

**Minutes of the Autumn
Askerswell Parish Meeting
held in the Askerswell Village Hall
at 19.30 on 28th October 2015**

Present: Mr. H. J. Atkinson. Chairman
Mr. J. R. Mahoney. Deputy Chairman

Mr. P. A. Harrison. Clerk

In attendance: 33 Electors

Cllr M Roberts WDDC
Cllr R Coatsworth DCC

Item 17/15: Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present, and thanked parishioners for attending, The Chairman said that the agenda was full, but that he was hoping to bring the meeting to a close within two hours. He then went on to deal with Village Hall safety issues (Domestic)

The Chairman did not list any matters to be added to **Item 31/15:** Any Other Business at this time.

Item 18/15: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from:-

Mr M Dyson	Mrs J Wilsdon	Mrs B Roberts
Ms J Thommason	Ms M Pieris	Mr V Sheppard
Mr A Wilsdon	Mr N Guard	Mrs S Dutt

(9 Persons)

Item 19/15: Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd April 2015 were agreed by those present as being a representative record of that meeting.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mrs Gill Fowler and seconded by Mr Graham Fowler. The Minutes were then duly signed by the Chairman.

Item 20/15: Matters Arising.

The Chairman said that he was not aware of any 'Matters Arising' that were not scheduled to be dealt with as items in the agenda. The Clerk confirmed this to be the case.

Item 21/15: Correspondence & Electronic Communications.

The clerk confirmed that there were no matters arising from Correspondence or Electronic Communications that were not to be dealt with as agenda items.

Item 22/15: Planning Matters.

The Clerk said that the Parish had, had four sets of plans referred for comment so far this year, and that these made up the entries reflected in both our manual and spreadsheet records, a copy of which was at the back of the Hall.

He said that the four applications were as follows :-

1. Hembury House – Hembury Road
2. The Wheatsheaf – Nallers Lane
3. Rocky Close Farm – Old School Access Road
4. Faraway – School lane

All these applications have been set before the Parishioners, the Hembury House plans in May 2015 and the Wheatsheaf in June 2015

The plans for Rocky Close Farm and Faraway were, far more recent (26th October 2015)

He went on to say that, the first of these applications, for Hembury House, was approved on the 18th June 2015, however the Planning Application for Wheatsheaf, had been subsequently withdrawn.

He said that, as far as both Rocky Close Farm and Faraway were concerned, that where comments had been made, that these had been forwarded by post, and that the outcome was awaited.

He added that further information on all these items was available on the noticeboard, at the back of the hall.

He said that, Parishioners should not forget that all these plans together with the results of the applications are now available for all to see on the 'Planning Pages' of the WDDC website

Item 22/15: Planning Matters.(Contd)

Finally he made that point that for those people who do not have internet access, or just preferred to see the 'Paper Copy' of plans received by the Parish, that he was happy to make these available to any Parishioners at his private address on an 'Appointment Basis'.

Item 23/15: Highway Matters

The Chairman said that he was not aware of any matters needing attention. The Clerk reminded those present, that should any such matters present themselves, that they should be made know to the Chairman.

Item 24/15: Financial Reports

Item 24/15/1&2:

The Clerk reported that the first half of 2015/16 had been quiet from a financial perspective.

He said that since the last meeting when the 'Parish Annual Returns' had been set before the Parish, that these had now been reviewed by both the Local Independent Auditor (Mr Alan Glenn) and externally by the accounting group BDO, and that they had subsequently been agreed, and have now been signed off.

The Clerk showed the Returns to those present, and thanked Mr Glenn for his help and assistance.

The Clerk added that, all the accounting records for the Parish, together with the submitted Returns for 2014/15 were now available to anyone wishing to see them, and that this was in compliance with Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act, and a notice to this effect was already on the village noticeboard.

He then went on to review the 2015/16 year so far, and started by saying that he had completed a Bank Reconciliation as at 30th September 2015 and that this confirmed the current balance at the bank as £1622.84.

He said that a copy of the Bank Reconciliation could be found at the back of the Hall for the Parishioners perusal.

