

## AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 11 August 2008

Present J Burgess; L Hope-Frost; D Hutt; S Richardson; Cllr C Williams;  
Clerk

In Attendance D Morgan (part attendance); T Richardson; J D Davies;  
S Rutherford (part attendance)

1. Apologies: PC Rod Joy

2. Declaration of Interest:  
None

3. Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by L Hope-Frost and seconded by S Richardson; they were then signed by J Burgess.  
J Burgess welcomed D Hutt to the Parish Council.

4. Matters Arising:

Note: Item 4.h) was discussed first.

a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch (NW) –

PC Rod Joy had planned to attend the meeting but was unavoidably detained.

L Hope-Frost stated that the previously reported driving/vehicle offences committed by a local youth will result in a court appearance in the near future.

L Hope-Frost was pleased to report that there are now 10 NW co-ordinators in the village.

b) Church Hill:

Traffic lights – the lights have been removed.

Repairs to church – it is hoped that these will be complete in the next 2 weeks.

J Burgess has emailed Gez Romano (County Highways) requesting that repairs to the road surface and drains at Church Hill be carried out asap.

L Hope-Frost volunteered to contact SDC to request that St John the Baptist church yard be given a thorough tidy; she felt that the current poor condition of the church yard warranted more attention than the strimming service typically offered by SDC. Cllr Williams to make enquiries to Chris Dobson on behalf of the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr Williams.**

c) Playground

Playground Management Group: on 20 July an event was held at which:

- existing equipment was painted;
- catalogues were examined to consider possible additional play equipment;
- agreement was reached to consult parents/interested members of the community with regard to improvements to the playground;
- it was agreed to contact groups undertaking similar projects from other villages for assistance on application advice/funding opportunities.

The Management Group will report back to the October meeting of the Parish Council.

Repairs to Bench: J Burgess reported that powder coating to the bench had been organised, but awaits completion. J Burgess to chase. **Action: J Burgess.**

Swing seats: Seats have been purchased and await fitment. **Action: J Burgess.**

d) Reading Room

Cleaning: An advertisement for the cleaning vacancy was placed in the Compton Chronicle; unfortunately no responses were received. S Richardson agreed to make further enquiries.

**Action: S Richardson.**

e) Housing Needs Survey – an open letter to local land-owners to determine availability of land for a possible social housing project has been posted on the website; this letter will be included in the September issue of the Compton Chronicle and placed on village noticeboards. This item will be deferred to the October meeting of the Parish Council.f) Procedures

Parish Council Vacancy: As a result of Graeme Miller's decision not to become a member of the Parish Council a further advertisement was placed on the website and on village noticeboards advertising one remaining vacancy. Following a vote, unanimous agreement was reached to co-opt Andrew Rutherford to the Council. Clerk to prepare the necessary paperwork on behalf of the Chair. **Action: Clerk.**

Health & Safety:

- Information pertaining to Reading Room drains and stop-cock to be mapped in the H&S folder. **Action: D Hutt.**

- First aid kit purchased and placed in Reading Room by L Hope-Frost.

g) Street light electricity

The outcome of Cllr Booth's preliminary enquiries regarding Parish Council links to WCC supply contracts are to be determined. It was agreed to defer this item to the September meeting for Cllr Booth's attention. **Action: Cllr Booth.**

h) Parish Plan

David Morgan, Project Manager for Parish Plans and Rural Outreach from the Council for Voluntary Services attended the meeting to gain an understanding of the development of actions arising from the Avon Dassett Parish Plan and to offer ways in which the CVS may be able to promote/assist in this process.

D Morgan agreed to provide information with regard to: 'The Virtual District' (including bus timetable/travel information database); a job description for an 'expert' retailer; and village liaison project Welcome Packs. **Action: D Morgan.**

## 5. Council Report:

Cllr Williams presented his report – see attached.

## 6. Correspondence:

Flood Grant Applications: The results of this application will be determined in early September.

