Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Monday 4th August 2014

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm 487

1. **APOLOGIES** (with acceptance of apologies): None.

Present: Trevor Gill, David Hutt, Alastair Whetstone, Councillor Chris Williams, Helen Hide-Wright.

Public: Mike Blakeman.

David Hutt welcomed Mike Blakeman to the meeting. Mike has been considering joining the Parish Council and it was agreed that he should be co-opted to the Parish Council. Proposed: David Hutt, seconded Trevor Gill, unanimous.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**: None

3. **CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**: Proposed: David Hutt, Seconded: Alastair Whetstone, Signed by David Hutt.

4. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**: None.

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Community

a) **Burial Ground**: Trevor Gill has spoken to the Cemetery Warden, Ray Randerson, about the modifications to the cemetery rules which were recommended by the internal auditor. Trevor will speak to Ray to firm up the details. As soon as the rules are updated, Trevor will circulate a draft for consideration and approval. **ACTION: Trevor to develop the Cemetery rules and circulate a draft to the Parish Councillors.**

b) **Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch**: Nothing to report. A report has been submitted to the Parish Council about materials that have been left on private land behind the Reading Room. Advice has sought and as the matter is on private land, the Parish Council cannot intervene.

c) **Playground** (including monthly check): Trevor Gill has examined the play area and it appears fine. Trevor has had a request that the grass clippings could be picked up when it is cut. **ACTION: Clerk to contact mowing contractor and request that the cuttings are collected and removed from the site where possible.**

A request has been submitted to use the play area for a child's birthday. It was agreed that the party could go ahead on the land.

d) **Superfast Broadband**: Chris Williams reported that the project is moving forward and is being developed on economic criteria.

e) **Post Office**: A note has been submitted to the Parish Clerk regarding the alarm to the secure PO room which is constantly on. The clerk had already reported this to the Post Office managers but has reported it once more, asking for it to be repaired. The Alarm is the property of the Post Office and therefore cannot be dealt with directly by the Parish Council.

Roads

Traffic, Roads and Drains

- **Water flowing onto road close to St John's Church**: Councillor Williams confirmed that the drains are all free. The road will shortly be closed in order that a further drain will be installed across the road. The water is emerging onto the road as a result of the water table. The road surface will be resurfaced upon the completion of the work.

- **Speed Reduction Scheme**: Councillor Williams confirmed that the Police objected to the full extension of the 30mph limit that had been proposed and therefore the plans had been adapted. There will be white triangles painted on the road to indicate a reduction in the speed limit. A village entrance feature will be installed to reinforce and encourage a reduction in speed. The plan is for the scheme to be completion by the end of March 2015.

Environment/Maintenance

f) **Green areas**: Trevor Gill confirmed that the churchyard was cut in time for the recent wedding. Thanks had been conveyed to Matt Austin for the work on the area and how well it appeared.

f) **Reading Room maintenance** (Purchase of frost stat): Alastair Whestone will look into the frost stat and the possibility of purchasing two convector heaters for the Reading Room.

Trevor Gill commented upon the state of the windows at the Reading Room. The A.D. Fete is committed to give 50% of its profits to village requirements. Trevor suggested that the Parish Council apply to the Fete Committee to see if they could give some financial support for replacement windows which can be ring fenced until the full amount is raised. Quotations can be sought for replacement costs so that the project can be costed out for PVC and wood replacement or repair and painting.

Communication/Administration

h) Administration: David Hutt confirmed that the appraisal of the Clerk had gone ahead. David endorsed the increased in the pay which is overdue and set out in her contract along with the back pay.
Trevor Gill requested a summary to be circulated from David Hutt to the Parish Council so that the figures can be reviewed for the pay increase and back pay.

Trevor Gill confirmed that there has been a recent payroll issue with Douglas Tonks. Trevor outlined that DT have made an error and its resolution is being considered. Trevor stated that he has found a couple of payroll alternatives and would report to the meeting in the future if it was felt that the Parish Council should go elsewhere for payroll services.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS: Councillor Chris Williams

1. **Jeremy Wright PC QC MP** - I am sure you will join me in offering our congratulations to our MP Jeremy Wright who has recently been promoted to a full Cabinet position of Attorney General. This important position recognises Jeremy's legal background where now he is responsibility for advising the government on the legality of any decisions they might wish to make. He is also in charge of the Crown Prosecution Service. Jeremy has told me that this promotion will make no difference to his commitment and service as our local MP.

