Minutes of the
Askerswell Parish Meeting
held in the Village Hall at 19.30 on 22nd October 2014

Present:	Mr H J Atkinson	Chairman
	Mr J R Mahoney	Vice Chairman
	Mr P A Harrison	Clerk
In attendance:	33 Electors	
	Cllr M Roberts	WDDC
	Cllr R Coatsworth	DCC

Item 23/14: Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those Electors present, he also welcomed Cllr M Roberts representing, WDDC and Cllr R Coatsworth representing DCC.
The Chairman went on to say that there was a full agenda for this meeting and that he was hoping to be able to move through the various items as quickly as possible.

Item 24/14: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Sue Dutt	Neil Tattershall	Pat Atkinson
Brish Dutt	Marilyn Tattershall	Maya Pieris
Sara Gay	Jena Hatton	Jane Richards
Graham Fowler	Nick Hatton	Mike Dyson
Gillian Fowler	Mary Russell	Janet Thomasson
Vincent Sheppard	Nigel Guard	

(17)

Chairmans Initials .....

Item 25/14: Minutes

The minutes for the 'Extra Ordinary Meeting' held on the 30th July 2014 were agreed by those present as being a representative record of that meeting, and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Item 26/14: Matters arising

The Chairman mentioned two items that fell into this category 'Home Watch' and the matter of 'Finger Posts' both of which would be dealt with within the respective 'Local Reports' (See item 31/14) below.
The Chairman also asked if any of the attending Parishioners had requested a visit to be made to their home by the DFRS, there was however no response from the floor.
There were were no other matters arising from the minutes that required discussion that were not listed on the agenda for this meeting.

Item 27/14: Correspondence & Electronic Communications

The Clerk reported that there was no correspondence that required discussion, that was not already to be covered under the agenda for this meeting.
The Clerk did advise however that the title had been changed to reflect the fact that most communication with the Parish was now received electronically.

Item 28/14: Planning Matters

The Clerk reported that there had been four applications for Planning Permission, on which our comments had been requested, so far during the course of the 2014/15 year.
He said that three of these related to developments at 'Folly Farm' previously known as 'Folly Cottage' and the fourth in respect of developments at 2 Leggs Mead.
He said that there had been meetings held in respect of all these developments and that no objections had been raised and that all these developments had now been approved, Folly Farm on the 4th September 2014, and 2 Leggs Mead on the 1st September 2014.
The Clerk said that there was more information on these developments on the noticeboard at the back of the Hall.
The Clerk reminded those present that he retained copies of the plans for all these developments for their perusal (.. on appointment) but however all the information was now available to Parishioners on the WDDC website.
Mr Ian Russell made the point that there was another development that had not been mentioned, the installation of a 'Log Burner' at South Barn Cottage on Nallers Lane Askerswell.

The Clerk stated that this development was dealt with during the 2013/14 year.
(See Minutes Item 07/14 of the meeting held on the 30th April 2014)
The Clerk confirmed that Planning approval had subsequently been given for this development.

Item 29/14: Highway Matters

The Chairman said that some road 'Dressing' had been completed this year, but asked that parishioners inform him if there were any matters that needed attention.
The Chairman also reminded those present that the 'Grit Bins' about the village would only be topped up once by the council and that if there was a requirement for these to be topped up again that this would incur a charge to the Parish of £150.

