

**Minutes of the
Askerswell Parish Meeting
held in the Village Hall on 25th October 2017 at 7.30pm**

Present: Howard Atkinson Chair
 Margaret Barrett Clerk

In attendance: 15 electors

 Cllr R Kayes DCC
 Cllr M Roberts WDDC

Item 17/17: Chair's Opening Remarks

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

Item 18/17: Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

John Mahoney (DC)	Pat Atkinson	Graham Foot
Gillian Fowler	Graham Fowler	Nigel Guard
Patsy Harrison	Peter Harrison	Jenny Hemmings
Alison Lancashire	Jane Richards	Peter Richards
Mary Russell	Vincent Sheppard	

Item 19/17: Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 201~~6~~⁷ were agreed by those present as being a representative record of that meeting.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Anthony Wilsdon and seconded by Richard Hobbs. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

Item 20/17: Matters Arising

15/17/1: An O² surveyor had visited the parish lands, but to date no further information had been received and it is thought that this site is unsuitable for a mast.

Item 21/17: Correspondence

The only relevant correspondence received were going to be dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Item 22/17: Planning Matters

No planning applications had been sent to the parish for comment since the last meeting and there were no outstanding decisions.

As Cllr Kayes needed to leave the meeting early she requested that she could give her report at this point.

Item 25/17a: DCC report

Cllr Kayes introduced herself and expressed that she is always happy to receive e-mails or phone calls from members of the community. She updated the meeting that the decision on the Unitary Authority was imminent, but that some services we currently receive e.g. verge cutting may be done less frequently as budgets were being cut. She also mentioned that parishes may be asked to finance some of the services currently met by the county council themselves.

Item 23/17: Highway Matters

- 23/17/1: Hembury Road – DCC Highways have confirmed that the potholes are in their work programme, but no date for completion.
- 23/17/2: Parsons Lane – Wessex Water work to repair leak will start on 30th October – notice to close the road has been given.
- 23/17/3: Uploders Road – DCC Highways have deferred the work deferred until the 2018/19 financial year.
- 23/17/4: Salt bins – these have now been refilled.

Item 24/17: Financial Reports

Since the last meeting, the Parish Annual Return had been reviewed by both the Nigel Guard, the Local Independent Auditor and also externally by the accounting group BDO, and these have now been signed off. This return is now available for anyone from the parish who wishes to see them. A notice is on the village notice board to this effect.

The Clerk then went on to review the accounts information (as set out below) giving a breakdown of the expenditure to date. The clerk then proposed that the meeting agrees to make payments, again this year, of £400 towards the upkeep of the churchyard and £400 towards the upkeep of the village hall. To date there is no expected large expenditure to any of the village amenities which would mean that the carry forward figure at the end of the financial year would be of about £1100. Although the parish is not anticipating any additional expenditure a contingency needs to be in place, in case something does occur.

If at the end of the financial year the Parish Meeting still has a 'healthy' balance then extra funds may be given to the Church and Village Hall at the start of the next financial year, but this will be agreed at the Spring meeting. The motion to give £400 to the church and the village hall now was proposed by Gill Foot and seconded by Godfrey Lancashire and carried unanimously.

The Precept for 2018/19 was discussed and it was proposed by Frank Hemmings and seconded by Veronica Sheppard that the precept be kept at £1800 for this period. This was carried unanimously. The parish may need to consider raising it in future years if the parish is expected to source some of it's own services as mentioned by Cllr Kayes.

Askerswell Parish Meeting

Interim Accounts for the Period
1st April 2017 - 24th October 2017

<u>Receipts</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£	£
Balance b/f	1012.52	Payment to Village Hall		150.00
April Precept	900.00	Payment to PCC		150.00
September Precept	900.00	Insurance		157.78
Environmental award	75.00	DAPTC		31.95
		Repairs & Maintenance		
		Washingpool	162.44	
		Parish	<u>173.96</u>	336.40
		Hire of Hall for meetings		16.00
		Administration		38.69
		Balance c/f		2006.70
	<u>2887.52</u>			<u>2887.52</u>

Item 25/17b: WDDC report

Mr Roberts gave an update on current district council matters.

