ASHREIGNEY PARISH COUNCIL.

An extraordinary meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council was held on Tuesday, 29th October in Ashreigney Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss two planning applications as well as the annual S137 Grant awards.

1. Chairman’s welcome: The Chairman, Mr. Hellyer, welcomed the following Councillors to the meeting:

Dr. Kirkup, Mrs. Tillyer, Mr. Cole, Mr. S. Middleton and Mr. Parfitt.

1. Apologies: Apologies were offered from Mr. Johns and Mr. Thorne.
2. Planning:

Ref: 1/0846/2019/FUL and 1/0847/2019/FUL.

These applications have been submitted by the same applicant, and a site visit had been carried out, prior to the meeting, by Parish Councillors Mrs. Tillyer,

Mr. S. Middleton and Mr. Parfitt. A letter of reference had been compiled, following the site meeting, by Mr. Parfitt and copies were available for Councillor’s benefit.

It was noted that Councillors appreciated meeting the applicant at the site meeting.

Application 1/0846/2019/FUL: Change of the use from agricultural land to a mixed use of agriculture and for the rearing of game birds.

The site meeting revealed that the field had been ‘tracked’ across, and concerns were raised regarding the impact on the three tumuli clearly marked on the map. It was queried if any impact surveys had been carried out, and submitted, to Natural England. (Top soil has also been removed and replaced with stone in some areas of the plot). It was also noted that the field in question is within the NVZ Zone and units of N produced by pheasants are likely to exceed current limits.

Concerns were also raised regarding bringing electricity to the site – the point was made that overhead cables would be unsightly.

Councillors considered that planning permission for a dwelling is likely to be sought at some point in the future of use from agricultural land to a mixed use of agriculture and for the rearing of game birds.

Discussions opened with those Councillors who carried out the site visit expressing their concern regarding the new access point to the plot of land which, in their opinion, creates a potential health and safety issue owing to the proximity of the main road. An opinion was expressed that the existing access point to the field could have been developed to create a safer point of access. Safety concerns were stressed regarding access on to the A3124.

Concerns regarding establishing an electricity supply were also raised, as above, on visual and environmental impact grounds.

Councillors were not prepared to make a decision on the application until further information is available.

1. Annual S137 Grants:

The Chairman moved discussions on to the Annual s137 Grants.

Application have been received from the following organisations:

Ashreigney Village Hall – The original claim related to the purchase of a dishwasher for the Village Hall. However, owing to a dishwasher having been installed, an updated application was made for help towards purchasing a printer.

Wednesday Club – Financial support for the purchase of equipment or a trip out for the club members.

St James Graveyard – Financial support for the upkeep and maintenance of the graveyard which serves all members of the Parish. The Clerk drew Councillor’s attention to legislation that suggests offering financial support to a religious group could be seen as discrimination. There are legal cases that have been raised.

Ashreigney Methodist Church – Running costs.

Riddleash Sunday Club – Funds to update equipment and materials owing to the wide span of age groups regularly attending the group.

The separate requests were discussed by Councillors, with the Clerk pointing out that though finances are healthy there is a greater commitment to running costs, particularly with the play area reaching fruition.

The following payments were suggested:

Ashreigney Village Hall - £150.00.

Ashreigney Wednesday Club - £100.00

St James Graveyard - £600.00

Ashreigney Methodist Church - £150.00

Riddleash Sunday Club - £100.00

Payment, as detailed above, was proposed by Mr. Parfitt & seconded by Dr. Kirkup.

The payments were duly made.

1. Any Other Business: The Chairman confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th November at 7.30pm. Councillors were thanked for their attendance, and the meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm.