Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Monday 3rd February 2014

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

1. **APOLOGIES**: None

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

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**: None.

3. **CONFIRM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**: 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. The Parish Council was aware that recently a dog was been stolen from a property within the village. The dog was later found on the same day in Northamptonshire. It has been reunited with its owner after its microchip was scanned.

b) **Playground** (including monthly check): Trevor Gill inspected the play area over the weekend and found it was in good order.

c) **Superfast Broadband**: Councillor Williams highlighted the possibility of getting a higher broadband speed through a satellite system. **ACTION: Trevor Gill will look into satellite broadband. Chris Campbell will provide further information to Trevor.**

d) **Post Office** – update: Trevor Gill met with the manager of the Post Office, Bala Jaspal and she is open to the possible relocation of the PO to the pub and potentially altering the opening hours. Bala confirmed that security would need to be dealt with. Trevor suggested that further discussions with the landlord of The Avon are now required but it would be better to leave this until the Spring when the matter can be addressed fully. This was agreed.

Trevor has obtained a quotation for the removal of the storage heaters and the installation of three pin plugs for £100 – 130. Trevor will settle this bill and purchase some electric heaters to heat the Reading Room.

e) **Update on additional signage/speed reduction scheme**: Councillor Williams was successful in obtaining a grant for £8k which means that there will be a gate to indicate the village entrance at the top and bottom of the hill. The 30 mph speed limit will be extended to the top of the hill. There will be a public consultation meeting to discuss the project which will be undertaken by Warwickshire County Council. David Hutt thanked Councillor Williams for his efforts on this matter and especially in securing the grant to finance the works.

f) **Emergency Plan**: Trevor Gill will continue to work on this.

Roads

Traffic, Roads and Drains

Trevor Gill thanked Alastair Whetstone for helping to clear the footpath. Trevor confirmed that he had spoken to Patch Byrne about the water running down the road and its affect on the road surface. Patch Byrne explained that the County was dealing with many issues relating to the flooding and may not be able to inspect the area for some time.

Environment/Maintenance

i) St John's: Nothing to report.

j) Green areas: Alastair Whestone reported the trees in the churchyard have not been dealt with as yet. The clerk confirmed that the reimbursement for the maintenance of the green areas has not been received and that she had chased this up with Matt Austin and was awaiting a response.
ACTION: Clerk and Trevor Gill to expedite both matters

Communication/Administration

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

1. **County Council Budget –** As I intimated last month the County Council Budget which is scheduled to be approved on Thursday 6th February may be unresolved on that date. Central government has decreed that any increase in Council Tax has to be in line with government proposals. These figures until 14th February which does indicate that the County Council will have to meet again on 25th Feburary to agree its Budget. Presently, the ruling administration at the County is proposing a 2% increase in Council Tax whereas the government has indicated that the cap might be set at a figure of between 1.25% and 1.5% this year. All three political parties in Warwickshire have different Budget proposals and it would be speculation on my part to predict the outcome.

2. **Road Safety –** At the recent Transport Seminar, I was successful in securing a sum of money, £8,000, for the installation of Speed Reduction proposals for Avon Dassett. These proposals included extending the 30mph Speed Limit to the top of the hill as well as creating Gateway features at the principal entrances to the village together with appropriate road markings.

3. **Core Strategy –** The District Council is undertaking further Public Consultation on the emerging Core Stragegy 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.

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

Clerk read out an email of thanks from Jill Burgess to Councillors Gill and Whetstone for their work in clearing the footpath of debris and leaves.

The Clerk stated that Bill Robinson has confirmed his availability to undertake the internal audit.

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

- Notice of Decision: 13/03094/FUL, I Lower Terrace: Permission with conditions
- Notice of Decision: 13/01945/FUL, Lime Cottage: Permission with conditions

The Councillors sought the view of Councillor Williams on the email recently received from the Clerk of Welford on Avon regarding planning. Councillor Williams did not feel that it was helpful or an accurate reflection of the situation. He highlighted that 60% of planning appeals by the County Council are won.

9. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance at close of business 31/1/14

Current Account	£ 8,183.06
Savings Account	£ 749.28 *

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

Bank Transactions

Current Account		**Chq/SO/DD**	**In**	**Out**
6 Jan	N Power	DD		55.00
8 Jan	Ring fenced transfer for website		425.77	
8 Jan		1261		14.32
8 Jan		1256		8.08
9 Jan		1262		78.59
17 Jan		1259		425.77
29 Jan	Douglas Tonks	DD		214.06

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

Cheques issued from mtg		**Cheque No**	**Amount**
3.2.14	J. Sherriff (coffee morning Jan)	1263	10.38
3.2.14	H. Hide-Wright (expenses Jan)	1264	24.30
3.2.14	WCC (Lighting maintenance)	1265	107.42
Total Cheques			**142.10**

Notes: None to add

New Balances for Ring Fenced Funds:

Neighbourhood Watch	£	185.00
St John's Steps appeal Funds	**£**	**358.95**
Community Grant Fund (Laptop)	£	5.23
Interest Received	£	0.05
Play area lease grant from AD Fete Committee	£	200.00
Total	**£**	**749.23**

10. **MEMBER REPORTS**: Chris Campbell confirmed that he has spoken to Jill Burgess about the website. Jill confirmed that the Heritage Lottery Grant application is about to be filed with at least an 8 week wait before the outcome is known.

Trevor Gill spoke about the Fete and confirmed that it will go ahead this year. The Fete Committee is not organising an evening event but another group is considering organising such an event and this is currently under discussion.

Trevor did thank the Fete Committee for its contribution for the over 60 luncheon and gifts for the children at Christmas.

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

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.