Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Monday 6th January 2014

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

1. **APOLOGIES**: Chris Campbell

Present at Meeting: Trevor Gill, David Hutt, Alastair Whetstone, Councillor Williams, Clerk.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**: None

3. **CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**: Accepted and signed by David Hutt.

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

5. **MATTERS ARISING**:

Community

a) **Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch**: Nothing to report from Neighbourhood Watch.

b) **Playground** (including monthly check): Alastair Whestone confirmed that he had checked the area and all was fine.

c) **Superfast Broadband**: Trevor Gill confirmed that he had contacted the organisation who had operated a broadband system suggested by Chris Campbell. He is awaiting a response to his email.

Trevor Gill asked if Councillor Williams had received an update on the Oxfordshire situation. Councillor Williams did confirm that the scheme was being rolled out but he was not able to comment further.

d) **Post Office** – meeting date to check documents held: Trevor Gill volunteered to meet Bala Jaspal to review any documents that might be in the PO area. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Bala Jaspal to request a meeting with Trevor Gill at AD PO.**

David Hutt confirmed that he had spoken to the landlord of the pub who was happy to explore the possibility of the PO moving to the pub. Trevor Gill undertook to speak to Bala Jaspal to see if this could work for both parties. It was decided to make initial enquiries and take the matter from there.

e) **Update on additional signage/speed reduction scheme**: Chris Williams confirmed that on the 23rd January 2014 he is putting in a bid for £8k to implement a scheme, consisting of a gateway feature at both ends of the village. The idea of extending the speed limit further up the hill is being considered as well as other speed reduction measures.

f) **Village website**: Chris Campbell was not at the meeting to report on progress with this matter. The clerk confirmed that a £50 grant cheque will be issued from the meeting as per the discussions at the December meeting.

g) **Emergency Plan**: Trevor Gill has a draft of the plan and acknowledged the assistance given by the Clerk. Trevor Gill will circulate the plan to Parish Councillors for their input and the plan can be adopted by ADPC before being sent on to SDC for their use. **ACTION: Parish Councillors will check with the named individuals within the Emergency Plan to ensure they are still happy to be included in the plan.**

h) **Community Laptop scheme**: The Clerk confirmed that she had registered ADPC's interest in obtaining a refurbished laptop.

Roads

Traffic, Roads and Drains: Trevor Gill confirmed that the drains appear to have held up so far, despite the heavy rain continuing to fall.

Environment/Maintenance

i) **St John's**: Matt Austin is due to visit the church in the spring to look at the trees.

j) **Green areas**: Nothing to report.

k) **Flood Pressure Group**: Trevor Gill attended a meeting at Eathorpe where a number of people attended to discuss setting up a flood pressure group chaired by Wally Redford of Eathorpe PC.

Communication/Administration

The Clerk confirmed that the contact telephone number has changed as the other phone was unreliable. The new contact number for ADPC Clerk is **07713 89 28 35** and is now operational.

6. **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service – You are probably aware, the withdrawal of labour by certain elements of the Fire & Rescue Service has escalated. Over Christmas and the New Year there was a partial withdrawal of labour and there is an expectation that the Strike will escalate in the New Year. I must stress that the dispute is between the government and the Fire Service and not between Warwickshire County Council and the Fire Service. Basically, the Fire Service is asking that their members can retire at 55 years of age and the government is recommending 60 years. There is a robust Resilience Plan in place where attention will be given to ensure that lives are not at risk when there is a reduced level of Fire protection in Warwickshire. Formal agreement has been reached between Warwickshire and Herefordshire and Gloucestershire to investigate the possibility of forming a single Fire Authority. You will recall that Warwickshire Fire Service is the smallest Fire Service in England but at the moment it is recognized as the best performing authority. I will keep the Parish Council advised of developments.

County Council Budget – We have carried out a review of all savings that can be achieved and in general I am happy to report that all front line services will carry on without any reduction in efficiency. The main savings will come from amendments in care packages for the elderly and through efficiency workings in the County Council. It is expected that the staff level could reduce by a further 600 staff. One pressure that has to be addressed is the amount of Council Tax increases for the next two years. In essence, if there is no Council Tax increase we will have to find another £12 million worth of savings. Clearly, this is a contentious issue which I suspect will only be resolved when the various political groups meet to determine the budget early in February.

District Council Budget – SDC has a much easier task in settling its budget than compared with the County Council. The District Council's budget amounts to some £12 million whilst the figure for WCC is £450 million. Nevertheless, prudence is still applied and all pressures on the budget have been met. We are maintaining all service standards in addition to achieving savings from joint working with Cherwell and Northampton District Councils. We are proposing to maintain our Council Tax at the same figure that was applied last year and it is interesting to note that Stratford District Council maintains one of the lowest Council Tax rates in England.