Item 24/15: Financial Reports (Cont'd 1)

Item 24/15/1&2: (Cont'd 1)

He then said that he would now like to review the content of the interim accounts for 2015/16 and asked those present to refer to the reverse side of their agenda accordingly.

Interim Financial Report year 2015-2016 Financial position as at - 30th September 2015

Receipts			Payments		
31 st March 2015*		30th September 2015	31 st March 2015*		30 th September 2015
£71.55	Balance B/F	£888.69	£29.73	DAPTC Subscription	£30.41
£1100.00	Precept	£1800.00	£144.59	Insurance (Community First)	£144.59
			£0.00	Askerswell PCC	£400.00
			£0.00	Askerswell Village Hall	£400.00
			£21.00	Hire of Village hall	£8.00
			£21.56	Repairs & Renewals	£16.94
			£65.98	Administration	£65.91
			£888.69	Balance C/Fwd	£1622.84
£1171.55	Totals	£2688.69	£1,171.55	Totals	£2688.69

* Figures shown reflect annual figures for 2014/15

The Clerk reviewed and explained the figures reflected in the accounts, making only one important comment, that the charge shown for 'Administration' of £65.91 was paid as expenses, as this was how it was claimed. But that the payment was however for costs involved in remedial work done on 'The Pound' for the 'Best Kept Village Competition' so the charge would be moved to 'Repairs and Renewals' for the end of year accounts.

Accruals and Prepayments

Insofar as monies owed to, and by the Parish the Clerk said that there were still approximately six months to run on both the current insurance policy (£73) and the DAPTC subscription (£16), a total of £89.00.

As to monies owed by the Parish, he said that the Parish owes £24.00 to the Village Hall for hire costs, £2.60 in administration costs .. a total of £26.60.

Item 24/15: Financial Reports (Cont'd 2)

Item 24/15/1&2: (Cont'd 2)

The Clerk made the point that as Parishioners would expect, the officers try hard to keep all expenses to a minimum.

He added however that having made the point, at the back of the Hall together with a copy of the accounts he had just detailed, there was a full and detailed breakdown of all 'Administration Costs' for the Parishioners perusal.

He went on to say that, the Chairman would mention Washingpool in his report in due course, but that again, Parishioners would find, at the back of the Hall a set of simple accounts that reflected monies spent on the necessary renovations to that area. The Clerk then expressed his grateful thanks to Mr Nigel Guard for auditing the Washingpool Green accounts figures.

Finally, he said that, every year Parish Officers were asked to consider completing a 'Full Risk Analysis', and that every year the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Clerk review the approach to the work done on the Parishes behalf and that security of the Parish finances are reviewed at that time. He said that, accordingly, he had to report that acceptable controls are in place and that these are fully effective.

Item 24/15/3,4 & 5:

The Chairman said that after consideration that it had been decided that a further increase in the Precept was unnecessary, and that he was to recommend that the amount remain unchanged for the year 2016/17

Mr Ian Russell said that there had been substantial increases in the Precept in recent times, and he wished to know what the additional monies were to be spent on.

The Chairman made the point that further payments were to be made to the Village Hall and PCC, but did not specify amounts, and that monies would be required for further remedial work required to be completed on Washingpool Green.

Mr Russell asked for further details, and the Chairman explained that he was hoping to deal with this matter in detail when he made his report on the Washingpool area under item 26/15/1/1b.

However Mr Russell continued to press the point, and in view of this, the required vote to accept the Financial Reports had to be delayed.

Item 24/15/3,4 & 5: (Con'td)

The Chairman went on to say, that he had many ideas that may benefit the Parish, but that many had not yet got a 'Definitive Cost', and he listed these as follows

1. Village website carrying information of interest to locals and visitors that supplements but does not compete with the ECV. Examples include minutes of this meeting, the 6 monthly Parish update, information received by the clerk of interest. He added that, sometimes their relevance is lost by the next Parish Meeting.
2. An explanatory board on the history and local interest of Askerswell to be erected in the square.
3. A map of the village showing the location of houses for deliveries and visitors
4. Road signs (Where not a WDDC responsibility).
5. Repairing of direction sign and railings at the square, and an intention to ask BT and Post Office to refresh their installations.
6. Increased flower presence e.g. snowdrops, daffodils etc. at Jubilee tree or square.
7. Parish support for hedge and tree trimming around the village.
(The counter argument is that this is a householder responsibility.)

