

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 2 March 2009

- Present J Burgess; L Hope-Frost; S Richardson; A Rutherford;
Cllr C Williams; Clerk
- In Attendance C Barlow (part attendance); J D Davies; I Hiley; K Martin (part attendance)
1. Apologies: D Hutt; Cllr D Booth; Warwickshire Police
 2. Declaration of Interest:
J Burgess declared a prejudicial interest in item 4.g) Social Housing.
 3. Confirmation of Minutes:
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as correct by S Richardson and seconded by J Burgess*; they were then signed by J Burgess. (*Neither L Hope-Frost nor A Rutherford attended the February meeting making them ineligible to approve these minutes.)
 4. Matters Arising:
Note: item 4.g) was discussed first.
 - a) Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch (NW)
Warwickshire Police issued their apologies and asked Cllr Williams to give a report on their behalf. Key priorities are: violent crime, anti-social behaviour and acquisitive crime. Local reports of anti-social behaviour have diminished in most areas. As part of an ongoing investigation, arrests have been made with regard to theft of farm equipment. A meeting was held with members of Fenny Compton, Farnborough and Avon Dasset NW groups. L Hope-Frost reported that the PACT meeting (held prior to the Community Forum session on 19 February) was well attended. Residents are asked to report incidents of dangerous or aggressive driving to the police.
 - b) Traffic and Roads
Traffic – the mobile speed camera team is due to visit (schedule to be advised).
Roads – J Burgess gave the following update:
 - New 'Give Way' signs have been installed on the approach to the B4100.
 - A number of pot holes (including edges of Farnborough Lane) have been reported to County Highways.
 - A request has been made to County Highways to re-fill village grit bins.
 - The fly-tipping in the B4100 layby opposite Banbury Farm Supplies has been reported to Stratford District Council.
 J Burgess was concerned about the deterioration in the condition of some of the village verges, eroded soil from which may present a problem to village drains. Contact will be made with the appropriate authority to attend to the verges. **Action: Cllr Williams.**
Concern was expressed about recent ditch clearance on both the Arlescote Road and the single track lane leading from Farnborough Hall to the Southam Road. Soil has been dumped on the verges to these lanes, leading to reduced road width and mud on roads. Clerk to contact Farnborough and Warmington Parish Councils to enquire if there are plans to mitigate these conditions. **Action: Clerk.**

c) Drainage Issues

No update on requested works.

A new drain has been installed (at the expense of the home owner) in the lane leading to The Thatches. This drain adequately dealt with recent heavy snow-melt.

d) Playground

Proposals: A Rutherford presented a report from the Playground Committee focusing on the need for a formal tenancy agreement, site maintenance issues and administrative set-up tasks required prior to commencing grant applications for playground improvements.

Inspection Report: The Playground Committee compiled a list of fixes identified by the inspection report. It was agreed that A Rutherford ask Pete Wallace to carry out necessary repairs. **Action: A Rutherford.**

Independent advice is being sought regarding the poor drainage at the playground site.

e) Reading Room

Floor: J Burgess and L Hope-Frost to get quotations to have the floor sanded and stained.

Action: L Hope-Frost/J Burgess.

Letter Box: Permission to purchase and fix a letter cage for the inside of the door was granted. **Action: Clerk.**

f) Future uses for St John the Baptist Church

S Richardson to arrange a meeting of interested parties to determine how best to progress the launch event and establish a programme of events. **Action: S Richardson.** J Burgess commented that grant funding could be sought for improvements at St John's provided that demand for future use by the community could be demonstrated.

L Hope-Frost stated that the church yard is in need of attention; she is awaiting Probation Service confirmation regarding the timing of commencement of work.

g) Social Housing

Charles Barlow, Rural Housing Enabler, WRCC attended the meeting to provide an update on investigations made regarding the suitability of the two sites that local landowners have put forward for social housing development. He has received reports from the Senior Officer and the Urban Design Officer covering general planning and design & conservation issues (copies issued to all Councillors). In summary, there are planning concerns with both sites.