Item 30/14/1&2: Financial report

The Clerk reported that it had been a quiet year so far in respect of the Parish finances.
He said that the changes to the Bank Mandates to delete Mr Ian Russell and Mr Charles MacEwan and include Mr Howard Atkinson and Mr John Mahoney had been completed in May–June 2014.
The Clerk went on to say that since the last meeting the Parish accounts had been reviewed by both the Local independent Auditor (Mr Alan Glenn) and externally by the accounting group BDO and had been agreed, and signed off.
He then showed the completed Return to those present.
The Clerk said that the accounting records for the Parish together with the submitted Returns for 2013/14 would now be made available to anyone wishing to see them in compliance with Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act and a notice to this effect would be placed on the noticeboard on the 23rd of October 2014.
The notice was shown to those present.
The Clerk then went on to review the current year so far, as shown on the reverse side of the meetings agenda.
The Clerk confirmed that he had completed a Bank Reconciliation on the 1st of October 2014 and confirmed that the current balance at the bank was £997.23.
Insofar as 'Accruals and Prepayments' are concerned the Clerk said that there were still approximately six months to run on both the current insurance policy and the DAPTC subscription.
As to monies owed, the Parish owed £21.00 to the Village Hall for hire costs, £56.08 in administration costs, and £21.56 in respect of replacement plants for the Village Square, a total of £98.64.
The Clerk explained that there had been an increase in administration costs

this year mainly due to costs relating to the Parish's pursuit on a 'Neighbourhood Plan' and that the costs related to, Printing costs, Paper, envelopes and postage, and that a full breakdown of these costs could be seen together with the Parish accounts on the noticeboard at the rear of the Hall.
The Clerks financial report was referred for formal acceptance, by those present, and was subsequently proposed by Mr Richard Hobbs and seconded by Mr Ian Russell.

Item 30/14/3: Precept 2015/16

The Chairman said that the precept for the year 2015/16 had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk, and that they had agreed to recommend an increase in the precept to the Parishioners, of £700, bringing the precept to £1800.00 per annum.
The point was made that this would create a nominal increase in Council Tax costs but that it would provide greater financial flexibility for the Parish.
Mr Ian Russell said that he would wish to know what the monies were to be spent on before he agreed to such an increase.
A considerable amount of discussion then ensued on this matter, which touched on matters relating to the requirement to maintain 'Washing-Pool Green' in accordance with the tenancy agreement, and what could, and could not be done using 'Volunteer Work-Parties'.
References were also made to the requirements of the 'Best Kept Village Competition' and the fact that when the Judges had called this year that they had experienced difficulty in entering 'The Pound' which as said by Mrs Eileen Bryan, was certainly 'Not Good'.
The Chairman eventually referred the matter to a vote, initially as to whether or not there should be an increase at all for which there was a majority, and secondly in respect of the amount of the increase, which was carried again by a majority for the suggested amount of £700.

Item 31/14: Local Reports

Item 31/14/1: Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman reported that progress was being made.
He said that there were 29 people in the Forum, who had met recently to agree the constitution etc.
He went on to explain that due to the fact we are a 'Parish Meeting' the Forum had to be deemed acceptable by the authorities.
Documentation has now been submitted to the authority. The documents are open for consultation at:

https://www.dorsetforyou.com/406403

It was not anticipated that a response would be received before February 2015.
He explained that plans and formats used by others were being used as examples for guidance to speed up the procedure.
He said that the next stage was to create a questionnaire to obtain the views of electors. It will be distributed to Forum members in the first half of 2015 for amendment and finalisation. It should be available for distribution to all households in the parish by late summer 2015.
He explained that some cost would be incurred, especially in connection with the questionnaire with could be some 12 pages and that printing cost may rise to approximately £200.
He said that the Forum would be actively pursing funds to meet the cost of this venture, and that in his view that 'Askerswell Parish Meeting' funds should not generally be used for this purpose, and that he would continue to keep electors up to date on the issue.

Item 31/14/2/1: Washing-Pool Green

Mr David Altree opened by saying thank you to all those who over the last year had given up their time willingly to provide mowing for Washing-Pool Green. Particular thanks were given to Mr Tim Boden.
He went on to say that he was hoping to complete some remedial work on the mower over the winter months and he hoped that the volunteers would continue to offer their services in the future.

