Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Monday 3rd March 2014

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

1. **APOLOGIES**: David Hutt

Present at Meeting: Trevor Gill, Alastair Whetstone, Chris Campbell, Clerk, Councillor Williams arrived at 8pm.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**: Trevor Gill made a declaration of interest in the planning application for Orchard cottage. Trevor Gill gave a written application for a dispensation to take part in the discussion. The letter was read by the clerk and the meeting accepted it, the dispensation was granted.

3. **CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**: The minutes were accepted and signed and dated by Alastair Whetstone.

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

5. **MATTERS ARISING**:

Community

a) **Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch**: Alastair confirmed that there was nothing from Neighbourhood Watch. The Clerk confirmed that she has registered for emails from the Wellesbourne Police and has also asked for the same information from Southam Police if it is available.

b) **Playground** (including monthly check): Alastair has checked the area and confirmed that it is in good order.

c) **Superfast Broadband**: Trevor Gill stated that this project is moving forward slowly. He has asked for information on how much people are willing to pay for Superfast Broadband from previous consultations. In the meantime Trevor has established that the cost of installation is in the region of £500 per household. Trevor continues to look into this matter to see if funding might be available to subsidise the installation fee.

d) **Post Office**: Nothing further to report. Trevor is organising the removal of the storage heaters.

e) **Update on additional signage/speed reduction scheme**: Nothing further to report.

f) **Emergency Plan**: Trevor Gill has submitted the first draft and is awaiting comments.

g) **Street light replacement**: All of the mercury streetlights have now been replaced.

h) **Website**: Chris Campbell gave an update that nothing had been heard on the grant for the History Group and would follow this up to see if there was any further news. **ACTION: Chris to contact History Group and see if there is an update on grant application.**

i)

Traffic, Roads and Drains

- Water flowing onto road close to St John's Church: Various trees and branches have been removed from the walls. Trevor Gill will speak to Patch Byrne to see when the water coming from the church hill will be dealt with. Some of the drains are now blocked with debris and silt from the vegetation and road surface. Once the running water has been dealt with and the road repaired, Trevor will ask for the drains to be cleaned. **ACTION: Trevor Gill to contact Patch Byrne and establish the plan to deal with the flow of water down the church hill and highlight the subsequent need for drains to be cleared.**

Environment/Maintenance

i) **St John's**: Nothing to report.

j) **Green areas**: Trevor confirmed that the Parish Council has now received a rebate for £392 for the Parish Council undertaking the maintenance of the green areas previously under the care of WCC.

Communication/Administration: Nothing to report

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

1. **County Council Budget –** On Thursday 6th February 2014, the County Council met for nine hours to agree the most difficult Budget in the 125 year history of the Council with some £92million reduction in spending having to be considered due to smaller government grants over the next four years. To protect front line services it has proved necessary to increase Council Tax by 1.99%. This modest increase will amount to less than 50p per week for a Band D house in Warwickshire. The Budget this year has allocated £1.2 million over four years to be invested in Highway Drainage, Gullies and Flood Alleviation. All Household Waste Recycling Centres and Libraries will remain open and there is no reduction in the Mobile Library Service. Highway Maintenance and Gritting will also carry on at the current level. We are also investing in Economic Growth via Schools, Skills and Employment. Children and the Elderly are protected by maintaining the spending on Looked-After Children and Adult Social Care. Our two priorities are protecting the most vulnerable residents of Warwickshire and stimulating more employment opportunities. The Council is facing challenging times as public services are reshaped to meet any future financial constraints.

2. **Local Government Finance –** Currently Councils planning to increase Council Tax in the coming financial year are required to hold a referendum if the increase equals or exceeds 2%. The new limit now includes other precepting bodies except Parish Councils. The Local Government Finance Report (England) 2014/15 puts Parish and Town Councils on notice that Council Tax referendum principles may be set for them in 2015/16. I will keep you updated on this important issue.

3. **Flood Awareness** – Continuing heavy rain and the possibility of flooding in various parts of the County has prompted advice on being prepared. Whilst conditions in our part of Warwickshire have not caused the level of disruption widely reported elsewhere in the United Kingdom, prudence in preparing robust planning arrangements are now proving more appropriate than ever. The water table is extremely high at the moment and rainfall is not being absorbed by agricultural land. We are probably at risk for the next four or five months from surface water flooding. The Resilience Team at the County are prepared for widespread flood and any associated disruption. It is essential that your Community Emergency Plan is completed and submitted as soon as possible.

4. **County Council Meeting Tuesday 25th February** – At this meeting there was a Public Interest Debate on Unitary Local Government in Warwickshire. The Council believes that in facing the considerable financial challenges that exist in the public sector that any further reduction at government grant to local authorities will have so great an impact on the ability to deliver safe and quality services that consideration should be given to the re-evaluation of the structure of local government and move from the current two tier system to a unity local government. Consequently, WCC believes that it is in the public interest to explore the opportunities of a unitary local government. We will engage with all public and voluntary sectors to develop ideas around this working. Ultimately, it is the public who will decide through a referendum probably in 2017 as to the future of local government in Warwickshire.

5. **Warwickshire Electoral Boundary Review** - At the meeting of the full Council on 25th February it was agreed for the elections in 2017 there would be a reduction in the number of County Councillors from 62 to 57. This would result in an increase of the number of constituents for each Division from approx. 7,000 to 8,500. The review of the actual boundaries is taking place at the present time.