Item 26/17: Local Reports

26/17/1 Homewatch

Veronica Sheppard wanted to stress that villagers should continue to be aware of telephone and internet fraud.

26/17/2 Washingpool Green

The Chair thanked everyone for their continued support in helping to keep this area in order, from grass cutting, strimming, hedge laying and the planting. The project had won the runner-up prize of £75 for the Environmental Award within the Best Village Competition. It was agreed that this money would be spent on more bluebell bulbs along the southern edge and the installation of some bird boxes. It is proposed, in the future, to put in another land drain near the stile as this area suffers from being very wet.

26/17/3 Rights of Way

Anthony Wilsdon reported that he had managed to walk all the footpaths around the village twice ensuring that they were properly way-marked. He asked members to report any issues with footpaths.

26/17/4 Eggardon OPEC

In John Mahoney's absence the Clerk read his report stating that the steering committee plans to review the recommended supplier because other suppliers have asked to be considered and because concerns have been raised about the price and performance of the current supplier, Watsons. The Clerk then issued a short questionnaire, for oil users to complete, asking 'what are the most important aspects of the OPEC oil-buying arrangement.'

26/17/5 Parish Lands

Autumn meeting held on Monday 9th October. The Annual returns are to be submitted to Charity Commission. The current bank balances remain the same as reported at the April meeting namely 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.

26/17/6 Best Village Competition

Unfortunately the village had not been successful in the competition again this year, but the village hall committee was thanked for entering us and villagers were encouraged to keep the village as litter free as possible.

26/17/7 Super-fast Broadband

The Chair reported that BT Openreach is still expecting the work to be completed before the end of 2017 and that 68 premises will have access to 'fibre to the premises' once completed. It would then be up to individual householders to place an order to have the final connection made.

26/17/8: Askerswell Village Calendar 2018

The Chair thanked those who collated and 'judged' the entries for 'The Way We Were'. Orders were now being taken.

Item 27/17: Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

The Chair gave the following report –

- The Forum were advised by WDDC to gain a grant to ensure the NP was in planning language and to carry out a) a Heritage and Character assessment and b) an ecological assessment.
- It was awarded £5900 by the body funded by Government to finance NPs.
- A secret ballot of Forum members supported a Defined development within which new dwellings will be supported. It is to the east of School lane from Rock Cottage along the back of current housing to just east of the Old Wheelwrights shop.
- The planning consultants have confirmed that the area is large enough to accommodate 4-5 new dwellings which the NP seeks.
- The NP has been re-drafted and is with the Forum and WDDC for advice.
- Changes indicated will be made before it is placed on our new website and a six week pre-submission phase initiated as required.
- A community drop-in event is planned from 10am-5pm in VH on Saturday 11th November. This will emphasise the relative few substantial changes from the version that the whole community received and provided feedback on.
- The drop-in event and any feedback given at that meeting or by 29/12/2017 will be your last chance to influence the submission. A range of external bodies will also be given the opportunity to comment.
- The aim is to submit at the end of January 2018. The examiner will then consider it, it may have to be amended. Assuming no major flaws it will then be subject to a referendum conducted by WDDC presumably in the Village Hall.

- Assuming the majority supports it, it will have a life of 10 years with the opportunity to revise it after 5 years if need to ensure the maximum ne build is achieved.

Item 28/17: Askerswell Village Website

Mandy Hall was thanked for her continuing effort as editor and Dave Atree for is role in meeting the IT needs. As agreed in the April meeting, the website is moving so that is available to search engines. The annual cost is less than £50 and Dave was again thanked for getting this organised. The new address www.askerswellparish.org and should be up and running by 6th November.

Item 29/17: Any Other Business

29/17/1: School Bus – It was mentioned that the school bus picking up children to go to Colfox is coming down Litton Road, which can be very dangerous. The Chair agreed to contract Dorset Passenger Transport to express villagers concerns.

29/17/2: Suckers on Ash Tree – It was requested that these be removed from the tree on the corner of Parsons Lane and Nallers Lane. The Clerk will see to this.

Item 30/17: Date of next meeting

The next Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chair's Signature.....
25-04-18