Item 31/14/2/2: Washing-Pool Green

The Chairman said that there was much to do at Washing-Pool Green to meet the requirements of our lease, and that he felt that it was necessary to form a rota of parishioners with petrol strimmers fitted (initially) with 'Brush Cutting' blades to keep the undergrowth to a manageable standard. He said that a team under his direction had cut back large amounts of this from the pool area recently and that he hoped to make it a regular task and possibly to extend this to other areas both within Washing-Pool Green, and perhaps in certain other public areas of the Village, in an effort to 'key into' any requirements recommended to him by the persons concerned with the 'Best Kept Village' brief.
The Chairman then asked for a volunteer to operate the new suggested rota. There were no volunteers for this role, so the matter was listed to be pursued at another time, and the meeting moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Item 31/14/3: Home-Watch

Mr David Altree reported there was not much to report, that there was not a great deal coming through by way of email and certainly nothing that was required to be placed on the noticeboard.

Mr Altree said that he found it necessary due to employment commitments to step down from this post, adding that many of the meetings he was encouraged to attend were during office hours with made it impossible for him to attend, Mr Altree said that the post was not an onerous one.
The Chairman thanked Mr Altree for his commitment over the years, and asked for a volunteer prepared to take on the role.
As there was no volunteer forthcoming, the matter was listed to be dealt with at a later date and the meeting moved on to the next item.

Item 31/14/4: Rights of Way

Mrs Liz Guard reported that generally the village 'Rights of way' are in good order. She went on to say that a new finger-post had been placed at Eggardon Hill and that two broken stiles had been reported to the councils 'Rights of Way' Dept. The Autumn pruning effort has begun .. and all is generally fine.

Item 31/14/5: Askerswell Car Scheme

The Chairman read a submitted report from Gerry Pleva, who was unable to attend the meeting.
The Askerswell Car Scheme continues to work well, and will continue to do so as a separate entity until 1st January 2015 when it will become part of the Askerswell Good Neighbour Scheme (Item 36/14 on the agenda)
Therefore, until the 1st January 2015 anyone wishing to use the current scheme, should continue to contact Gerry directly.

Item 31/14/6: Eggardon OPEC

Mrs Gill Evans, stated that there was nothing to report, but reminded those present that should there be any problems, that they should contact her directly.

Item 31/14/7: Parish Lands

The Chairman said that there had been a meeting of the 'Trustees of the Parish Lands' on the 15th October 2014.
He went on to say that during the meeting the Secretary had reported that the Bank Balances were currently as follows ..

Askerswell Gravel Allotment	£194.49
Askerswell Fuel Allotment	£194.48

However it had been necessary to purchase a new Cash-Book at £6.99, and when the cost of this was split between the two Charities, available funds would be reduced to the following.

Askerswell Gravel Allotment	£190.99
Askerswell Fuel Allotment	£190.99

He went on to say that in addition, the Secretary had requested an agreement to update the financial records of both Charities and that this had been agreed,

but, to a limit of £10 per Charity.
He finished his report by saying that after due consideration, it had been agreed that there would be no 'Distribution of Funds' during the 2014/15 year, as it was prudent to keep an amount aside for unforeseen circumstances, however, that the matter would be reviewed again for the year 2015/16.

Item 31/14/8: Village Hall

Mrs Jessamy Wilsdon reported that the planned works had now been completed with the exception of the wall at the front of the building, which she hoped would be done shortly.
She also reported that the Village Hall had received a grant of £284 from the Bridport Car Boot Fund, which had been used to purchase a sound system, for the hall.
Mrs Wilsdon went on to say that a survey had recently been carried out to see if it were possible to install 'Solar Panels' to supply power to the hall, however the survey proved the project to be not viable.
She went on to say that the committee are also commissioning a survey to determine the presence of asbestos. Mrs Wilsdon explained, that as a 'Non Residential' building they were required to have an 'Asbestos Management Plan' and the first step was to determine if any asbestos was present in the building.
The point was made that should asbestos be found it was not necessary to remove it but to be aware of what action must needs be taken should any future work be carried out on the building. A copy of the report would also be filed with DFRS.
Finally she explained that talks with the Charity Commissioners regarding changes to the membership of the Village Hall Committee were still being pursued.