6. **New Link Road from M40 to JLR** - Approval was given in mid-February to construct a dual carriage highway from Junc.12 of M40 to JLR. This road will be lit by the latest technology for highway llighting and preliminary work has already commenced with the clearing of trees along the eastern side of the B4100 and main construction work is scheduled to commence in July/August 2014.

7. **Core Strategy –** The District Council is undertaking further Public Consultation on the emerging Core Strategy because new technical evidence is suggesting further important changes that will affect how many and where new homes are built across the district. The purpose of this new consultation is to invite comments on the following aspects of the Core Strategy.

a. Changes to the time frame of the Core Strategy, currently the proposal will expire in 2029. The new date is 2031.
b. The total number of new homes that need to be built. The current figure under consideration is 9,500 and the new figure is now 10,900.
c. A range of alternative strategic options for meeting this increased housing requirement. Members will recall that the original Core Strategy called for the establishment of a new settlement in Lighthorne Heath. The new proposals will consideration other locations at Long Marston, the south-east edge of Stratford and two locations north of Southam. In addition to the Lighthorne Heath proposal which has been reduced from the original figure of 4,900 to 3,000 new homes.

The emerging Core Strategy will be debated at the next meeting of the Southam and Feldon Community Forum to be held on Wednesday 12th March 2014 at the Dallas Burston Polo Grounds, Southam. As usual, the Police Forum will commence at 6:30 p.m. following by the full agenda at 7:00 p.m.

8. SDC Council Tax - At the full meeting of the District Council on Monday 24th February, it was agreed that the Council Tax would remain unchanged for the financial year. We have been able to achieve this standstill in Council Tax directly as a result of collaborative working with both Cherwell and South Northamptonshire District Councils. Clearly the future is going to be very difficult due to fiscal reasons. We have introduced a regime of maintaining front-line services by severely curtailing back-office operations and cutting back on 'nice to have projects'.

The Core Strategy consultation document can be viewed on the District Council's website www.stratford.gov.uk/csfurther2014. It is also available to inspect at the District Council offices (Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HX) and at public libraries in the District.

Responses can be made on-line using the link above, by email to planning.policy@stratford-dc.gov.uk or by post to Stratford-on-Avon District Council, FREEPOST CV2468, Chief Executive's Unit, Elizabeth House, Church Street, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CV37 6BR.

Comments must be received by the District Council by **5pm on Friday 14 March 2014**.

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

8. **PLANNING** (Declarations of interests):

14/00426/FUL Orchard Cottage. With dispensation granted at the commencement of the meeting, the three councillors deliberated the application. The comment from the meeting was: Make No Representation

9. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

- To approve the following accounts for payment: Cheques were signed by Alastair Whetstone and Chris Campbell.

Appendix A

FINANCIAL STATEMENT March 2014, Avon Dassett Parish Council:

Balance at close of business 28/2/14

Current Account	£ 8,182.52
Savings Account	£ 749.31 *

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 Feb	N Power	DD		47.00
6 Feb		1264		24.30
7 Feb		1265		107.42
10 Feb	SDC Maintenance		118.24	
20 Feb	SDC Maintenance		274.00	
26 Feb	D. Tonks			214.06

Deposit Account		**In**	**Out**
10 Feb	Bank Interest	0.03	

Cheques issued from mtg	**Cheque No**	**Amount**
3.3.14 J Sherriff (Coffee Feb)	1266	7.04
3.3.14 SDC (Street light replacement)	1267	500.68
3.3.14 H. Hide-Wright (expenses Feb)	1268	16.50
Total Cheques		**524.22**

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)	£	5.23
Interest Received	£	0.03
Play area lease grant from AD Fete Committee	£	200.00
Total	£	749.31

- Quarterly budget review

Mar 2014, 4th Quarter budget update (including expenses up to End Feb 2013)

	Budget £	**Spend to date £**	**% of Budget**
Expenditure	8963	6776.26	75.6%
VAT		391.28	
RR Ins	935		
RR Rates	103		
RR Clean	165		
RR Maintenance	400	50	12.5%
Clerk Pay	2700	2081.76	77.1%
Admin	400	413.29	103.3%
PC Training	150		
WALC	90	90	100% ANNUAL CHARGE
Xmas Cards	0		
Elec supply RR	550	343.79	62.5% *
Street Light Supply	825	512.82	62.2% **

* A Street light supply invoice had been logged against electricity supply. This has now been corrected

Other: Street Light replacement		407.12	
Playground Rental	150		
Website	0	425.77	425.77% (Paid from ring fenced)
Playground	150	65.00	43.33%
Other	0	50	50%
Mowing	1800	1534	85.22%
Audit Fees	200	160	80%
Safe Fees	20		
Coffee Morning	125	81.47	65.18%
Election Fees	200		

Other Funds held by ADPC:	Neighbourhood Watch	£	185.00
	St John's Steps appeal Funds	**£**	**358.95**
	Community Grant Fund (Laptop)	£	5.23
	Play area lease grant from AD Fete Committee	£	200.00
	Total	£	749.18

Trevor Gill asked for the quarterly review to include income also. The Clerk confirmed that this could and would be done in future.

10. MEMBER REPORTS: Trevor Gill asked about the Community Laptop Scheme and the discussions concluded that at present it was unlikely that anyone could take advantage of the scheme because of the application criterion.

Trevor Gill stated that the Fete Committee are progressing with the next fete.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS – 2014 dates: 7th Apr, 12th May, 2nd June, 7th Jul, 4th Aug, 1st Sept, 6th Oct, 3rd Nov, 1st Dec

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.