2. **Information from WALC**- It has recently come to my attention that WALC issued a directive to all Parish Councils advising them that WCC had altered the frequency of the cutting of grass and that might have implications on the amount of revenue that Parish Councils receive for cutting the grass on behalf of the County. This information is totally without foundation and there have been no cuts in the amount of grass cutting that is carried out either by, or on behalf of the County Council.

3. **Core Strategy** – We appear to be on the final lap of submitting the Core Strategy for approval. Currently, we are in the consultation period for the proposal to develop the Lighthorne Heath/Gaydon area into a local community. This consultation ended on 17th July 2014 and it is now proposed that the full Council at a special meeting on Monday 15th September 2014 will debate and approve the Core Strategy for submission to the Government Planning Inspector. Having now completed our Core Strategy greater weight is added to this strategy when considering planning applications. It is expected that the government will call for a Public Examination of our Core Strategy later in the year and the Inspector will issue his report on the result of his Public Examination early next year. Hopefully, this will conclude the compilation of this important Planning Strategy document which has been beset of so many changes made by central government but as of today's date only some 60 authorities out of some 360 authorities have achieved the adoption of their Core Strategy.

4. **Industrial Action** – Although the recent day of Industrial Action on Thursday 10th July 2014 passed with only minimal disruption to the workings of the County Council, I am afraid that the Fire Service have announced a further fifteen periods of strike action. This is clearly a significant escalation of their ongoing dispute with government over pension's reform. As ever the Officers in charge of the Fire Service are developing our contingency plans to respond to this action. In effect, the strike action that started on 14th July 2014 will continue to be daily action unlike the previous occasions when strikes were announced over a period of time. I must remind the Parish Council that the Fire Service operates as a Rescue and Fire Service and this escalation of strike action will have a great impact upon the rescue element of the Fire Service. Our prime response will always concentrate on minimizing the risk to loss of life.

5. **Community Grants** – I am pleased to announce that I have a small sum of money available to support communities and, in particular, the money is ideally available to kick start community projects which are outside expenditure permitted for Parish Councils where precepted funds are available. If you know of any organisations within your community that might benefit from such a grant, please get in touch.

6. **Southam & Feldon Community Forum** – Recent meetings of the Southam & Feldon Community Forums have been poorly supported and in particular, there has been little support from the community itself, not directly associated with Parish Councils. Without community involvement the objectives of the Community Forum are put in question and it is proposed that a meeting will consist of all eight Community Forums in Stratford district and will take place in Stratford where, amongst other things, a debate will be held as to whether Community Forums are being supported sufficiently to justify their existence. I will advise you of the date of this important meeting.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Paper copies circulated at meeting. Electronic mail circulated prior to meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the Play area inspection will take place in the next couple of months.

Sarah Richardson sent in a request to use the cemetery car-park on the afternoon of the 8th October. This was agreed. The Clerk will let Sarah know that the car-park can be used.

The Clerk confirmed that Grant Thornton has confirmed that the Parish Council has passed its audit.

8. **PLANNING** (Declarations of interests): 14/01792/FUL Single rear extension, Oxbow Farm, Mr Ray Randerson: No representation.

9. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

August 2014, Avon Dassett Parish Council:

Balance at close of business 31/7/14

Current Account	£8,593.96
Savings Account	£ 749.46 *

This figure represents ring fenced funds for ADPC plus any interest received into the account.

Bank Transactions

Current Account		**Chq/SO/DD**	**In**	**Out**
7 July	N Power	DD		35.00
9 July		1282		8.79
10 July		1285		50.00
14 July	SDC Precept		20.00	
15 July		1284		20.10
15 July		1283		131.00
15 July		1286		320.00
29 July	Douglas Tonks	DD		197.86

Deposit Account		**In**	**Out**
9.7.14	Interest	0.03	

Cheques issued from mtg	**Cheque No**	**Amount**
4.8.14 Grant Thornton	1287	120.00
4.8.14 J. Sherriff	1288	7.18
4.8.14 H. Hide-Wright (Expenses July)	1289	46.75
Total Cheques		**173.93**

Notes: None to add

New Balances for Ring Fenced Funds:

Neighbourhood Watch	£	185.00
St John's Steps appeal Funds	**£**	**359.05**
Community Grant Fund (Laptop)	£	5.38
Interest Received	£	0.03
Play area lease grant from AD Fete Committee	£	200.00
Total	£	749.46

10. MEMBER REPORTS: Alastair Whetstone spoke about a holding a village tidy-up, Christmas, Remembrance. It was decided to discuss these items at the next meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS – 2014 dates: 8th Sept, 6th Oct, 3rd Nov, 1st Dec

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.