Item 31/14/9: Green Group

Mrs Jessamy Wilsdon reported that the 'Green Group' had not under taken any activities since the time of her last report although they had spent the £100 they won as 'Environmental Champions'. Mrs Wilsdon drew the attention of those present to the new troughs to be found at the front of the hall, which have now been planted with both seasonal and permanent plants.
Mrs Wilsdon also mentioned that after the wall of the hall had been painted a water butt was to be installed near the halls emergency doors so that the plants could be watered using rainwater.

Item 31/14/10: Super-fast Broadband

Mr Ian Russell reported that he had attended a meeting recently where matters relating to Broadband were discussed. He said that it had been widely believed that when Powerstock Exchange was upgraded that there may be an improvement in the villages Broadband Speeds.

At the meeting Mr Russell had met with a Senior Manager and the general consensus of opinion was that speeds would not improve in Askerswell Parish despite the Powerstock upgrade, before 2016, and then it was unlikely to improve by much.
Reference was made to the visit to the Parish by the Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP and what was said at that meeting. However much of the funding for 'NotSpots' would be decided at the time of the forthcoming budget, so it was agreed to await the outcome of the budget until the matter was further pursued.

Item 31/14/11: Public Transportation

Mr Alan Glenn reported that the last meeting he had attended was mainly about the increase in services for the summer, but that the most recent meeting dealt with First Group reducing it's evening service on the X31 route, with the outcome that the last service from Dorchester and Axminster to Bridport would be at about 19.00hrs meaning that the last train from Waterloo to Dorchester that would connect to this service would be the 16.35 hrs
First Group claim is that the service does not cover costs, although at this time the matter is under review by DCC.
Damory have decided to extend their Beaminster service to Crewkerne and Yeovil.
Route 73 continues to provide a service for the village, providing that a call is made the day before one attends to travel .. however this is no longer available on Saturdays, due to funding costs.
Insofar as train services are concerned planned work in preparation for the electrification of the Great Western route from Paddington to Bristol will mean a suspension of services east of Bath on the Weymouth line for a period sometime next year.

Item 32/14: Community Events

The Chairman said that at this juncture he was unaware of any major events planned for the Parish in the short term.
However it was agreed, that a mention be given to the following ..

'Askerswell and the First World War'
The results of research into the lives of men mentioned on the war Memorial at St Michael & All Angels Church
To be held at The Village Hall on Saturday 8th November 2014 at 19.30 hrs
and ..
'To Vet, is to Examine Thoroughly'
A talk by Roger Scammell of Milton Equine Veterinary Clinic
To be held at The Village Hall on Wednesday 19th November 2014 at 19.30 hrs

Item 33/14: Best Kept Village Competition

Mrs Jessamy Wilsdon said that Askerswell had a fine record in this competition, as can be seen by the certificates in the Village Hall. However, there had been no success in recent years. Mrs Wilsdon had spoken with the organisers of the competition, and whilst the village maintains a good standard throughout the public areas, we need to do more if we have aspirations to be successful again in the future.
Mrs Wilsdon went on to say that should the meeting feel that there are enough residents willing to give up, an element of their time, to complete a little extra maintenance of the public areas, then perhaps there could be a get together to formulate a work plan for next year, over the winter months. However should this not be possible, then she felt that there would not be much point in entering the village for next year's competition due to the high standards expected by the judges.

