

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Reading Room on Monday 11 May 2009

- Present J Burgess; S Richardson; D Hutt; A Rutherford; Clerk
- In Attendance J D Davies; A F Rice; G J Rice; Cllr D Booth (part attendance)
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 S Richardson and seconded by J Burgess*; they were then signed by J Burgess. (*Neither D Hutt nor A Rutherford were members of the Parish Council in May 2008.)
 4. Chair's Report:
Jill Burgess presented her report – see Appendix 1.
Sarah Richardson congratulated Jill on her year as Chair and expressed our gratitude for the work that she has undertaken on behalf of the village; this was concurred by her fellow councillors and clerk.
 5. Financial Report:
See Appendix 2. Jill Burgess thanked the Clerk for the preparation of Parish Council accounts and completion of the year's audit documentation.
 6. Charities' Report:
Graham Rice presented the annual report from the Trustees of Avon Dasset Charities - see Appendix 3.
 7. Election of Officers:
Andy Rutherford proposed that Jill Burgess be re-elected as Chair; this was seconded by David Hutt.
Andy Rutherford proposed that Sarah Richardson be re-elected as Vice-Chair; this was seconded by David Hutt.
Acceptance of Office documentation was signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

**Avon Dassett Parish Council
Chair's End of Year Report 2008/9**

Despite the resignation of two councillors at the last A.G.M 2008/9 has been another productive year for Avon Dassett Parish Council. We were delighted to welcome David Hutt and Andy Rutherford as new councillors in the second quarter of the year to bring us up to full strength again. Many projects have continued to develop over the year and we are gradually working through the Parish Plan Action Plan which has become a regular agenda item.

Representatives from Community Policing have been in attendance at most Parish Council meetings and Avon Dassett is regularly represented at Community Forum meetings.

The static speed camera made its first appearance in the village in November and despite some initial problems became a very useful deterrent for speeding vehicles. Unfortunately, due to high demand this camera will only be available approximately once every 12 months but we will continue to have input from the mobile traffic cameras throughout the year.

Most of the outstanding drainage maintenance, such as jetting and digging out, has been completed, which should make a significant difference to the flow of surface water. Investigations are still to be undertaken on two sites- the drains by St Anne's Cottage and at the bottom of Bitham Hall drive. The Parish Council was very pleased to hear that we would be benefiting from funding from the East Joint Committee amounting to almost £30k. This funding will be used for road profiling to reduce/ eliminate property flooding and a CCTV survey to jet and map the village. Our grateful thanks go to David Booth for supporting us in this very important matter.

Road problems such as pot holes and cracks are routinely reported to County Highways and we appreciate the vigilance of village residents in keeping us informed of potential problems. The motorway bridge has been repaired at long last!

The Playground Management Group was formed during the year by parents and other interested residents. Their aim is to further develop this excellent facility. Some routine maintenance to equipment has already been undertaken and grants for new equipment are being researched.

The Village Design Group also formed during the year and have meet regularly to put together a Village Design Statement for Avon Dassett. The group aim to present a draft statement to the village in the form of an exhibition in the near future where villagers will have the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

We heard in January that Stratford East Joint Committee had chosen not to approve the proposed footpath extension on Church Hill as its high cost was difficult to justify.

The Parish Website continues to go from strength to strength thanks to Sarah Richardson's input. SDC have used the Avon Dassett website as an example of best practice and Sarah was invited to take part in the Market Place exhibition as part of SDC's bid for Beacon Status.

The village welcome pack was distributed to all residents in January. We are grateful to Sandra Rice and Mary Edgington for undertaking this huge piece of work and for producing such a professional document.

The Parish Council has been very successful in obtaining funding from several grants during the past year. From the SDC Flood Grant we were able to purchase a water pump to help with flooding problems at The Thatches. We were granted £1000 from the Public Realm Grant Fund which was split between three projects, namely the new notice board, new benches for the playground and the top of Church Hill and the proposed 'Nature Area'. Funding was also granted from Avon Dassett Fete Committee and the Parish Plan Steering Group for these projects. The new notice board and the benches are already in place and it is hoped that the nature area project will commence in the near future. We also received £500 from a communication grant which funded the printing of the village Welcome Pack. The remainder of this money will be used to print village images on to post cards and for website development.

In January the interior of the Reading Room was decorated by a team of workers from the Probation Service. The labour was provided free of charge with the Parish Council providing materials. The result was of a good standard and it is hoped that we will be able to use this service again for future village projects.