Before leaving this agenda item however, on the Chair dealt with Item 24/15/5 on the agenda, the appointment of an independent Internal Auditor, Mr Alan Glenn was invited to continue in the post, he accepted, and was duly elected to the post. The Chairman made a point of thanking Mr Glenn for standing again, and for the work he carried out for the Parish.

Item 25/15: WDDC & DCC Matters

Normally as a matter of courtesy Cllr Coatsworth would be asked to speak first, however, as Cllr Roberts was required to leave the meeting early due to other commitments the order of presentation was reversed.

WDDC Report

Cllr Roberts said that he was pleased to still be representing Askerswell within the new Ward of Netherbury.

WDDC Report (Cont'd)

He said that the main news was that many councils were now combining, some forming 'Tri-Council Partnerships' and that this was leading to substantial savings, with both savings on Capital and some on Revenue.

He said that there had been some government grants available to aid this, and mostly the work done had gone well. He admitted however that there were still some areas where problems existed and areas such as IT and Planning still required more attention.

He made special mention of problems in 'Planning' which were leading to what may be seen to be unacceptable delays, and that these matters were currently being addressed.

He stated that the 'Local Dorset Framework' had been submitted and it was expected to be accepted without problem, and that the framework would marry up with the various 'Neighbourhood Plans' currently being put in place. He added that all Parishes in his ward except Powerstock were now developing Neighbourhood Plans.

Finally, he made mention of the fact that refuse collection was no longer a task completed by the District, and that it was now run by the 'Dorset Waste Partnership' (DWP), so he was not now in a position to answer questions on the revised collection procedures.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, there were none.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Roberts for attending the meeting, after which the Councillor left the meeting.

DCC Report

Cllr Coatsworth made reference to the fund with which he was involved, and said that there would be a further small amount of money available to Askerswell such as the one last year which the Parish used to buy more 'Flower Containers' for the Village Square.

The amount available this year is thought to be £108.00.

The Chairman asked if the amount could be made available as part payment for something more expensive. Cllr Coatsworth responded that, it made accounting for the funds more difficult, but it was not impossible, he suggested that if that were required the Chairman should discuss the matter with him directly. He finished by saying that applications should be with him by January 2016.

DCC Report (Cont'd)

He went on to say that there had been work done on the problem with slow broadband speeds, and poor mobile telephone connectivity, but said that Askerswell's Deputy Chair, Mr John Mahoney had been very much involved in this issue, and probably knew more on this matter than he did.

Cllr Coatsworth acknowledged what had already been said by Cllr Roberts, with regards to Councils combining to save funds, and agreed that whilst initially this had been seen as a good move this had not turned out to be as good as initially thought, and there were some problems with accountability.

Finally, he mentioned that the Bournemouth conurbation and outlying areas of East Dorset might seek to become a separate Council. This could cause a range of difficulties for the resultant smaller Dorset County Council.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, there were none.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Coatsworth for attending the meeting.

Item 26/15: Local Reports

The Chairman allowed a change in the order of the presentation of the Local Reports so that Mrs Veronica Sheppard, who was feeling unwell, might be in a position to leave the meeting early.

Item 25/15/2

Homewatch

Mrs Sheppard reported that her report was very much the same as last year, but that the emphasis was to be on Telephone and Internet 'Scams'

Mrs Sheppard referred to the very convincing fraudulent telephone calls being made to victims, and she reminded those present not to give out personal details, and to be very wary of 'Ring Me Back' requests, as fraudsters have now found ways to ensure *they* receive such calls.

Finally she made the point the if you are unsure about an approach speak to a friend first.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, there were none, and Mrs Sheppard left the meeting.

Mr David Altree said that his report would be short, and that all he really wanted to do was to thank all those who had given up their time to mow the area.

He did say that he was aware of the fact that the mower had been reported as not working and that he would be looking into the matter shortly.