Item 34/14: Communications Within the Parish

The Chairman said that he was keen to ensure that people were kept informed as to matters of 'Parish' interest without the necessity to hold more 'Parish Meetings' and asked if parishioners would mind information being passed to them by way of email. The intention is for an email to be sent three months after each Parish Meeting.
After some discussion this was agreed, however it was also agreed that as many parishioners do not have access to the internet, that in addition to the emailed version a copy of the email should be placed on the Village noticeboard.
Reference was then made to the possibility of a Village website, which many thought may be a good idea. It was mentioned that the ECV web team had been approached but that they were not prepared to 'Host' such information. It was stated that the matter was still under consideration, and that a further report would be provided on this particular matter in due course.

Item 35/14: Raising Funds for Askerswell Community Purposes

The Chairman said that he had been looking at ways to raise additional funds that could be spent (.. outside of the precept) for the good of the village and its residents.
He went on to say that he had two 'Fund Raising' ideas that he wished to discuss.
The Chairman went on to say that firstly he had looked into the possibility of preparing an 'Askerswell' calendar and referred to the slides being shown as parishioners entered, and the photographs at the back of the hall 12 of which would form the basis of the calendar pictures.
The Chairman said that 50 copies of the calendar would need to be sold at £7.99 to make a profit for the Parish and if Parishioners were interested they should complete the form to be found at the back of the hall

Secondly, the Chairman suggested a 'Cafe Scientific' to be held perhaps twice a year at with attendees could listen to an talk on an interesting subject given by a village resident, he went on to say that perhaps a glass of wine might also be made available at a small charge. There would be a charge for entry of about £5.00 with all proceeds .. (.. after expenses) .. going to supplement the village funds, particularly the costs of developing the 'Askerswell Neighbourhood Plan'
There was a reflection of interest among the meetings attendees, and the Chairman closed be saying that he would now give the matter more consideration.

Item 36/14: Askerswell Good Neighbour Scheme

Mr Godfrey Lancashire opened by saying that by now most people will have heard about a new initiative in Askerswell, 'The Good Neighbour Scheme'.
He explained that whilst we have always looked after each other in this village, that it is still possible for people to slip through the net even with all the existing goodwill.
He said that another factor is that no one wants to be a nuisance or lean too heavily on a neighbour or even family, and that the scheme is designed to make it much easier for people to offer, accept or ask for help.
Outlining the scheme he said that quality of life is surely of great importance to us all, but it can be marred by loneliness, practical worries, physical problems and much else, and that the motto of the 'Askerswell Good Neighbour Scheme' will be "How can we help?"
He said that the scheme was started by the church members of 'St Michael & All Angels' and that it is set up to offer help to anyone in the village, younger or older, church member or not, whenever they are in need.
He said that there would be three contact numbers operating like a switchboard, who will have a list of volunteers ready to assist.
He said that like all new enterprises there may well be mistakes but given goodwill, between us the scheme will make Askerswell an even happier place to live.
He added that, as far as car journeys are concerned they will work together with the existing car scheme, but they have no intention of putting the taxi drivers of Bridport out of business
He said that he was keen to obtain the services of volunteers and to hear any comments or suggestions.
He finished his report by saying that the scheme will start on January 1st 2015, and provided contact details for the scheme. (Provided not published)

Item 37/14: Flood Alerts

The Chairman said that in order to assist the parishioners he wanted to find an effective way of notifying residents of any possible flood warning.

He went on to say that such warnings were normally received by email, with nominal 'Lead In' times, and that on the last occasion as parishioners will know he had walked round and either informed residents directly, or left a message for them, and understandably he was looking for a better way to deal with this matter.
After some discussion it was agreed that where possible this information might best be notified by email, and those affected said that they would not object to their email being used for this purpose.