However, it was agreed to await the report from County Highways prior to making any decisions regarding these sites. C Barlow agreed to attend the April meeting of the Parish Council by which time it is hoped that the report from County Highways will be available.

Action: C Barlow.

h) Parish Plan

Welcome Pack: Letters of thanks have been sent to Sandra Rice and Mary Edgington.

Design Statement: No update.

Shop: A letter has been sent to Caroline Englefield informing her of the results of the Parish Council's investigations for a village shop.

J Burgess will update the Action Plan on the website. **Action: J Burgess.** She asked all councillors to examine the Action Plan so that plans can be developed to progress as yet 'uncompleted' issues. **Action: All.**

i) Public Realm Grant:

Benches: It was agreed to reinstate the recently-repaired bench in the playground, and fit the two new benches at the agreed sites as soon as weather permits. **Action: A Rutherford.**

Noticeboard: A Rutherford to contact possible volunteers to erect the newly-purchased noticeboard. **Action: A Rutherford.**

Nature Area: The landowner has refused permission to use that part of her land extending from behind the bus shelter to the Knights Farm boundary; however County Highways have no objection to the use of their land at the site for this project. A site meeting will be held on Saturday 7 March at 10.00 am to determine what can be achieved on a smaller plot.

Action: All.

Given the delays to this project, J Burgess felt that an extension to the grant spend period would be necessary. Clerk to contact Lizzie Price. **Action: Clerk.**

j) Internet Bank Account

Application paperwork has been completed and returned to bank. Clerk to chase bank for status of set-up. **Action: Clerk.**

5. Council Report:

Cllr Williams presented his report – attached.

6. Correspondence:

Code of Conduct Training – new date set for 19 March.

Parish Talk Issue 11 plus Refuse & Recycling Changes – new recycling regime to commence in April 2009 – see noticeboards and website for details.

The Right to Roam in Warwickshire – poster on noticeboards and information on website.

Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust – anyone wishing to become a member of the Trust, please see information on the website or take a leaflet from the Reading Room.

Town & Parish Standard – Issue 4 of the newsletter from the Standards Board for England (copied to all Councillors).

The Fouling of Land by Dogs (District of Stratford-on-Avon) Order 2009 – the Order comes into force on 1 April 2009.

Library Service Consultation – survey forms available in the Reading Room.

Planning – provisional meeting set for Thursday 19 March 2009.

- Ref: 09/00024/LBC - proposal to replace garage door & change ensuite bathroom from double to single room at Knights Farm for Mrs Gina Forsythe. Consent granted with conditions.

- Ref: 08/02650/FUL – The Planning Enforcement Officer wishes to be informed should there be a failure to complete works to fencing at Eva's Cottage by 8 June 2009.

7. Financial Statement:

Balances at close of business on Monday 2 March 2009:

Current account	£257.08 credit
Deposit account	£5,422.61 credit

Cheques issued:

a) M Maughan (Clerk's pay & expenses including anti-virus software for website laptop)	£191.47
b) J Sherriff (Coffee morning)	£10.27
c) A Rice (Welcome Pack printing costs)	£44.00
d) Salvo Design & Print Ltd (Welcome Pack folders)	£230.00
e) J Burgess (Annual expenses)	£30.00
f) Npower (Street light electricity)	£13.83
g) Red Horse Vale Ltd (Shed for cemetery)	£132.00
h) A Sheasby (Mowing – cemetery car park x 4)	£161.00
Post meeting cheques issued on 3 March:	
i) L Hope-Frost (Annual expenses)	£30.00
j) Chubb (Reading Room alarm maintenance)	£156.78
k) S Harris (Reading Room cleaning)	£10.00
l) L Hope-Frost (Padlock for cemetery shed)	£19.79

The payment of cheques was proposed by L Hope-Frost and seconded by A Rutherford.

