

**Minutes of the
Askerswell Parish Meeting
held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm 2nd May 2019**

Present: Howard Atkinson Chair
Margaret Barrett Clerk

In attendance: 20 Electors
Cllr M Roberts WDDC/DCC

Item 1/19: Chair's Opening Remarks

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

Item 2/19: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Mr Laurie Deards	Mrs Romaine Deards	Mrs Gillian Fowler
Mr Graham Fowler	Mrs Elizabeth Guard	Mr Nigel Guard
Mrs Patsy Harrison	Mr Ian Russell	Mrs Mary Russell
Mrs Veronica Sheppard	Mr Vincent Sheppard	

Item 3/19: Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th October 2018, were agreed by those present as being a representative record of that meeting.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mr Richard Hobbs and seconded by Mr Godfrey Lancashire. The Minutes were then duly signed by the Chair.

Item 4/18: Matters Arising

Item 22/18: The Chair has spoken to the Dorset ANOB countryside Officer concerning the silt in the Asker who advised that the Environmental Agency is the authority to contact. The Chair suggested evidence of the origin of the silt would be required if this happens as a basis to inform the Environment Agency. Alternatively, a note about the illegality could be provided to the property with a pond that is the likely source.

Item 25/18/2: The posts along the stream have not yet been replaced, but it is hoped that this work will be completed shortly.

Item 34/18/1: Although the Millennium File has not yet been developed into a booklet, the Chair intends to be able to now spend time doing this.

Item 10/19: Local Government matters

This item was taken early in the meeting as Councillor Roberts needed to leave as it is election day.

Councillor Roberts started by saying this was the last occasion he would be attending our meetings as he is now standing for the Chesil Bank Ward. He then reported on the financial implication for the new council and how it will affect parishioners. The new wards have been set up so they have around the same number of electorates. Eggardon ward, although looking large in area on a map has around 4500 electors and will be served by one councillor. He was unsure how the WDDC shoppers permits will be affected when asked.

The Chair thanked Councillor Roberts for his time and positive, concise advice that he has given the Parish Meeting over the last 16 years and also his involvement in the Neighbourhood Forum.

Councillor Roberts left the meeting at 7.50pm

Item 5/19: Correspondence and Electronic Communications

Any correspondence received which is relevant to parishioners is either distributed or posted on the village notice board. Any information leaflets that would be useful for parishioners will also now be displayed in the village hall and church if appropriate and also if possible, on the village website.

Item 6/19: Planning Matters

- The decision on the following Planning Applications has been received:

The Application for CANDIDA COTTAGE, SCHOOL LANE, ASKERSWELL, DORCHESTER, DT2 9EW - WD/D/18/001901 – Erection of extensions and alterations including a pitched roof to garage and raising dwelling roof. (Full) – this was approved on 8th April 2019

- A Planning Applications has been received for consultation:

Application has recently been received for FOLLY FARM, UPLODERS, BRIDPORT, DT6 4PH - WD/D/19/000866 – Use existing self-contained unit of holiday accommodation as a permanent residential dwelling. The meeting agreed that it was happy to support this application as it involves no building work on the dwelling which was constructed with previous planning consent.

- Sale of land at Rocky close farm at auction on Friday 24th May

The Chair reported that one potential English bidder in France, had asked for Parish Meeting Approval of his intentions. He seemed to think the planning decision is taken by the Parish. He sought Parish Meeting approval to show to the planners. The Chair had provided a summary of steps in the planning process but offered no advice as that would set a precedent. He has ended the correspondence.

- Appeal to planning refusal

The Application for the LAND SOUTH OF SPYWAY ROAD, ASKERSWELL - WD/D/18/000092 – Erect 1.No Dwelling House (Full) – this was refused on 23rd August 2018, but the parish has been informed on 16th April 2019 that an appeal has been lodged.

The Chair informed the meeting of the appeal the applicant has submitted – the meeting agreed that the following comments should be submitted.

“The Parish Meeting of 2nd May 2019 considered this appeal and have provided the following comments.