The Chairman said that he had been made aware of a possible 'Ride On' mower that might be donated to the Parish. He suggested steps should be taken to find out what is wrong with the current mower, but no repairs should be made to it until the situation regarding the possibility of the 'Ride On' mower had been determined. He said that the latter machine was currently with a local engineering company being repaired, and a condition of the donation may well be that the Parish accept the costs of this remedial work.

Some discussion then took place as to where a 'Ride On' mower might be stored, and Mr Ian Russell kindly said that it might be stored at Medway House, The Chairman thanked Mr Russell accordingly.

The Chairman said that the availability of a ride on mower may well encourage other people to volunteer for the task.

The Chairman started by thanking all those who had been involved in the work on Washingpool Green so far this year, however he made special mention of Graham Hall and Geoff Barrett who helped install a drain to the east of the football field, and Graham, Antony, Peter, and Nigel who had brush cut around the pond twice each during the year.

He said that Graham and Geoff had also helped clear sedges from the pond, which is now restored, to about 50% of its maximum surface area, and Peter had repaired the fence, although sadly some later vandalism had meant that further repairs were now necessary.

He also mentioned Pat and Liz, had started to plant wild flowers in the area that were native to Dorset.

In addition Geoff Barrett also helped improve the outer and inner pound.

He went on to say that, the new donated goal has been welcomed and is of a high standard.

He added that the biodiversity aims for 2016 is to continue restoration of the area from its sad state of long-term neglect.

He went on to say that the good news is that frogs, frog spawn, toads, toad spawn, newts and various insects including dragonflies have been observed at the pond. The aim is to ensure water remains until the amphibian breeding season ends, increasing the number associated with the area and its biodiversity.

Looking forward he said that efforts for 2016 are again to tidy the area in late winter with a working party, continue drainage improvement, remove dead tree(s), continue brush cutting, seek repair of the bridge threshold to road by WDDC, continue wildflower planting, and pond algae control, repair of the vandalised boundary fence, selective weed control and removal of some more sedges in Summer 2016.

He said that 2016 ambitions were to improve the area between the path and Stonebridge, and to clear the horse trough on Nallers Lane of debris etc.

The mandate to be sought from the informal management committee (those mentioned above) from the Parish meeting is to:

Ask for more volunteers particularly anyone with a petrol driven brush cutter prepared to put in 1hr work twice during next year, making the point that it was unfair to ask current volunteers to do any more.

He said that, funding sources are, funds in hand £111.20, to which would be added the expected profit from sale of the 2016 calendar.

He added that whilst it was indeed the original idea, it would be impossible for the area to be maintained properly without use of funds from the precept.

He added that he had researched the matter, and that the Powers of a Parish meeting included that:

"The county council may contribute to expenses incurred by a parish meeting in providing a public open space".

He said that expenditure may well be incurred before the next Parish Meeting, as remedial work is completed however, the expectation was that expenditure will decline in future years once the area is restored.

The Chairman then went on to address Mr Ian Russell' s earlier queries, saying that he would be seeking the Parish's agreement to purchase the following items for the necessary work :-

Item 25/15/1/1b

Washingpool Green (cont'd)

Glyphosate	£100 approx
Cost of removing dead trees (Tree Surgery)	£100 approx
There may be a need to replace/repair the mower.	£200 approx
New Additional Drainage costs	£100 approx

In addition the Chairman said that he was looking into the possibility of obtaining quotes from contractors, for certain tasks, for example to control weed overgrowth on the east side of the green.

On completion of his report both Mr Ian Russell and Mr Brish Dutt volunteered to assist with the 'brush cutting', and Mr Russell made the further point that he was happy to consider joining any 'Working Party' that would benefit the village.

Finally the Chairman said that when the expenditures mentioned earlier in this report were added to the two proposed payments of £450 that he wished to make to both the VHC & PCC, that he felt that this would address the queries raised earlier by Mr Russell.

Mr Alan Glenn (the Independent Auditor for the Parish) made the point that the carry forward figure from one years accounts to another should be 20% of the Precept or less.