8. Any Other Business:

- a) Mr K Martin asked the Parish Council to reconsider its decision regarding the need for a bus shelter by the playground. A Rutherford agreed to write a piece for the Compton Chronicle in which he will ask for the views of residents on this subject. **Action: A Rutherford.**
- b) Discussion ensued regarding the shed that was erected in the corner of the cemetery by the Warden. Cllr Williams agreed to establish whether planning permission was required for the shed. **Action: Cllr Williams.** (Post meeting note: Cllr Williams confirmed that no planning permission is required for this project.) Concerns were expressed regarding the colour of the shed and the fact that the proposed future addition of a water butt might encroach on space allocated for plot no. 10. However, the Council agreed that the shed was a useful addition to the site and agreed to fund this. L Hope-Frost volunteered to purchase a padlock for the shed. **Action: L Hope-Frost.** The Clerk was instructed to inform the Warden of the Council's decision. **Action: Clerk.**
- c) It was agreed to ask Pete Wallace to create a compost bay in the corner of the cemetery car park. **Action: A Rutherford.**
- d) In response to a request by the cemetery Warden for a holly hedge at the boundary of the cemetery, it was noted that no funds had been set aside in the budget for this project. The Council agreed to consider this proposal when next discussing budget allocation.
- e) Residents had expressed displeasure at the damage to the grass verge and kerb stones on the area of land that houses the 'Gnome's Loo'. The Clerk was asked to contact County Highways to determine who is responsible for maintaining this area of grass. **Action: Clerk.**
- f) L Hope-Frost enquired about the possibility of using 'aqua bags' in lieu of sandbags. Cllr Williams provided some information about these re-usable, water-filled, bags and said he would find out costs. **Action: Cllr Williams.**

9. Questions from the Public:

Mr I Hiley raised two issues pertaining to the privately-owned lane leading to farm buildings, garages and the rear entrance to Avon Carrow:

- i) the road surface is in need of repair; and
- ii) wheelie bins are a permanent feature alongside property boundaries in the lane.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council was unable to comment on these issues as this is a private matter requiring resolution by the Avon Carrow residents, the owner of the lane and the owners of the wheelie bins.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

The next Meeting will be held on Monday 6 April 2009 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

Avon Dassett Parish Council 02.03.09.
District Councillor's Report

1. Despite what appeared to be insurmountable problems in arriving at a balanced budget, low interest rates, falling income from planning applications together with a general downturn in the economy, I am pleased to advise you that the District Council Tax has increased by only 3.5%. This is the same increase that was applied last year. We have achieved this figure by careful management of the finances. The Council was under pressure to consider setting an even lower tax figure but this proposal was rejected since the predictions for next year and the year after are not good and the Council will have to seek even further savings just to balance its budget in future years. By setting a lower tax base this year would have made future years considerably harder. There is a glimmer of hope that by this time next year interest rates might have started to move upwards and obviously the Council in its present lean and efficient manner would benefit from any such changes in the economy. The Council Tax increase equates to £4.20 per annum, or no more than 8p per week. The District Council element of the total Council Tax you pay is only 12%. The remainder comes from contributions for the County Council, the Police and Parish Precepts.

2. Due to the current low demand for planning applications to be determined by committee, it has been decided to conduct a trial for one year where all planning applications that were previously referred to the Eastern Area Planning Committee will now be administered by one committee meeting in Stratford itself. As a matter of interest the March meeting of the East APC has been cancelled due to lack of applications.

3. I can confirm the fortnightly collections of Green Waste start again week beginning Monday 6th April. Unlike previously, householders will be able to place food waste in the Green Bin provided it is wrapped in paper, not plastic. The Blue lidded Bin for recycled waste will be collected fortnightly as usual. There has been a dramatic increase in the amount waste sent for recycling which has resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of household waste (black lidded bin) being collected. As a consequence, it is now been agreed that in the interests of economy household waste will be collected fortnightly. I must stress that these new arrangements keep the Council's promise of food waste being collected weekly.

