

Askerswell Parish Meeting

This Chair's report and the Clerk's finance report summarise the happenings of the last six months and review the year ahead. Exceptionally, this report is in writing because the Covid-19 emergency prevents us meeting in person.

Chair's report 30 April 2020

Finance

The Clerk's finance report is attached below. The position is on track with the plan that we agreed at the meeting in October 2019.

As agreed at that time, £400 has been paid to each of the Village Hall and for maintenance of the Churchyard. We have set aside money to pay for maintenance at Washingpool Millennium Green (see below) and to begin to build the agreed reserve. Regular expenditure on other routine matters was small and within the expected budget.

Although all the money remaining in the bank is committed for Washingpool maintenance and for the reserve, the financial position is sound because the Parish receives payment of our precept from Dorset Council at the end of April and October, £900 each time.

Thank you to Nigel Guard for acting as internal auditor. The Parish Meeting must formally approve the Finance and Governance reports at its next meeting (see below).

Washingpool Millennium Green

The October meeting decided to commission work to clear fallen timber, to safeguard remaining trees and to provide a written maintenance plan. In the description of work, we have summarised our aim as managing the area in ways that balance safety, amenity and biodiversity.

We awarded the contract within the agreed budget to Toller Tree Care following a competitive tender because they will deliver best overall value for money both immediately and in the longer term. They demonstrated the desired sensitivity to the agreed maintenance aims and will provide a professional inspection report to support the Parish's duty of care.

We hoped that the work could be started in March but poor ground conditions, and now restrictions on working distances, have delayed it.

Washingpool Fund

The October meeting suggested that we formalise the holding of money to support Washingpool that has built up from various sources, such as the annual calendar, over several years. Although it's a relatively small sum (around £250 at present), this money is important and useful because it allows us to pay for things that the Parish Meeting's very limited spending remit cannot cover. We have accordingly opened a bank account and will transfer the money from its present holding places when circumstances permit.

It's important to note that the Washingpool Fund is not part of the Parish Meeting money, although it's our intention to regularly present at future Parish Meetings an account of how the money is used. I'd also like to discuss possible approaches to coordination of fund-raising for this and other purposes at a future meeting.

Maintenance of green spaces

Thank you to all the people who have continued to mow the grass in Washingpool and the village hall, and to Howard Atkinson for arranging the rota and arranging servicing for the mower.

Thanks also to Mandy and Graham Hall for continuing to give us a cheering and vibrant display of colour in the tubs in the Square.

Planning

The application for an extension at 1 Leggs Mead was approved by Dorset Council following supportive comments from a parish consultation meeting. We are grateful to Councillor Alford for helping ensure the approval was processed very quickly.

Highways

Several small repairs have been done to potholes and drainage problems. The local highways officer has been very helpful and proactive. He's visited the village several times for detailed inspections with the three PM officers. The surface of the eastern section of Hembury Road remains an outstanding issue that will require more money than he can commit locally, although he has recommended it for attention. We will continue to press for a proper reconstruction to be done as soon as money can be found.

Parish Meeting officers for 2020/2021

Maggie Barrett planned to stand down as Parish Clerk at the end of April. We are very grateful to her for all the work she has done in that role for several years, and particularly appreciate that she has volunteered to continue until we can have a meeting to appoint a successor.

We therefore need someone to be our Clerk. If you might be interested, please talk to John or Maggie (contact details below) - please!

John Mahoney and Frank Hemmings are prepared to continue as Chair and Deputy Chair for the coming year.

Date of next meeting

The meeting scheduled for 30 April was cancelled because of the Covid-19 emergency. We are legally required to approve our annual accounts and elect the officers for 2020/21 in a face-to-face meeting; Parish Meetings are not permitted to meet virtually. The government has temporarily changed the deadline for that meeting from 15 May to 1 September. When circumstances permit, we will fix a date, put a notice on the board and send it via the Askerswell Post email list, giving at least 7 days' notice.

Any questions?

Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments or questions.