There were indeed no further queries put forward on this matter, and in view of this the Chairman requested that, all matters relating to the Clerks Financial Report, the Chairman's recommendations on the Precept for 2016/17, the further payments proposed to the VHC and PCC and the estimated expenditure for the remedial work on Washingpool Green be put to the vote.

The attending parishioners voted on the Financial Reports at this point, and the matter was found to be accepted by majority vote.

Item 25/15/3

Rights of Way

Mrs Liz Guard said that there was little to report, and that indeed all was well. She said that she and Mr Guard had approached the council regarding the remedial work necessary to the bridge at Washingpool Green and that they were quietly confident that the matter would be addressed.

Item 25/15/4

Askerswell Good Neighbour Scheme

Mr Godfrey Lancashire reported that all was going well with the scheme, and that the scheme had addressed 70 requests for assistance over the period. He said that they had 20 volunteers, of which 10 were 'Regulars'. He said that cards reflecting details as to who to approach had been put

Item 25/15/4

Askerswell Good Neighbour Scheme (Cont'd)

through every door in the village (even the new arrivals) and that there was little more that could be said on the matter
He did however make a special point of thanking the scheme co-ordinators for their efforts.

Item 25/15/5

Eggardon OPEC

Mrs Gill Evans, said that there was little to report, but she did say that the scheme would be referred to in the forthcoming issue of the ECV.

Item 25/15/6/6a

Parish Lands Report

The Chairman said that the Trustees had held their autumn meeting on the 20th October 2015, and that the meeting had gone well.

He said that the Secretary had confirmed that the online Annual Returns to the Charity Commission had been made for both charities, and that the current balance on each bank account was as follows.

Askerswell Gravel Allotment	£130.09
Askerswell Fuel Allotment	£130.10

He said that there was some concerns regarding the recent 'Outline Planning Application' made by the new owners of Rocky Close Farm, and that the boundary between Rocky Close farm and Parish lands came up at the recent planning meeting.

The Chairman said that he had met with Mrs Eileen Bryan and Mrs Gill Evans on 27th October 2015 to clarify the true boundary as agreed in a court judgement and upheld by the Court of Appeal.

The Chairman said that there had been a suggestion made that he write to the new landowners to request they set a new simple boundary fence at the correct position.

This led to a substantial amount of conversation as to whether or not this was a good idea, the outcome of which was not defined.

In the end it was decided that initial contact should be made to see if an amicable agreement might be reached, before considering any involvement of Surveyors or Lawyers.

Item 25/15/6/6b

Parish Lands Appointments

Dr Richard Hobbs was asked if he would be prepared to continue to be the independent auditor for the Trustees of the Parish Lands, which he kindly agreed to do.

Item 25/15/7

Village Hall

Mrs Jessamy Wilsdon was not able to attend the meeting and the Village Hall report was made by Mr Graham Fowler.

Mr Fowler said that, the summer months saw two larger scale events organised by the Village Hall Committee, the barbecue and the Bake Off, as well as that highlight of the Askerswell calendar, the Cream Tea and Grand 50 Club Draw.

Together with the Jumble Sale and the Harvest Supper, in collaboration with the PCC, and the 5 Pubs Challenge, our funds have seen a useful boost and we are in the early stages of discussing how some of that money might be spent next year.

As well as their own efforts to raise money, the Committee had changed the gas supplier from Flogas to Calor. Not only will the Village hall benefit from a lower cost per unit for our gas, with a cap of no more that 3 pence per unit increase over the next two years, but it was welcomed to the Calor 'family' with £250 worth of free gas.

The work on improving the drainage in the car park, close to the emergency exit, will be carried out next month and we have kept on top of the grounds maintenance over the summer. The front of the hall has been given two coats of Weathershield paint to protect the render now that the re-pointing has been done. A final 'belt and braces' coat will be applied when the work on the car park has been undertaken as we were advised three coats would give the wall maximum protection.

The water butt has finally been installed, thanks to Ian Russell. We hope that the provision of the two wheelie bins for the grass cuttings has made the task of mowing the grass seem a little less arduous. The Committee thanks everyone who has cut the grass and helped with other tasks around the hall over the last six months, and to Mandy and Graham Hall for keeping the tubs and pots looking lovely.