Parish Biodiversity Action Plan: Whilst it was agreed that the BAP was a worthy project, the Parish Council felt that other priorities demanded its consideration; the request to include this item on the September agenda was declined. Clerk to complete survey form. **Action: Clerk.**

BT's Proposals to remove Public Payphone: SDC objected to the proposal to remove Avon Dassett's payphone. Responses to be made by 29 August. In response to a question from J Burgess, Cllr Williams stated that BT is responsible for cleaning the payphone. Clerk to organise. **Action: Clerk.**

Warwickshire Best Village 2008: J Burgess and S Richardson to attend the awards ceremony on 1 November on behalf of the Parish Council. Clerk to notify Sandra Rice. **Action: Clerk.**

The Code of Conduct and the Work of the Standards and Ethics Committee: Further training courses on the Code of Conduct to be held between September & November 2008. Clerk to reserve places for D Hutt and A Rutherford. **Action: Clerk.**

An explanation of the work of the Standards & Ethics Committee will be given by a member of the Committee at a future meeting of the Parish Council. Clerk to contact Monitoring Officer.

**Action: Clerk.**

Parish Talk Issue 8: Questionnaire to be completed by Parish Councillors if desired. **Action: All.**

Post Office: Whilst Avon Dasset Post Office is not earmarked for closure, the Post Master has written to the Parish Council expressing his concerns about the financial viability of continuing the service. It was agreed that J Burgess:

- contact the Post Master to determine the level of financial support required to continue running the Avon Dasset post office and/or whether he would consider a reduction in opening hours?
- contact Steve Patalong (WRCC) for his expertise/assistance in maintaining PO services in rural communities.
- gather information on the outreach service. **Action: J Burgess.**

Various avenues were explored including the possible use of Community Links transport.

J Burgess and S Richardson have produced a questionnaire for completion by post office users.

Independent Inspection of Play Area: Application form to be completed by 29 August. **Action: Clerk.** S Rutherford (Playground Management Group) asked for a copy of the most recent Inspection Report. **Action: Clerk.**

Planning – it was agreed not to set a provisional planning meeting in August.

Listed building consent (with conditions) has been granted to Mr & Mrs Worrall at Hillside Farm. Formal notification of the investigation into the alleged over-use of Avon Hill Quarry for 4x4 and Motocross events has been given by SDC's Planning Enforcement Officer.

#### 7. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 11 August 2008:

Current account	£309.39 credit
Deposit account	£6,889.12 credit

Cheques issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay & expenses)	£109.00
b) M Harris (Mowing verges & cleaning Reading Room)	£54.00
c) W Sherriff (Coffee morning)	£7.80
d) Wicksteed Leisure Ltd (Swing seats)	£72.26
e) J Burgess (Wood stain for bench)	£10.98
f) S Rutherford (Paint for playground equipment)	£53.18
g) M Mann (Mowing & strimming)	£190.00
h) S Richardson (Mobile broadband)	£10.00
i) Npower (Street light electricity supply)	£17.27

The payment of cheques was proposed by L Hope-Frost and seconded by S Richardson.

#### 8. Any Other Business:

- a) L Hope-Frost informed the meeting that Janet Stone would be the main point of contact at the CCT following the reduction of duties by Mick Padmore with regard to St John the Baptist Church.
- b) A total of £1047.40 was raised by 150 visitors at this year's Open Gardens event. Monies raised will be donated to Open Gardens charities and Myton Hamlet Hospice. In response to a statement made that this year's event clashed with the Wimbledon Men's Singles Final, the British Grand Prix and Fenny Compton Open Gardens, L Hope-Frost agreed to contact Jill & Mike Lewis to suggest that future Open Gardens dates be chosen to avoid such events where possible. **Action: L Hope-Frost.**
- c) J Burgess reported that no response has been received from Ms Starkey's Land Agents with reference to her request to use the land behind the Bus Shelter for a nature project.
- d) A selection of the comments made by Parish Councillors about the St John's renovation works will be included in the CCT Annual Report.

e) The question of when the width restriction on Church Hill will be removed was raised. Consideration should be given to retaining this restriction if possible.