Item 38/14: Village Telephone Box

The Vice Chairman said that the Parish had received a letter from WDDC regarding the telephone box in the Village Square. He went on to say that BT had been maintaining a call log for the telephone and that the number of calls now made from the box was insufficient to justify it remaining in service.
A substantial amount of discussion followed, and it was decided that the initial course of action should be to approach BT with a view to getting them to leave the box in situ, and the Chairman agreed to write to BT/WDDC in respect of this matter.
Also discussed was the possibility that BT may not accept the villages appeal and may proceed to remove the box. In these circumstances it was agreed that whilst the telephone equipment may be removed from the box, the box itself might be purchased by the Parish for a nominal fee.
Purchase by the Parish would mean that Planning Application would need to be made for a 'Change of use' perhaps as an information kiosk, and steps to paint it and maintain it would need to be considered.
It was agreed that initially an effort should be made to retain the Telephone Box, and that the alternative should be considered only if the appeal to WDDC was unsuccessful.

Item 39/14: WDDC & DCC Matters

WDDC

Mr Mark Roberts said that the 'Boundary Commission' were an independent body who's task it was to ensure a balance within the various areas. He went on to say that the current review would mean a reduction in the number of councillors and that Askerswell will become part of the Netherbury ward.
Mr Roberts also said that it was not a certainty that he would be in a position to continue to be Askerswell's councillor
Mr Roberts went on to say that the partnership between WDDC and Weymouth and Portland had generated substantial savings, without the necessity to reduce services. Mr Roberts said that this was continuing, with steps being taken to combine staff, and that already Weymouth and Portland were looking to dispose of unnecessary office buildings, and a single CEO covering both

should be in position next year.
He finished by saying that planning permission had been granted for a 'Multi Service Provider' mobile telephone mast to be erected in Powerstock and that this may improve mobile telephone reception in our area.

DCC

Mr Ron Coatsworth said that whilst there would be changes, his position would be less effected than others. He did say however that there may well be another councillor in due course.
Representation had been made to keep this area as it is, and Mr Coatsworth asked for the support of the parishioners on this, making the point that without this required support that representation could come from as far away as Chickerell.
On another matter he said that a decision had been made to clear out the roadside gully's once a year, and at other times only as and when a problem is reported. Mr Coatsworth pointed out that this could indeed work in the Parishes favour, but that where there may be a problem it must be reported.
Mr Coatsworth then updated those present on changes being made to how the provision of roadside 'Signs' are dealt with, and that this service could now be quite expensive.
On hospital transport issues, Mr Coatsworth remarked that there had been problems with the company providing the service, but that this was slowly being corrected.
Finally, Mr Coatsworth said that he may be able to make a small amount of monies available to the Parish. The monies must be used for something new .. (.. not a repair or replacement) and should be something that would improve the parish on a social or economic basis.
Mr Coatsworth said that the Parish should decide on how to spend the monies and that once this is done they should obtain documentation from the provider and submit the paperwork to him for payment.
The Chairman thanked Cllr Roberts and Cllr Coatsworth for their reports

Item 40/14: Any Other Business

Item 40/14/1 : Sandbags

The Chairman said that the Parish had been informed that we are to be provided with replacement sandbags as a 'Flood Control' measure. He made the point that it had been decided that the Keyholder should be the Clerk. However, the Clerk was unable to maintain as many as 70 sandbags in dry conditions so the Chairman asked in any of the parishioners would be prepared to store them on behalf of the Parish.
It was then considered if it may not be a better idea to distribute the sandbags as and when they are delivered to the homes where they might be most useful, and it was agreed that parishioners wishing to have a small supply of

sandbags for themselves should register their needs with the Clerk.
Mr Ian Russell offered to have the sandbags delivered to Medway House, and that parishioners could collect them from there.

Item 40/14/2 : Grit Bins

The Chairman reminded those present that this facility was not to be used for private use, and should be used solely for the roads and public footpaths
Mr Ian Russell suggested that parishioners could buy Grit locally from J C Philips Ltd in South Street Bridport for approximately £5.00 a bag.

Item 41/14: Next Meeting, Date, Time and Venue

The Chairman said that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 29th April 2015 at 19.30hrs in the Village Hall

There being nothing left to discuss the Chairman brought the meeting to a close at 21.45hrs.

Chairmans Signature .....