Thanks should also go to everyone who has taken part in the cleaning rota inside the hall. We aspire to maintaining a clean, tidy and welcoming environment and the Committee appreciates the efforts those who take part in the rota make in helping us achieve this.

Item 25/15/7

Village Hall (Cont'd)

The new arrangements for rubbish disposal are just underway so it is too early to say how well they are working. We are deemed to be a commercial enterprise. The Committee investigated which of the arrangements for commercial waste were most appropriate for us.

A bin collection was considered too expensive and unnecessary, given the volume of waste we generate, so we have opted for commercial waste bin bags which will be left at the kerbside fortnightly. We are sure that hall users will co-operate with our new arrangements and thanks should go to Pat Atkinson for putting these in place. We will, of course, review how they are working and make any adjustments.

Looking forward, tickets for the Askerswell Players' latest production on 21 November will be on sale from 1 November and our thoughts are turning to the New Year. Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations may well be an excuse for a party and we intend to offer some other diversions for the village's enjoyment.

Item 25/15/8

Public Transportation

Mr Alan Glenn said that there has been a major change to the main routes operated by First Bus. Both routes through Bridport westwards have been combined to provide a 30 minute interval between Bridport and Axminster. To enable this to happen the route from Dorchester South station to Axminster station has been renumbered to X51 and re timed to leave at xx55 , making a connection out of the slower train service from London which arrives at xx43.

In the reverse direction, departure from Bridport at xx52 (top of Portway five to ten minutes past the hour) will give a connection to the faster London train at xx08. The down side is that the service is Monday-Saturday only.

The changes of the X53 service concern timing and route. The route from Lyme Regis will now be to Axminster Station for the majority of services with just two continuing to Colyton, Seaton and Exeter (10.12 and 14.17 from Bridport).

The examples of times given above are in general between 0900 and 1500 : at other times there are slight variations – I recommend a timetable which is also now combined.

Item 25/15/9

Superfast Broadband and Mobile Telephony

Mr John Mahoney (Deputy Chairman) said that in summary the situation in the short term remains unchanged there is no plan for superfast broadband in Askerswell. However, there is some cause to hope for an improvement in the medium term – say by the first quarter of 2018 – although nothing is decided, nothing is promised. Similarly there is no immediate prospect of improved mobile phone and data but various commercial and public initiatives may

deliver 4G services with better mobile phone coverage and faster mobile data services over the next 18 to 24 months.

The April Parish Meeting initiated a petition to Dorset County Council asking for superfast broadband. Ian Russell coordinated a team to collect signatures from an impressively high percentage of residents. John Mahoney presented our case at a meeting in July of the relevant Council committee, supported by Ian and by Howard Atkinson and sponsored by Councillor Coatsworth. Askerswell's case was noted with concern.

The discussion led to the creation of a councillors' working group to examine how to deliver superfast broadband and 4G to complex, hard to reach locations. John Mahoney was seconded to the working group which, working under conditions of commercial confidentiality, will deliver its recommendations publicly in January. Our MP, Oliver Letwin, has continued to press our case behind the scenes and had a constructive and encouraging meeting with a group of parishioners in September.

From all these initiatives, various possible technical and commercial solutions have been identified.

The point at issue is how to pay for them. Much depends on whether and how central government commits money for a third phase of rural broadband in the Autumn Spending Review on November 25th.

As always, bringing these possibilities to reality for us in Askerswell will depend on finding the money and creating the will to do so that in turn depends on the expression of demand from our community. We've done well with that so far and we need to be prepared to sustain our efforts if and when necessary.

The Local reports ended at this time, and the Chairman thanked all those who had made reports.

Item 27/15: Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan Report

The Chairman said that the Forum met on Wednesday 21st October to consider the analysis and its next steps. It voted 17 for, 4 against with 3 abstentions to continue to develop a neighbourhood plan. There will now be an open meeting planned for 25th November at 7:30pm here to gain guidance from Jan Farnan (a WDDC planning officer), Mr Fred Horsington, (WDDC councillor, lead on finalised Cerne Valley NP and regional champion for NPs) and probably Jo Witherden a consultant who may come involved if funds allow. The Local plan of WDDC with which we must comply has passed government scrutiny and was up for adoption by the Full Council on 23rd October.

