

**Minutes of the
Askerswell Parish Meeting
held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 19th April 2017**

Present: Howard Atkinson Chair
John Mahoney Deputy Chair
Margaret Barrett Clerk

In attendance: 22 Electors
Cllr M Roberts WDDC

Item 1/17: Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, reminded people of the fire exit should the need arise.

Item 2/17: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Mr David Altree	Mrs Pat Atkinson	Mrs Jenny Hemmings
Mrs Kathy Hince	Mrs Alison Lancashire	M/s Maya Pieris
Mrs Gill Reypert	Mr Neil Reypert	Mr Chris Roberts
Mrs Barbara Roberts	Mrs Mary Russell	Mr Vincent Sheppard
Mrs Jessamy Wilsdon	(13 Persons)	

Item 3/17: Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th October 2016, were agreed by those present as being a representative record of that meeting.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mr Graham Fowler and seconded by Mr Nigel Guard. The Minutes were then duly signed by the Chair.

Item 4/17: Matters Arising

The Chair had enquired about replacing the roundel on the finger post which would cost approximately £260. This would be further discussed during the Financial Projections for the year.

A volunteer is still being sort to move some of the sandbags, presently held at Medway, down to Medway House.

Item 5/17: Correspondence and Electronic Communications

The Clerk confirmed that there hadn't been any relevant correspondence, either postal or electronic, received since the last meeting that needed to be reported at the meeting.

Handwritten initials

Item 6/17: Planning Matters

One application for the Extension to listed building at Hembury Mill had been received for consultation and both planning and listed building consent were approved by the WDDC on 1st March 2017.

Item 7/17: Highway Matters

The collapse of the road between Matravers and Uploders – the Chair reported that he had spoken with Loders Parish Council and they had said that the matter was at present with the County Council's legal team as the slip that occurred was on private land which was supporting the road.

The Chair thanked members of the village for taking part in the village Spring tidy-up.

The Chair mentioned that at present the A35 was closed overnight, between 20:00 – 06:00 until 22nd April for resurfacing work. It is also due to be closed between the same times from 13th – 26th May 2017.

Cllr Roberts reported that Loders Parish Council was going to request the highways agency to cut the verges and advised that the Parish could ask them to do so if it was felt necessary.

Item 8/17: Financial Reports for 2016/17.

The Clerk informed the meeting that there were some formalities that need to be completed at this meeting

Item 8/17/1. Internal Control & Annual Governance Statement.

The clerk stated that as Financial Officer she had:-

- Prepared accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- That he had used 'Proper Practices' as required
- That the Parish Officers had dealt with the monies entrusted to them in an appropriate manner.

The Clerk then asked the Chair to call a vote for the Statement to be approved, this was proposed by Mr Ian Russell and seconded by Mrs Gillian Fowler, the vote was then passed by the majority.

Item 8/17/2. Approval of the Statement of Accounts

The Clerk had prepared the 'Accounts and Financial Statements' for the year 2016/17, but these figures had not yet been the subject of either an 'Internal' or 'External' audit as there has not been time to meet with out Internal Auditor, Mr Nigel Guard, before the meeting.

The clerk then proceeded to review the accounts with the meeting (as set out below), giving more details of the expenditure that had been made throughout the year.

The Clerk also reminded that at the October meeting, it was mentioned that if the Parish Meeting account had a surplus of over £700 further payments would be made to the

Church for graveyard maintenance and village hall for its up-keep. As the surplus for the year was £1012 the Clerk asked the meeting to approve that a further £150 to be paid to each now.

The Clerk then asked the Chair to call a vote for the Statement of Accounts to be approved, and that payments to the hall and church can be made, this was proposed by Mr Godfrey Lancashire and seconded by Mr Antony Wilsdon, the vote was then passed by the majority.

In conclusion the Clerk said that this approved information has already been placed on the Parishes Annual Returns, the Return will now be passed to the Internal Auditor Mr Nigel Guard, together with the Parishes 'Financial Records' for his review before it was passed to the External Auditor BDO in Southampton.

Financial Report 2016 - 2017

31 March '16		31 March '17		31 March '16		31 March '17	
£	Receipts	£	£	£	Expenditure	£	£
888.69	Balance b/f		639.32	144.59	Insurance		150.78
	DCC - Cllr Coatsworth		108.00	30.41	DAPTC		31.32
1788.00	Annual Precept			122.77	Repairs & Maintenance		
	- April	900.00			- Washingpool	242.02	
	- September	<u>900.00</u>	1800.00		- Parish	<u>183.77</u>	425.79
12.00	LCTS grant				Administration		
				44.00	- Hire of hall for meeting	16.00	
					- ICT resources	110.91	
				7.60	- Officer expenses		126.91
					Contributions		
				850.00	- Askerswell PCC	400.00	
				850.00	- Askerswell Village Hall	<u>400.00</u>	800.00
				639.32	Balance c/f		1012.52
<u>2688.69</u>			<u>2547.32</u>	<u>2688.69</u>			<u>2547.32</u>

Item 8/17/3. Period of 'Exercise of Public Rights'.

The Clerk reminded the Parish of their 'Legal Right' of access to the Parishes 'Financial Records' and made them aware that officially they have 30 days in which to make their request for access, which will officially end on the 21st July 2017.

Item 8/17/4. Appointment of an Internal Auditor.

The Clerk reported that Mr Nigel Guard is happy to continue to act as Internal Auditor so he was proposed by Mrs Margaret Barrett, seconded by Mr Godfrey Lancashire and the vote was then passed by a majority.

Item 9/17: Election of Officers

Mr Ian Russell was then invited to conduct the election of officers. As all three current officers, namely Prof Howard Atkinson (Chair), Mr John Mahoney (Deputy Chair) and Mrs Margaret Barrett (Clerk) had agreed to be nominated to serve again, and there were no other nominations, Mr Russell asked for them to be voted en bloc. Proposed by Mr Ian Russell, seconded by Mr Richard Hobbs and all voted in favour.

WGA

Item 10/17: DCC & WDDC matters

10/17/1 DCC Report

Unfortunately Cllr Coatsworth was not present at the meeting. As he will not be standing again for re-election to the County Council, the meeting asked that to express its thanks for all that he has done for the parish over his 16 year period as county councillor. The Clerk to arrange to send a card to him on their behalf.

10/17/2 WDDC Report

Cllr Roberts gave an update on the re-organisation of both the district and county councils. It is most likely to be two Unitary Councils. A decision is being awaited, may not hear until after the new Government is in power. Cllr Roberts also mentioned that in the County Council elections Askerswell is now part of the Bridport Division where two candidates will be elected on 4th May.

Item 11/17: Askerswell Village Website

The Chair thanked Mrs Mandy Hall and Mr Dave Altree for all their help with the website and said how it was still in its infancy. At present it is not on an open access site and is therefore only available if you know the link which stops others being able to see what Askerswell has to offer. The website would need to be on an open access site if the Neighbourhood Plan proceeds to a wider area of consultation. The cost to move to an open access server would be approximately £100 per annum and the Forum is being asked if they would fund half for one year only when they meet in June. The Chair asked if the meeting would support this move for the website and it was proposed by Mr Godfrey Lancashire and seconded by Mr Nigel Guard and agreed unanimously that website be moved to an open access server immediately and funded by the Parish Meeting. It was always agreed that the website itself would be reviewed in October 2019 to see if there was still a need for the village to have one.


Item 12/17: Local Reports.

12/17/1 Homewatch

Mrs Veronica Sheppard had sent in short report stating that there wasn't really anything worthy of note on the Homewatch aside from the usual awareness of telephone and internet fraud.