Following the ballot on Affordable Housing in May last year talks have continued with Warwickshire Rural Community Council to explore the possibility of building three affordable homes in the village. Two possible plots were put forward for consideration one of which was rejected for conservation and viability reasons. The second plot, which also has a number of concerns associated with it, is still being reviewed by Warwickshire County Council. Village residents are being kept aware of developments via the Compton Chronicle and the Village Website.

Instead of the usual Best Kept Village Competition villages were invited to submit projects for consideration by a panel of judges. Avon Dassett submitted the Parish Website and the Parish Plan and received a silver award. Many villagers were unhappy that the 'Best Kept' aspect had been dropped and this was made known to the organisers. This part of the competition has now been reinstated but in a different format requiring photographic and written evidence. Avon Dassett will not be submitting the supporting paperwork requested and hope that the judges will come to the village to see for themselves how well it is kept.

Renovation work was completed on St John's in August and the church has been open to visitors most weekends since then. The church bells were rung in February for the first time in 30 years to mark the 40 year anniversary of The Churches Conservation Trust. Village residents and groups have been asked to suggest a programme of activities for the summer months to make use of this great space. The first event to be held in the church will be a photographic competition open to all local people. Winning entries will be made into postcards to promote Avon Dassett. Many thanks to Lily Hope-Frost for liaising with The Churches Conservation Trust and SDC during the renovation works and for continuing to do battle with SDC over the upkeep of the church graveyard.

During the year we have tried to promote the work of the Parish Council and ensure that village residents are fully informed about what is happening in and around the parish. As

an experiment we held three surgeries for villagers to drop in to with any concerns they may have. We intend to repeat these surgeries in the future as the need occurs.

Thanks

I would like to thank our contractors for keeping the graveyard, playground and village verges looking so good, Mary Edgington for planting up the many flower tubs and beds and keeping them watered throughout the year and Jenny Sherriff for organising the monthly coffee mornings and for maintaining the Reading Room diary.

Thanks also to my fellow councillors for the sterling work they have undertaken on behalf of the village during the past year with special thanks to our Vice Chair, Sarah Richardson, for her work on the Website and for keeping a close eye on the budget.

Thanks to Chris Williams and David Booth for attending so many of our meeting and for their help and support with many issues.

Finally, grateful thanks to Margaret Maughan our hard working and efficient clerk who has once again ensured that Parish Council business runs smoothly and professionally throughout the year. It was with great sadness that I accepted her resignation last month, we will be very sorry to lose her.

Jill Burgess
Chair, 2008-2009

**AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING 11 MAY 2009**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank balance @ 31 March 2008:	£9741.48
Precept for 2008/9:	£7500.00
Receipts during 2008/9:	£3731.53
Payments during 2008/9:	£16334.57
Balance carried forward @ 31 March 2009:	£4638.44

Annual Report from the Trustees of Avon Dassett Charities Accounts 2008

James and Hind Charities Income

Appendix 3

	Tenant	Date of Payment	Income		Total
	Mr. Bellamy	Jan-04	136.78		
		Oct-08	136.78		
	Mrs. Huggins			273.56	
Bank Balance - Jan 2008				9.28	282.84

Expenditure

	Senior Citizens	Date of Payment	Amount		
	10 recipients	Dec-08	27.70	277.00	
Bank Balance Jan 2009				5.84	282.84

Freckletons Charity Income

	Source	Date of Payment	Income		
	Charity Commission investment	30.11.07	17.51		
		29.2.08	25.96		
		30.5.08	18.13		
		29.8.08	21.07		
		28.11.08	21.07		
Bank Balance Jan. 2008				113.74	
				16.53	
				120.27	
Cheques not cashed				10.00	
					130.27

Expenditure

	Junior Scholars	Date of payment	Amount		
	12 Recipients	Dec-08	5.00	60.00	
	Senior Scholars				
	6 Recipients	Dec-08	7.00	42.00	
Bank Balance Jan 2009				102.00	
				28.27	130.27

Poor Allotments Charity Income

	Source	Date of Payment	Income		Total
	Charity Commission Investment	30.11.07	0.18		
		30.11.07	3.83		
		29.2.08	0.26		
		29.2.08	5.67		
		30.5.08	0.18		
		30.5.08	3.96		
		29.8.08	0.21		
		29.8.08	4.60		
		28.11.08	0.21		
		28.11.08	4.60		
Bank Balance Jan. 2008				23.70	
				0.10	23.80

Expenditure

	Senior Citizens	Date of Payment	Amount		
	10 Recipients	Dec-08	2.30	23.00	
Bank Balance Jan 2009				0.80	23.80

Change of Trustees

Two of the previous Trustees – Charles Worrall and Reg Watts resigned last year; their places were taken by Ray Randerson and Sarah Rutherford who joined Graham Rice. Ray Randerson was asked to be Chairman.