government has just announced that Council Tax for this year must not exceed 3%. Previously, this was capped at 5%. The government also expects to see a fall in the level of Council Tax over the next four years.

I do not expect that the impact of this year's savings will affect front line services. Undoubtedly, some familiar 'nice to have but not essential' services will be reduced but overall, I believe, the public will accept, in this present climate of financial restraint, that a limited reduction in services is preferable to an increase in taxation. The setting of the Council Tax will happen at a special meeting of the County Council in early February.

2. **Fire Consultation –** As I reported last month, the Public Consultation into the proposals to change the Warwickshire Fire Service have now been completed. It was originally intended that new proposals resulting from the Public Consultation would be presented to the County Council during the first week of February. It is fair to say that the Public Consultation brought to the attention of the Fire Service significant facts that had not been factored into the original proposals. I am pleased to say that representations made on behalf of the Fenny Compton Fire Station have been well received. The Fire Service has requested further time to evaluate the many proposals that have been put forward, not only by Fenny Compton, but also by other communities in the County. These proposals have to be evaluated, costed and tested before being presented to the full Council. It is expected that this will now happen in early Spring. I believe that this is the right decision where all proposals can be thoroughly examined in preference to making decisions based on a time frame only.

3. **CAA Results –** Published last month were the results of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. This is a new way of assessing local public services in England. It examines how well councils, and other public bodies, meet the needs of the people they serve. The Assessment focuses on how well local public services are delivering better results for people across the area. Such priorities as Health, Economic Prospects are some of the issues evaluated and they seek to establish their likelihood to improve in the future. Warwickshire was judged to be a 'Performing Well' Council with only one area causing concern and that was the success of improving the well-being of the people of Warwickshire. They are looking for better links between partners, especially hospitals and health care. Steps are being taken to address this highlighted problem. Only 4% of local authorities in England reach the next level of performance.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: JB read a letter from Mick Harris regarding mowing.

7. PLANNING

Comments on planning application 09/02589/TREE. "No representation" was registered.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: **Balance at close of business 04/1/10**

Current Account	£422.10
Savings Account	£5,999.82

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Date change of meeting on 12th April to Tuesday 6th April 2010

JB reported the receipt of £122.20 from Christmas Cards, £13.00 from postcards and £5.00 for rental of the Reading room. It was decided to pay all the funds into the bank account but to ring fence the £122.20 for future use.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

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

The meeting closed at 8.05pm