John Mahoney

Chair of Askerswell Parish Meeting

2019/20	Chair	askerswellchair@gmail.com	John Mahoney	01308 485 169
Post	Parish Clerk	askerswellclerk@gmail.com	Maggie Barrett	01308 485 513
Holders	Deputy Chair	askerswelldepchair@gmail.com	Frank Hemmings	01308 485 456

Financial Report for 2019/20

Askerswell Parish Meeting							
Financial Report 2019 - 2020							
2018-19	Notes	2019-20	2018-19	Notes	2019-20		
£	Receipts	£	£	£	Expenditure	£	£
1137.30	Balance b/f		1556.28	160.65	Insurance		160.65
	Annual Precept			32.59	DAPTC		33.67
	- April	900.00			Repairs & Maintenance		
1800.00	- September	900.00	1800.00	175.18	- Washingpool	0.00	
	Other Income			123.60	- Parish	225.30	225.30
135.00	Profit from 2019 Calendar				Administration		
	CPRE Grant	60.00		24.00	- Hire of hall for meeting	20.00	
	Re Neighbourhood Plan				- ICT resources	77.38	
2072.00	Groundwork UK Grant				- Printing	16.40	113.78
					Contributions		
				500.00	- Askerswell PCC	400.00	
				500.00	- Askerswell Village Hall	400.00	800.00
					Re Neighbourhood Plan		
					960.84 - Professional Support		
					260.00 - Creeds Design & Print		
					60.10 - Admin expenses		
					791.06 - Groundwork UK refund		0.00
				1556.28	Balance c/f		2082.88
5144.30		3416.28	5144.30				3416.28

Since the October meeting addition expenditure has been made of: £43.73 on plants for the tubs in the square; £9.84 on the printing of the parish updates and £400 has been made to both the village hall to help with general maintenance and the church to help maintain the churchyard.

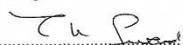
The end of year accounts financial report has been examined by Nigel Guard (see below) and he has completed the Annual Internal Audit Report.

Askerswell Parish Meeting

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2020

	2019-20		2018-19	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
April Precept		900.00		900.00
September Precept		900.00		900.00
Profit from Calendar		-		135.00
Neighbourhood Forum		-		-
Environmental Award		-		-
Neighbourhood Plan Grant		-		2072.00
CPRE Grant		60.00		-
Total Receipts		1860.00		4007.00
Payments				
Contributions				
Askerswell PCC	400.00		500.00	
Askerswell Village Hall	400.00	800.00	500.00	1000.00
Insurance		160.65		160.65
DAPTC		33.67		32.59
Repairs & Maintenance				
Washingpool	0.00		175.18	
Parish	225.30	225.30	123.60	298.78
Hire of Hall for meetings		20.00		24.00
Administration		93.78		-
Neighbourhood Plan		-		2072.00
Total Payments		1333.40		3588.02
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		526.60		418.98
Cash in Bank at 1st April		1556.28		1137.30
+ Receipts		1860.00		4007.00
		3416.28		5144.30
- Payments		1333.40		3588.02
Cash in Bank at 31st March		2082.88		1556.28

I have examined the records set before me that cover the financial year 2019-20 and confirm that the figures set out above are in accordance with the books and records provided.


Independent Examiner

15/04/20
Dated

As the Parish Meeting has a gross income or gross expenditure of less than £25000, John Mahoney, as Chair, has signed a 'Certificate of Exemption' showing that the Parish had an income of £1860 and an expenditure of £1333. This will be forwarded to the External Auditor who is currently PKF Littlejohn LLP.

The £2082 balance has already been earmarked: £191 for servicing and fuel for the Washingpool Mower and £1440 for Washingpool tree management. It was agreed at the October meeting to try and keep a contingency of £1000, at present this stands at £451. That leaves us with an uncommitted carry-forward of £0 but as we know, the precept of £1800 will be received during this next financial year so the Parish remains with more than adequate funds.

Margaret Barrett – Parish Meeting Clerk