We circulated 160 copies of the survey of which 81% (132) were completed. This is an exceptionally high return rate for such surveys and shows the positive attitude most in our community took to the process and their high level of interest in our neighbourhood area. One clear, positive message is that the majority are very content to live in Askerswell and care considerably about the Parish and its environment.

The analysis is fully anonymous to comply with the data protection act. It can be subdivided into the closed ended and opened questions. Two reference copies of the analysis have been placed on the shelf in the Village Hall. A PDF version is available by e-mail request to the Chair.

A majority consider 1-10 houses over the next 10 years was an appropriate rate of development. A task for The Forum is to define what number of houses can be delivered in that period consistent with WDDC Local Plan.

Some questions have outcomes more appropriate for the Parish meeting than the Neighbourhood forum to consider. They will be summarised at the next meeting. Further progress will be reported at the next meeting.

Any Parishioner can join the Neighbourhood Forum.

Item 28/15: Best Kept Village Competition

Mrs Jessamy Wilsdon was not able to attend the meeting and the Village Hall report was made by Mrs Pat Atkinson.

Pat said that, given the amount of work that residents put in to improving and maintaining the public areas of the village, it was disappointing that we did not feature in this year's competition. But all the areas, Washing Pool, the square, the pound, the triangles, the village hall and the churchyard, show how the plans we made in the early months have delivered visible improvements and these will give us a good starting point next year.

In previous years, judges of the competition visited the entrants twice, and therefore were aware when efforts to raise standards were being made.

Because of costs, these visits have been cut to one per village and I believe we were among the early visits, which may have disadvantaged us as our improvements, such as the clearing of the pond, the re-surfacing of the path in the churchyard and the work around the pond at Washing Pool, were spread over several months.

So thank you to everyone who helped to plan and carry out the numerous tasks for the benefit of the village. The Best Village Competition was under threat but a sponsor has been secured for next year so we will have another go, and try to show a wider audience that we can be the Best Village again.

Item 28/15: Best Kept Village Competition (Cont'd)

Bridport Car Boot Fund

To finalise her report, Pat mentioned the outcome of the Village Hall Committees application to the Bridport Car Boot Fund for money to purchase a picnic table with seating for Washing Pool. However our application to this heavily over-subscribed fund was unsuccessful.

Item 29/15: Community Events and Fund Raising Reports

The Chairman did not mention any planned events under Parish control.

The Chairman said that he would like to thank the 'Painting for Pleasure' group for taking up the Calendar challenge so successfully, Richard Hobbs who had used his skill to photograph the paintings and Liz, Richard and Anne selected the 12 paintings which were to remain anonymous

The Calendars are at the back of the room. Please sign the sheet for number you wish to take now even if payment is later.

The recommend price is £8 each. If all are sold this will generate about £130 profit for improvement of Washingpool area. Last year 47 of 50 were sold. The break-even point is sales of 33 calendars.

We will decide if we are to have a 2017 Calendar next April, and if so its theme. Suggestions received so far are, a return to photographs as in 2014, a cooking theme with images and recipes or a set of local walks with images and map.

The Cafe Scientifiques

They remain attached to NP as this is progressing.

Takings for Vincent Sheppard's excellent presentation in September was £175 with minor expenses to be deducted.

John Mahoney is scheduled to give one shortly. Its provisional title is

The Information Revolution: Creative Freedom or Invasive Threat?

It will probably be in February or early March. Suggestions are welcome for Autumn 2016.

Suggestions so far are aspects of shipping and Climate change.

Item 30/15: Communications within the Parish and Publishing of Parishioner Details (Restricted Print)

The Chairman said that Mr Cecil Whichelo had asked about the possibility of re-instating the list of Askerswell residents, together with a map, that used to be provided for residents, in order that they were aware of where a resident lived and the location of their house.

The previous list of residents also contained telephone numbers.

Mr Cecil Whichelo explained that this would aid residents a great deal.