1. The documents fail to recognise that Askerswell has a Parish Meeting and not a Parish Council and so has no elected Councillors who meet. Matters are discussed at the biannual Parish Meetings that are advertised well in advance. All Parishioners are entitled to attend and all substantial agenda items in these meetings are subject to majority voting outcomes by those on the electoral roll. Minutes of these meetings are available on the Parish website (<http://www.askerswellparish.org/>). Additional meetings are called to consider planning applications and reported at the next six monthly meeting. Minutes of the Parish Meeting of April 2018¹ confirm that current long-standing procedures should continue.
2. The Parish Meeting does not wish to amend its previously made comments.
3. It is not responding to documents and statements in them submitted for the appeal that are not germane to material planning considerations. It will provide more details on any issue at the request of the Planning Inspectorate.
4. The Parish Meeting expects the Inspectorate to determine if some of the submitted documents are admissible. The concern is compliance with data protection requirements as *inter alia* it names people and reports their alleged statements without their consent or verification.

1: <http://www.askerswellparish.org/parishmeeting/DraftMeetingMinutes25.04.18.pdf> ”

Item 7/19: Highway Matters

The Parish has received a proposed temporary closure notice for part of Parsons Lane for BT to carry out works to commence 21st May between 9.30 and 15.30

Hembury Road – The Chair has asked Dorset Highways about the signage that has been in place in the village for road works for some time without any work taking place. At the time of the meeting no reply had been received.

Finger board at Spyway/Hembury Rd junction. CPRE have provided a grant of £60 for the yet to be replaced finger board. The work will be carried out in May and will cost the Parish around £13.

Item 8/19: Financial Reports

Item 8/19/1: Financial Report 2018/19

The Clerk reviewed the Financial Statement (see below) giving details of entries since the October meeting and answered any questions. Mr Nigel Guard had examined these accounts and has completed the Annual Internal Audit Report. This year there are

different formalities that are completed by Parish Meetings where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25000 or less.

The Chair, has signed a 'Certificate of Exemption' showing that the Parish had an income of £4007 and an expenditure of £3588. This will be forwarded to the External Auditor who is currently PKF Littlejohn LLP.

Askerswell Parish Meeting

Financial Statements for the
year ended 31st March 2019

<u>Receipts</u>	2018-19		2017-18	
	£	£	£	£
April Precept		900.00		900.00
September Precept		900.00		900.00
Profit from 2019 Calendar		135.00		-
Neighbourhood Forum		-		30.00
Environmental Award		-		75.00
Neighbourhood Plan Grant		2072.00		5902.00
Total Receipts		4007.00		7807.00
 <u>Payments</u>				
<u>Contributions</u>				
Askerswell PCC	500.00		550.00	
Askerswell Village Hall	500.00	1000.00	550.00	1100.00
Insurance		160.65		157.78
DAPTC		32.59		31.95
<u>Repairs & Maintenance</u>				
Washingpool	175.18		237.94	
Parish	123.60	298.78	173.96	411.90
Hire of Hall for meetings		24.00		24.00
Administration		-		54.59
Neighbourhood Plan		2072.00		5902.00
Total Payments		3588.02		7682.22
 <u>Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year</u>				
		418.98		124.78
<hr/>				
Cash in Bank at 1st April		1137.30		1012.52
+ Receipts		4007.00		7807.00
		5144.30		8819.52
- Payments		3588.02		7682.22
Cash in Bank at 31st March		1556.28		1137.30

Item 8/19/2: Approval of the Annual Governance Statement: The Clerk read through the Annual Governance Statement that the Parish Meeting needs to approve. The Chair then asked the meeting if they agree that it does ensure that there is a sound system of financial governance and he asked for a vote to approve the Annual Governance Statement. This was proposed by Mr Godfrey Lancashire and seconded by Mr Antony Wilsdon and was passed unanimously.

Item 8/19/3: Approval of the Accounting Statements 2018/19: This has been completed using the figures from the Financial Statement already examined by Mr Nigel Guard. The Clerk then asked the Chair to call a vote for the Accounting Statement to be approved, this was proposed by Mrs Jessamy Wilsdon and seconded by Mr Frank Hemming, and was passed unanimously.

These three documents will be published as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulation 2015 for a period of 14 days. These will be placed on the village notice board and/or website. The Clerk reminded the Parish of their 'Legal Right' of access to the Parish's '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 16th July 2019.

Item 8/19/4: Appointment of an Internal Auditor: The Clerk thanked Mr Nigel Guard for his help and advice with the audit and reported that he is happy to continue to act as Internal Auditor so he was proposed by Mrs Margaret Barrett, seconded by Mr Godfrey Lancashire and was passed unanimously.