9. Questions from the Public:

S Rutherford informed the meeting of some of the proposals/suggestions made by the Playground Management Group for improvements to the playground. J Burgess to pass details of SDC's grant application officer to S Rutherford. **Action: J Burgess.** Clerk to check details of playground rental lease. **Action: Clerk.**

10. Date of Next Meeting:

The next Meeting will be held on Monday 1 September 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

**Avon Dassett Parish Council Meeting 11.08.08.**  
**District Councillor's Report**

1. You will be aware that the District Council has been unfairly criticised in not keeping residents up to date with the new Refuse and Recycling arrangements. I can re-assure you that every household has received the Council "Your Review", which has been sent out containing a graphic description of the new arrangements. In addition, a letter has been sent to every Council Tax payer explaining the new proposals.
2. As far as Avon Dassett is concerned, due to a delay from the manufacturers, wheelie bin distribution will not occur until the third week of August. When the bins are delivered, they will be as follows:
  - (i) **Grey Bin (WEEKLY).** This bin replaces the current black sack. For non-recyclables such as food waste, soft plastics, yogurt pots etc., soft polythene wrapping, aluminium foil, and general waste.
  - (ii) **Blue Lidded Bin (FORTNIGHTLY).** This bin replaces the black recycling box. To collect all dry recycling with the addition of plastic bottles, cardboard and cartons which were not included before.
  - (iii) **Green Bin (FORTNIGHTLY).** Remains the same. A maximum of two green bins will be collected from each property. Where additional bins are needed, an annual charge of £40 per bin will be surcharged from April 2009. The Green Waste service will be suspended over the winter months from November to the end of March. Evidence does indicate that the demand for this service declines during this period.

Where households cannot accommodate wheelie bins, and we do not expect people to wheel them through their houses, or have difficult access, alternative arrangements have been made with these households where a sack collection will continue. It is not anticipated that bins should be left on the pavement especially in Conservation Areas.  
**FROM AUGUST, ONE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE for AVON DASSETT IS that the REFUSE COLLECTION DAY IS BEING CHANGED from MONDAY to WEDNESDAY.**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August** will be for the General Waste collection only, ie. black sack until new bin is delivered. **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August will be a total collection.**

3. The One Stop Shop in Southam was formally inaugurated last week in the Library and is providing very successful. Coincidentally the Library is now open 5 ½ days per week. The service provides information about all District and County Council services including planning enquiries. Residents can renew Concessionary Travel Passes, pay Council Tax etc. Unfortunately, it can only handle personal visitors and telephone enquiries are still directed to our Call Centre in Stratford.
4. The District Council is currently reviewing its parking strategy. The County Council look after on-street parking and the Park and Ride in Stratford, while the District Council administers all off-street car parks. Currently, the Wood Street Car Park in Southam

can become very congested where people park all day. One of the proposals being considered is to limit the duration of stay, or implement a small charging regime.

5. We have just carried out a Strategic Assessment of crime in Stratford District. It is acknowledged that Stratford District is a very safe place to live. The levels of recorded crime within the district are amongst the lowest in the country but the fear of crime has a significant impact on the quality of life for many people. Statistically the number of road traffic accidents is above the County average. Improving confidence and public safety is identified as a priority area with the ambition of remaining amongst the districts with the lowest crime levels. The strategy calls for everyone to share an improved quality of life. A reduction in the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour can be achieved by:
- (i) Getting people of different ages and backgrounds to work together on local community projects.
  - (ii) Taking effective enforcement action against people engaging in anti-social behaviour.
  - (iii) Extending the range of activities for teenagers.

This strategy is continually reviewed and I will update you on the progress that has become a key priority for our Council.

6. The District Council is objecting to the proposal to remove the Pay Phone. The grounds for retention was based on the observations that the telephone was used by Council Officers on election duty. It is a modern open box and Officers considered that the volume of usage was reasonable for a small village. I will, of course, keep you updated on developments.