

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 5 January 2009

- Present J Burgess; D Hutt; S Richardson; A Rutherford;
Cllr D Booth; Clerk
- In Attendance C Barlow (part attendance); J D Davies
1. Apologies: L Hope-Frost; Cllr C Williams
2. Declaration of Interest:
None.
3. Confirmation of Minutes:
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by A Rutherford and seconded by D Hutt; they were then signed by J Burgess.
4. Matters Arising:
Note: item 4.g) Social Housing was discussed first.
- a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch (NW)
No representation was made by Warwickshire Police.
The meeting was informed that the police have been notified of a number of incidents of speeding and reckless driving by the driver of a yellow Citroen Saxo.
- b) Traffic and Roads
J Burgess gave the following update:
- Repairs to the road at the M40 motorway bridge have been completed.
- The requested repair to a pot hole in the pavement outside Meadow Cottage had not yet been completed by County Highways.
- The newly purchased grit bin is now in position at Church Hill; thanks expressed to Steve Mullane.
- c) Drainage Issues
On 18 December J Burgess held a meeting with John Brown (County Highways):
- Mr Brown is now aware of all village drainage issues and has promised to correct all blocked drains asap.
- The drains by St Anne's Cottage and the Avon Carrow rear drive have been attended to.
- The Bitham Hall hatch – which is felt to be a contributing factor to flooding problems further down the village – has yet to be inspected, however John Brown will add this to his job list.
J Burgess to write to John Brown (copy to Cllr Booth). **Action: J Burgess.**
Thanks expressed to Steve Mullane for clearing the overgrown channel by the playground; this should enable road surface water to run off into the ditch.
- d) Playground
Despite considerable effort, it has not yet proved possible to fit the new swing seat.
A Rutherford produced a draft plan showing proposals for development of the playground; funding issues for which are ongoing. A Rutherford committed to present completed proposals (with costs) to the February meeting. **Action: A Rutherford.**
Inspection Report: At the February meeting A Rutherford will address the key issues raised in the inspection report. **Action: A Rutherford.**

It was noted that the fence protecting the tree in the centre of the playground was in need of repair; at which time the bottom rail should be positioned such that strimming around the tree base would be made possible. A Rutherford to ask Pete Wallace to undertake repairs.

Action: A Rutherford.

e) Reading Room

Painting: Paint and materials have been purchased by Steve Mullane. In order that Probation Service volunteers be able to commence work on Wednesday 14 January, the Parish Councillors committed to empty the room of its contents and provide necessary dust sheets to protect the floor. **Action: All.**

J Burgess proposed that floor varnishing be left to another time; this was agreed.

Thanks expressed to Steve Mullane for purchasing paint and materials for the Reading Room decorating project on behalf of the Parish Council.

Electricity charges: The clerk presented information from U-switch indicating savings on current rates. Revised costs are to be obtained by Npower in the next 2 days after which time the Clerk was authorised to set up a new contract for the supply of electricity to the Reading Room. **Action: Clerk.** Unfortunately, the comparison site contacted is unable to quote for the unmetered supply (street lighting) contract.

f) Future uses for St John the Baptist Church

Volunteers from the History Group cleaned the Church in preparation for the Christmas gathering held at St John's on 14 December 2008.

S Richardson proposed that the launch event be held on or near to St John the Baptist's Day (21 June) and committed to liaise with L Hope-Frost with regard to the detail of the event.

Action: S Richardson/L Hope-Frost.

S Richardson to prepare an article for the Compton Chronicle in which people will be invited to put forward ideas for use of the church. **Action: S Richardson.** Discussion ensued regarding the possible formation of a 'Friends of St John's' group.

g) Social Housing

Charles Barlow, Rural Housing Enabler from Warwickshire Rural Community Council, attended the meeting. In response to the article in the Compton Chronicle, two land owners have come forward with sites that they wish to be considered for social housing development. J Burgess requested that C Barlow make enquiries with the necessary agencies (District Planners, County Highways and Conservation Architect) to establish their views on the suitability (or otherwise) of each site. Once this information has been collected, C Barlow will attend the next available Parish Council meeting to determine the next step.

Action: C Barlow. Please note that the Parish Council will consider these options as well as other possible sites that may be deemed appropriate for social housing in Avon Dassett.

h) Handyman

Whilst Pete Wallace is happy to undertake repairs requested by the Parish Council on an ad hoc basis, he is unwilling to take up the position of handyman in an 'official' capacity.

i) Parish Council Surgery/PC Support

On 9 December 2008 S Richardson held the last in this series of Parish Council surgeries. She proposed that similar events take place later this year; however, surgeries could be organised to deal with specific issues as and when required.

j) Parish Plan

Welcome Pack: The first draft of the Welcome Pack is almost complete and print options are being considered.