12/17/2 Washingpool Green

The Chair thanked all the volunteers for their help at the Spring Tidy-up clearing, planting and hedgelaying, both at Washingpool and also at the Pound. Straw pouches have been added to the pond to try and suppress the blanket weed and the Chair regularly removes the algae. There had been both frog and toad spawn/tadpoles and also moorhens nesting at the pond this year. He thanked the volunteers for agreeing to cut both Washingpool and the Village Hall – the rota has been posted on the notice board. The main tasks for this year will be to try and convert the area between the path and Stonebridge to grass to hopefully be able to provide another seating area and to lay a drain from the stile to the current drain to try to dry out the wet area around the seat. Mr Prickett has been asked to remove the dead alders and also cost having others along the stream coppiced. This may be done over several years.



12/17/3 Rights of Way

Mr Nigel Guard said there was nothing to report, it had been a fairly quiet winter. Mr Antony Wilsdon has agreed to take up the role as Rights of Way Officer as Mr & Mrs Guard wished to stand down.

12/17/4 Eggardon OPEC

Mrs Gill Evans reported that Mr John Mahoney has taken over as the OPEC representative. Mr Mahoney reported that he will do his best to try and ensure that Watsons give good value for money.

12/17/5 Parish Lands

The Clerk reported that the Trustees had met for the Annual meeting on Monday 10th April. The end of year bank balances are Fuel Allotment £210.10, and the Gravel Allotment £210.09. Although there is no planned expenditure at present, it had been agreed that no distribution of the funds would be made at present as there may be a need to maintain the two areas in the future. Although the Trustees were reappointed at that meeting, the Clerk said that the Trustees were very aware that they were representing the parish and asked if anyone else would like to become a Trustee. As there were no-one willing to stand the Clerk asked that the meeting approve that the Trustees stand for another year. All voted in favour.

12/17/6 Public Transportation

The Chair said that as this could be the last time that Mr Glenn makes a report due to his impending move from the village, he wanted to thank him for his help, over many years, ensuring that the village was kept up-to-date with transportation issues. Mr Alan Glenn reported that a few people had started using the Plus Bus service on a Friday, which is £5 for the return trip to Bridport and he reminded people that if the service wasn't used it could be lost.

12/17/7 Super-Fast Broadband

Mr Mahoney reported that at present BT Openreach plan to provide fibre broadband to each property if required, but it will come at a cost to each household depending on the speed requested.

12/17/8 Askerswell Village Calendar

The Chair reported that this year's calendar to be 'Old Views of Askerswell' and these images need to be given to Mr Antony Wilsdon by 1st August and that entries would be assessed by Mrs Gill Foot, Mrs Eileen Bryan and Mrs Barbara Roberts.

Item 13/17: Financial Projections for 2017/18

The Chair showed the meeting a planned expenditure forecast for the coming year. This included £544 to be spent maintaining Washingpool Green, a further £100 to enhance the village and £50 towards the cost of a server and domain site for the website. It is also anticipated that £400 will be given to each the Village Hall towards their general upkeep and the Church towards the upkeep of the churchyard. It was agreed that the cost of £260

for a replacement roundel was too great so Mr Russell kindly agreed to see if it was possible to make one in wood.

Item 14/17: Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan Report

The Chair thanked everyone who had completed the feedback sheets – 109 had been fully or partly completed. He then gave a brief summary of the analysis, but said that the full analysis is available to view on the village website and notice board.

He then went on to say that the parishioners should think about their involvement with the Forum, as meetings have not always been well supported and without support the Neighbourhood Plan may not be able to proceed.

Item 15/17: Any Other Business

15/17/1 Mobile Signal for Askerswell

Mr Mahoney reported that there had been some discussion with Telefonica with regards the placement of a mobile signal mast on the Parish Lands, but as there is already a mast behind Fir Tree Farm this may be a cheaper option for them. The mast would be subject to usual planning permission.

Item 16/17: Date and time of next Parish Meetings

The next Parish Meetings will take place on Wednesday 25th October, 7.30pm in the village hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