The Pat Atkinson made a proposal that the assembled company is content with the way the Parish Meeting is administered and run. This was seconded by Mrs Barbara Roberts. When voted on it was passed with one abstention.

Item 9/19: Financial Projections for 2019/20

Since the start of this financial year £148 has been paid including £38 for the hosting of the website for last year; £30 for the tubs in the square; £33 for the DAPTC subscription; £39 for expenses to revamp the finger post at Hembury Knap and litter pick provisions; and £8 for the hire of the hall. £60 has been received as a grant from the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) to help with the cost of refurbishing another of the finger posts at the bottom of Hembury Knap. The first payment of the precept - £900 should have also been received

The only other definite payment will be for the insurance which could be in the region of £170. The Clerk agreed to make sure that the best price was obtained. There will, of course be the odd maintenance expenses for the village and Washingpool Green.

The Meeting decided that it would defer making any other payments to the village hall and the church until the October meeting.

Item 11/19: Local Reports.

Item 11/19/1 Homewatch

Mrs Veronica Sheppard had sent a report saying that there are no specific points she wished to mention, just to remind people to keep being very vigilant in relation to telephone and internet fraud.

Item 11/19/2 Rights of Way

Mr Anthony Wilsdon reported that he had managed to walk most of the footpaths in the Parish, and that he was hoping to do so again shortly to check that they are not getting too overgrown. The Chair mentioned that a pathway sign associated with one of the stiles along the south side of the A35 has fallen down – Mr Wilsdon will look into this and asked other parishioners to keep him informed of any problems that are spotted on the footpaths, such as broken or missing marker discs, or growth of vegetation making passage difficult.

Item 11/19/3 Washingpool Green

The Chair thanked the volunteers who cut both the Washingpool Green and at the village hall and for those that attending the morning tidying up the area. Mr Graham Foot was thanked for repairing the fence along the side of the Green. The Chair reported on the new arrangements for the mower. The wildflowers planted last year are growing well with the bluebells in bloom. The remaining seed has been germinated by Liz and will be planted at the North East of the area soon. Although standing down as Chair, Howard Atkinson

said he was prepared to carry on with the management of Washingpool Green. It was also agreed to move the more substantial goal down to the other end as this one was generally used and it would stop footballs going in the pond which was considered a risk to young users.

Item 11/19/4 Parish Lands

Unfortunately, the Trustees have been unable to meet for the Spring meeting to date so a report will be given at the October Parish Meeting. The Clerk did report that the Tenancy Agreements for both the Fuel and Gravel Allotments have been renewed for a further 5 years, and the end of year bank balances in the Fuel Allotment is £290.10, and the Gravel Allotment £290.09.

Item 12/19: Askerswell Village Calendar 2020

The meeting supported production of another calendar for 2020. As no new volunteer came forward to co-ordinate it Howard Atkinson agreed to continue with this task. It was decided that the subject for this Calendar would be 'Parish Life'.

Item 13/19: Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan Report

The Chair thanked you all who voted. There were 52 votes in favour, 11 against for an electorate of 138 i.e. 82.5% in favour with a 45.7% turnout which the duty Returning officer stated was high for such an election. The Council "made" (adopted) the plan. It is now considered for planning applications in the Parish alongside i) National Planning Guidelines and ii) the Local Plan for planning in West Dorset. It runs for 10 years from the date of the vote in favour i.e. 21st November 2018. The Askerswell Forum was formed as Parish Councils but not Parish Meetings can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. Its current mandate ends in February 2020. At its AGM in June, the Forum will decide whether or not to apply for a new mandate and this will be reported to the next Parish Meeting. The reasons for continuing are that there is a commitment in the plan for annual review of progress and for a review within the life-time of the current plan.

Item 14/19: Askerswell Village Website

The Chair thanked both the Webmaster and Mrs Mandy Hall for their efforts with the site. It had previously been agreed that a review of the website should be considered after three years and that falls to this meeting. It was considered advantageous as quite a few individuals and external bodies use it. Mrs Mandy Hall is happy to stay as Editor and so it will continue providing our Webmaster continues his excellent effort.