Design Statement: The next meeting of the group will be held on 7 January 2009.

Post Office: J Burgess to meet with the sub Post Master on Tuesday 6 January. **Action: J Burgess.**

Parish Council Publicity: D Hutt was asked to provide a personal profile for inclusion in the Compton Chronicle. **Action: D Hutt.**

k) Public Realm Grant

J Burgess was pleased to inform the meeting that the Public Realm Grant application was successful.

- The noticeboard has been delivered and County Highways have given their permission to the Parish Council to site the noticeboard next to the bus shelter.
- The 2 benches will be stored until weather conditions permit installation.
- 'Nature Area project' (by the bus shelter). J Burgess to contact Ms J Starkey and her land agents (Berry Morris) informing them of our wish to commence this project. **Action: J Burgess.**

l) Precept 2009/10

Following discussions at the December meeting J Burgess signed the necessary paperwork to reduce the precept for 2009/10 to £7000. Clerk to return completed paperwork to SDC.

Action: Clerk.

5. Council Report:

Cllr Booth stated that:

- the final decision on the County Council's budget will be made in February.
 - his motion requesting that the County review its policy with regard to HGVs was approved.
- Cllr Booth stated that the needs of local businesses will be supported, whilst attempting to make improvements for residents. It is hoped that the revised policy will ensure that those HGVs travelling through Warwickshire make the best use of the major road and motorway networks, avoiding towns and villages where possible.

6. Correspondence:

Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005 Part 6. The Fouling of Land by Dogs (District of Stratford on Avon) Order 2009 – consultation exercise by SDC with the intention to proceed with enforcement by Fixed Penalty Notices to offenders. Parish Council views requested.

Action: J Burgess.

Dog Ownership. How to be a responsible dog owner – SDC leaflet to be distributed to all dog owners in village. Clerk to prepare covering note to include Clean Neighbourhood Act information (see above.) **Action: Clerk.**

Communities in Control: Real people, real power. Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. A consultation – information to be kept on file. **Action: Clerk.**

Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership – it was agreed not to take up the team's offer to speak at a future parish council meeting.

Planning – provisional meeting set for 22 January 2009.

The following notices of decisions were given:

- Ref: 08/02714/FUL – proposal for first floor and 2 storey rear extension and new chimney at Nursery House for Mr A Walter. Permission refused.
- Ref: 08/02650/FUL – retention of boundary fence with trellising inserted and storage shed. Permission with conditions granted.

Further applications were discussed:

- Ref: 08/02893/LBC - proposal to install 2 ties to front elevation at Knights Farm for Mrs Gina Forsythe. Application withdrawn.
- Close board fence erected around a Listed Building (at Knights Farm). Notice from Planning Enforcement Officer that an investigation has been launched.

7. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 5 January 2009:

Current account	£249.59 credit
Deposit account	£8,671.42 credit

Cheques issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay & expenses*)	£209.53
* includes gas bottle to heat St John's and copier paper for community printer/copiers	
b) S Harris (Reading Room cleaning November & December)	£20.00
c) J Sherriff (Coffee morning)	£6.29
d) L Hope-Frost (Christmas gathering expenses)	£129.06
e) J Burgess (Paint & materials for Reading Room decoration)	£189.42
f) Fitzpatrick Woolmer (Noticeboard)	£1,855.80
g) Glasdon UK (Grit bin)	£192.28
h) Npower (Reading Room electricity charges)	£227.81
i) J Burgess (Brushes, etc for Reading Room decoration)	£144.02

The payment of cheques was proposed by A Rutherford and seconded by S Richardson.

8. Any Other Business:

- a) In order to meet 'Freedom of Information Act' obligations, J Burgess will add the latest update of the Parish Plan Action Plan and a copy of the Reading Room booking schedule to the website. **Action: J Burgess.** These actions, in addition to those already completed by J Burgess, S Richardson and the Clerk, mean that we now comply with the Information Commissioner's Office publication scheme requirements.
- b) J Burgess will advise Jenny Sherriff of the budget figure for the 2009/10 Coffee Mornings. **Action: J Burgess.**
- c) The Clerk notified the Council that a number of quotations for the 2009/10 mowing contract will be made available to the February meeting. She requested that a compost bay be created at the cemetery car park for use by the mowing contractor; this could also prove useful for visitors to the cemetery for disposal of old floral displays from grave sites. This request was approved.
- d) A Rutherford asked whether the Council considered the recently-established Playground Management Group to be a long term requirement? J Burgess felt that this would be a long term commitment.
WALC advice will be sought with regard to banking/invoicing queries raised by the Playground Management Group. **Action: Clerk.**

9. Questions from the Public:

None.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

The next Meeting will be held on Monday 2 February 2009 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.