ASHREIGNEY PARISH COUNCIL.

A meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council was held on Tuesday, 13th August 2019 at Ashreigney Village Hall at 8pm, and the Minutes were duly recorded.

1. Chairman’s welcome: The Chairman, Mr. Hellyer, welcomed District Councillor Newton to the meeting as well as the following Parish Councillors: Dr. Kirkup, Mr. P. Middleton,

Mr. S. Middleton, Mr. Parfitt, Mr. Thorne and Mrs. Tillyer. There was one member of the Parish in attendance.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from County Councillor Saywell, Mr. Cole and

Mr. Johns.

1. Public Question Time: Mrs. Boundy reported that she has been made aware of changes to procedure in reporting defective road surfaces/issues to the Highways Department of Devon County Council. This reinforced information received from County Councillor Saywell. The Clerk confirmed that Parishioners are being encouraged to report faults via the DCC website, and the system is proving to be effective, and reducing the lead time in repairs being carried out. (Website accessed by logging in to the DCC website, selecting Roads & Transport and then Report a Problem).

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Philip Middleton to the meeting, as our new Parish Councillor, bringing the Council to a full nine members.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and were approved as an accurate record of events and were duly signed by the Chairman.
2. Matters arising: It was agreed that the storage boxes purchased for emergency planning purposes will need to be locked. Some minor adjustments may be required to facilitate a suitable lock. Combination locks were agreed as appropriate.

Mr. Parker has been contacted regarding the repairs required to the Ashreigney bus shelter.

It was reported that a noticeboard for Riddlecombe, as discussed at the June meeting, has been handmade and will soon be fitted, as previously agreed. (It was noted that the wood will require treating periodically).

The situation at Stonechat Meadow was discussed, with District Councillor Newton confirming that he will look into the matter at TDC. It is evident that the camp site is still active.

1. Correspondence: The Clerk reported that Toby Russell from DAAT is able to join us in October for an event to ‘wrap up’ the Community Landing site project. This event was discussed by Councillors, and D.Councillor Newton suggested inviting the Air Ambulance to carry out a training flight that evening. The event is to be advertised in the Ashcombe.

The Community Garden Committee have replied to the Parish Council’s invitation to support the Ash Die-back scheme, and are prepared to be involved in the scheme. The project was discussed by Councillors, with it being agreed that re-planting would be ideal. The Clerk to look in to the availability of disease resistant ash trees. (DCC also launched a new campaign to help tackle the problem. www.devonnewscentre.info/my-tree-responsability-campagin-launched-to-tackle-ash-dieback/).

The Village Hall Committee have requested a letter of support from Ashreigney Parish Council relating to the proposed refurbishment of the Village Hall. Councillors agreed that a letter should be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council.

A letter has also been received from the Village Hall Committee agreeing on principle for the proposed children’s play area to be constructed in the earmarked area. The conditions were discussed by Councillors, and the Clerk to respond accordingly.

Weekly crime figures were available from Torridge Neighbourhood Watch.

It has been confirmed that there will be no changes to the service provided by a Chulmleigh Fire Station.

Correspondence has been received regarding Climate Change within the UNESCO designated Biosphere Reserve of Northern Devon. The matter was discussed by Councillors.

 A Parishioner has contacted the Clerk regarding the Road Warden Scheme wrhich is operational within Devon. The Clerk had looked into the matter, and outlined the scheme. Practicalities and insurance were also discussed.

1. Update on Proposed Play Area: Correspondence from the Village Hall Committee was discussed at length. The Clerk has been in contact with Terry Warrington from TK Play, and a CAT will be carried out as a standard part of the construction process. The Clerk is to inform the Village Hall Committee. The wall was discussed as well as the existing gate which opens directly on to the road. The Clerk to look into suitable padlock options for the gate.
2. Planning: There was no planning.
3. Financials: A payment was due to Community First to cover the increase in cover required due to the installation of the DAAT Community Landing Site. Payment of £79.60 was proposed by Mr. Parfitt and seconded by Mr. Thorne. (Cheque 692).

Payment of £21.32p was due for the attendance of two people at the Rural Futures Conference held on 28th June (Dr. Kirkup and The Clerk attended). Payment was proposed by Mrs. Tillyer and seconded by Mr. S. Middleton. (Cheque 691).

1. Update from Village Hall Meeting: The Clerk reported that she had represented the Parish Council at the most recent Village Hall meeting. Items discussed included the Village Hall refurbishment, updating the Constitution and Community Lunches. It was suggested by District Councillor Newton that the Parish Council should be represented formally on the Village Hall Board of Trustees. (D.C Newton went to say that in other Parishes he works with the Parish Council and Village Hall Management Committees work together closely to maximise options available to them).
2. Report from District Councillor: District Councillor Newton reported that he is working closely with various committees at TDC in his role of District Councillor.

DC Newton also mentioned a presentation he attended regarding the provision of broadband by a company called Airband who aim to provide high capacity broadband. Details will be forwarded to the Clerk regarding the possibility of organising a presentation in Ashreigney.

DC Newton also reminded Councillors of where responsabilities lie regarding the maintenance of hedges for the safety of road users – particularly cyclists. Landowners are required to trim their hedges to uphold road safety. It was pointed out that this is in direct contrast to the current legislation regarding the permitted trimming of hedges to maintain habitats.

1. Any Other Business: The possibility of organising a Christmas Lunch was discussed. Councillors were keen to hold the event again, as it has been enjoyed by the Community. It was agreed to hold the lunch on Sunday, 8th December. A decision on beneficiaries will be made at a later date. Mrs. Boundy to arrange for the printing of tickets.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 17th September at 7.30pm in Ashreigney Village Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.30pm.