Core Strategy – The news on the Core Strategy is not so exciting but nonetheless positive. A new timetable has now been published and intimates that the Council will be ready to submit its documents for evaluation by mid-summer 2014. We are still gathering information and consulting where the housing element will be placed. Originally, we were looking for a figure of 8,500 houses for the district but this has been increased to a new figure of nearly 11,000 homes. Paradoxically, the evidence suggests that the increase is largely to meet government targets for those people expected to move into our district. The development will cover the period from 2011 until 2031. The proposed development at Lighthorne Heath has been reduced from its original proposed figure of 4,900 to 3,000 homes. This reduction accommodates Jaguar Land Rover's requirement for more land for their expected expansion over the next ten years.

Revision of County Council Divisions – With the expected growth of the population in Warwickshire over the next 15 years where some 40,000 new houses will be built, thought is being given to revising Division boundaries. Presently, there are wide variations in the amount of constituents in each Division. In the north of the County, there are some Divisions that only have an electorate of 5,000 and they can be next door to another Division where there is an electorate of 20,000. In my own case of the Kineton Division where I have an electorate of some 7,000, this could increase to 12,000 if the proposals for Lighthorne Heath materialize. The Boundary Reviews will be carried out over the next 18 months and the new areas implemented at the election in 2017. There will also be a Public Interest Debate towards the end of February when the County Council debate whether or not there is an appetite to become a unitary authority. This debate has crystallized due to the significant changes in financing local government. Currently, there are three options being considered. The first is where all five Districts and Boroughs are dissolved and there would be one authority, The County Council. The second alternative is for North Warwickshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth together with, possibly, Coventry, to combine forming a single unitary authority. This would leave Stratford on Avon, Warwick and Rugby combining to form another single unitary authority. There will be much debate if and when these proposals proceed.

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

8. **PLANNING** (Declarations of interests): 13/02917/FUL Dassett House: Planning notification of amended/additional details has been received. Subsequently a notice of conditions outlining permission with conditions has been granted for the application.

Results of the extraordinary planning meeting held on the 21st December 2013:

13/03094/FUL: Proposed two storey side extension at 1 Lower Terrace for Mr Samuel Clarke. ***Decision:*** **No representation**

13/01945/FUL: Change of use of land to domestic curtilage. Demolition of stable block and erection of agricultural type portal frame building for use in connection with Lime Cottage. Lime Cottage, for Mr. Nick Paxton. D***ecision:*** **No representation**

9. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Balance at close of business 31/12/13

Current Account	£ 8,553.11
Savings Account	£ 1,175.00 *

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

Bank Transactions

Current Account		**Chq/SO/DD**	**In**	**Out**
5 Dec		1258		12.20
5 Dec	N Power	DD		55.00
17 Dec	D Tonks	DD		214.06
17 Dec		1257		222.00
18 Dec	HMRC (VAT)		275.06	

Deposit Account		**In**	**Out**
9 Dec	Bank Interest	0.05	

Cheques issued from mtg		Cheque No	Amount
6 Jan	SDC (Website hosting)	1259	425.77
6 Jan	AD Local History Grp	1260	50.00
6 Jan	W Sherriff	1261	14.32
6 Jan	H. Hide-Wright (Dec)	1262	78.59
Total cheques			**568.68**

Notes:

New Balances for Ring Fenced Funds:

Neighbourhood Watch	£ 185.00
St John's Steps appeal Funds	**£ 358.95**
Community Grant Fund (Laptop)	£ 431.00
Interest Received	£ 0.05
Play area lease grant from AD Fete Committee	£ 200.00
Total	£ 1,175.00

Accounts for Payment

- **Account were approved for payment**: Cheques were signed by David Hutt and Alastair Whestone

Trevor Gill proposed that £425.77 of the money held in the deposit account should be transferred into the current account to cover the invoice for the community website. Proposed: Trevor Gill, Seconded: Alastair Whetstone, unanimous. **ACTION: Clerk to transfer £425.77 from deposit to current account**

- **Budget 2014/15 and precept**:

Trevor proposed that the precept is raised by £400 to £9,363 in order to cover the ongoing hosting cost of the community website: Proposed: Trevor Gill, Seconded: Alastair Whetstone, unanimous.

The precept request form was completed and then signed by David Hutt ready for submission.

Providing the quotation for the electrical works relating to the heating, is under £150.00, the meeting authorised the expenditure to be made. Proposed: Trevor Gill, Seconded: David Hutt, unanimous.

- **Commissioning of last two replacement street lights**: Proposed: Trevor Gill, seconded: David Hutt, unanimous. **Action: Clerk to initiate the replacement of the remaining two street lights.**
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10. **MEMBER REPORTS**: No candidates have come forward to apply for the vacancy on the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk to write up an advert to advertise the vacancy on the Parish Council and asking potential candidates to write a short piece on why they would like to join and the skills they can bring to the role.**

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS** – 3rd Feb, 3rd Mar, 7th Apr, 12th May, 2nd June, 7th Jul, 4th Aug, 1st Sept, 6th Oct, 3rd Nov, 1st Dec

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.