Item 15/19: Environmental improvements

The Chair gave the following report:

i) Asker River project

- *Antony Wilsdon has now joined the group working on monitoring the Riverflies to assess the health of the river. Like Maggie, Geoff Barrett and I, he found it an interesting activity. We are monitoring about 200m above the village on the Barretts' land and also behind Folly Farm with landowners permission. There are two other sites being monitored by others downstream in Lodders Parish and one behind the Co-op in Bridport. The upper most site scored exceptionally highly for abundance and diversity of invertebrates and Folly Farm site was also*

a high value. We will monitor each site this year monthly until October 2019.

- *Other volunteers are welcome.*
- *One long-term aim of the project may be to enhance fish populations. A second potential improvement is to provide a protected (Ark site) for the native crayfish which is now very limited in Dorset as it suffers from a disease, lethal to it, transmitted by the invasive, non-native American crayfish. This is an ongoing issue throughout England and Wales. The local expert from Bristol Zoo has shown interest in looking at the Asker above the village to check for crayfish in the hope that the waterfall at Washingpool and the culvert through the village are barriers to invasion by the American species. If the American species is absent then the native one can be re-introduced from captive breeding stock or if already present, habitat improvement carried out to enhance its population.*

ii) Flora on A35 margins above the Parish.

I provided at the back of hall at the start of the year and initiative to protect and enhance biodiversity along a limited number of sites including by the south boundary of our Parish (i.e. the north verge of the A35). I have noted cowslip colonies and will inform the project coordinator. Would anyone noticing other wild plants of interest (e.g. Orchids) on the stretch between Litton lane and The Portway only (either margin) please e-mail me.

Item 16/19: Election of Officers

The Chair reminded parishioners that the Chair of the Parish Meeting and the proper officer of Dorset Council are the body corporate of the Parish Meeting and are known as "the Parish Trustees".

Mr John Mahoney had come forward to be prepared to stand as Chair. He was proposed by Prof Howard Atkinson and seconded by Mrs Mandy Hall. There were no other nominations, and he was voted in unanimously. Mr Frank Hemmings had come forward to be prepared to stand as Deputy Chair. He was proposed by Mr Geoff Barrett and seconded by Mrs Gill Foot. Again, there being no other nominations, he was voted in unanimously. Mrs Margaret Barrett was prepared to stand as Clerk for another year. She was proposed by Mrs Kathy Hince and seconded by Mrs Barbara Roberts. Again, there being no other nominations, he was voted in unanimously.

The newly elected officers will take up their role from tomorrow, 3rd May 2019

Item 17/19: Any Other Business

Item 17/19/1 Mobile Reception in the village

There is to be a National Campaign to get better mobile coverage throughout the country. It was felt unnecessary to look into this any further as mobile signals can generally be accessed through broadband services in homes and we are a small village that is unlikely to gain high priority for the necessary investment

Item 17/19/2 Fibre Broadband to remaining houses in the Parish

Mrs Steph Crabb (Folly Farm) was pursuing the securing of fibre broadband to the unconnected properties in the western part of the Parish. Mrs Gill Foot agreed to enquire how this effort is progressing.



Item 17/19/3 Mirror at Spyway Road Junction with School Lane

It was suggested that it may be helpful to have a mirror placed at this junction to enable people leaving the village to see what was coming down the hill. Advice will be sought from the highways team at Dorset Council.

Item 17/19/4 Thanks to outgoing Chair

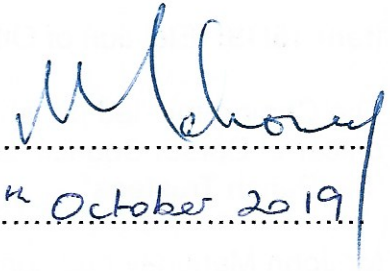
Mr John Mahoney proposed a vote of thanks to Howard Atkinson for the dedication he has given to the village whilst he has been Chair of the Parish Meeting. He has had to steer the village through complicated times and has put a lot of time and energy into his role. There was a warm round of applause of appreciation from the floor. Mrs Pat Atkinson thanked Mr Mahoney for taking on the role of Chair. She added she was looking forward to Howard having more time to himself and hoped that all parishioners would offer to Mr Mahoney the same level of support as they had given to the outgoing Chair.

Item 18/19: Date and time of next Parish Meetings

The next Parish Meetings will take place on Thursday 17th October, 7.30pm in the village hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.01pm.

Chairman's signature



Date 17th October 2019