There was a great deal of discussion on the matter, as more recently people have changed their attitudes towards 'privacy'. There were also some concerns that such a list may breach the Data Protection Act.

In the end it was decided that it was unnecessary to create a new list, as residents would assist each other with this form of information.

Item 31/15: Any Other Business

Item 31/15/1: Pylons

The Chairman said that the situation is as reported by Mr Antony Wilsdon in the ECV. Dorset AONB was short-listed among others.

Three sections of line were identified.

Progress will be made on the section over Winterbourne Abbas.

Spyway to Stancombe was not prioritised for initial work but it remains on the shortlist and under consideration for later consideration by the Visual Impact Programme.

Our attempt to add Spyway towards Lodors was not successful.

He said that he had placed a webpage from National Grid at the back of the room.

Item 31/15/2: Monies available from the Fund represented by
Cllr Coatsworth

The Chairman reminded those present that as had been said earlier, Cllr Coatsworth had arranged for the Parish to be allowed to draw from the same fund as last year which provided the new flower containers in the Village Square.

The Chairman said that he was open to ideas that Parishioners had on the matter, but that the 'Bids' for these monies should be made before January 2016.

Item 31/15/3: Property Security

The Chairman said that people had expressed concerns to him about possible burglaries occurring whilst Parishioners attended events that were published so widely in media such as the Bridport News, and the ECV, and asked if there was any consensus of opinion as to whether he should write to both publications and ask that these events were no longer publicised.

A considerable amount of conversation on this matter ensued, covering all matters including possible 'patrols', but it was eventually decided, that to cease all publicity of an event was not really an option. The Chair agreed to write to the editor of Bridport News but the opinion was expressed that this would not result in the desired outcome.

Item 31/15/4: Mobile Library

The Chairman said that the service provided by the Mobile Library may be lost if more residents did not use it.

The Chairman said that the service had only been retained in Askerswell by a small margin, and that next year we may not be so lucky.

The Chairman encouraged Parishioners to use the service whenever possible to ensure that it stayed available for those who had no alternative. He added that the time of the library's visit may change in April 2016 to 10:25-10:40 on alternate Thursdays.

Item 31/15/5: Wheelie Bins

Mr Alan Glenn, made the point as to how difficult it was to 'store' the new 'Wheelie Bins' as not everyone had somewhere to keep them readily available for use.

There was also some discussion on 'Wheelie Bins' being left at the 'Collection Point' rather than being taken back onto the home-owners property.

Item 31/15/5: Wheelie Bins (Cont'd)

Some discussion ensued on the matter, but most accepted that there was very little that could be done about the matter.

Item 31/15/6: New Clerk (from April 2016)

The Chairman said that, Peter will be retiring as Clerk in April after completing a fair allocation of 4.5 years.

He said that the Parish currently need a volunteer to take up the task preferably well before April so Peter can carry out an induction.

He said that if the role were considered as too much, it could be subdivided in order of importance into three positions

Treasurer: To maintain the Parish finances and prepare accounts for internal and external audit.

Communications: To screen incoming e-mails and letters to pass on a subset to the Chair and coordinate responses when needed. The Chairman said that this could be done weekly.

Secretary to Trustee Lands: Involving two meetings a year, maintaining accounts and completing online Annual Returns for the Charity Commission.

The Chairman said that if anyone was willing to consider taking up one or more of these posts they should contact the Chairman or Clerk as soon as possible (their preference) to find out more.

The Chairman added that if no one comes forward, he would have no alternative but to stand down in April to allow a new team of Chair and Clerk to take over as he could not be expected to be Chair, Clerk and Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan lead.

He added that if no one wishes to do the Clerk task, one option he could explore is merging Askerswell with Loders PC.

We could then expect to have a member on the Parish Council.

Loders PC can fund the post of its Clerk. However the precept would then fall under their control. Perhaps a sad end for Askerswell given people claim to have a high interest in our Parish.

Item 32/15: Next Meeting, Date Time and Venue

The Chairman said that the next meeting of the Askerswell Parish Meeting was to be held on the 27th April 2016, at 19.30hrs, the venue as usual would be the village Hall

There being nothing further to discuss the Chairman, closed the meeting at 21.45hrs