**ASHREIGNEY PARISH COUNCIL.**

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.**

**The meeting was held remotely owing to the Covid 19 situation and the ongoing requirement to socially distance.**

1. Chairman’s welcome:

The Chairman, Mr. Hellyer, welcomed attendees to the meeting.

The following Councillors were present:

Mr. Cole, Mr. Johns, Dr. Kirkup, Mr. P. Middleton, Mr. S. Middleton, Mr. Parfitt,

Mr. Thorne and Mrs. Tillyer.

District Councillor Newton and County Councillor Saywell were also in attendance.

1. Public Question Time:

2.1: Dr. Kirkup asked the Chairman if she could speak as a member of the public regarding a letter she had earlier sent to the Clerk.

The Chairman granted this request and Dr. Kirkup went on to express her concerns regarding the deterioration of the PROW that passes by her property. There has been a considerable increase in vehicular traffic and this is causing a decline in standards of surface conditions.

Councillors were invited to suggest a way forward to improve conditions, and it was agreed that the local representative from Devon County Council should be the initial contact.

1. Apologies: No apologies were received.
2. Declarations of Interest on Agenda items:

4.1: Councillor Parfitt declared an interest in agenda item 8.4 on any discussions relating to Eaglescott Airfield.

4.2: Councillors Philip Middleton and Stephen Middleton declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda- The proposed solar farm at Coldharbour.

1. Approval of minutes:

The Clerk apologised for the late send of the minutes of the meeting held in February 2021 which was due to technical issues. It was agreed to approve the minutes at the April meeting to allow Councillors adequate time to read them prior to approval.

1. Matters arising:
2. Correspondence:

7.1: The resumption of face to face meetings.

The Clerk confirmed that the current legislation allowing Parish Council meetings to be conducted remotely is due to end in early May 2021. The advice is for Parish Councils to complete as much business as possible while remote meetings are still an option.

7.2: The Clerk reported that a retrospective request has been received for solar lights be fixed in the Ashreigney bus shelter. Councillors were unanimous in their approval.

There has been a further request that the Emergency Planning storage box located in the Ashreigney bus shelter should be re-sited to allow more room inside the bus shelter. There is an increased need for the bus shelter as school buses are available to more families and social distancing needs to be considered. Councillor Tillyer confirmed that the situation is the same in Riddlecombe.

Councillors all agreed to consider relocating the storage boxes to a more suitable position in both Ashreigney and Riddlecombe to avoid disruption to Parishioners. It was suggested that Mr. Parker be contacted to explore options. (There was a suggestion that a ‘shelter’ could be constructed at the back/side of the bus shelters that would accommodate the storage boxes whilst offering protection from adverse weather). The Clerk to contact Mr. Parker.

7.3: The Clerk reported that it has been brought to her attention that the roof of the Ashreigney bus shelter requires some work, and the suffix boards may need repairing. Councillor Johns to look at the general condition of the bus shelter.

There was a suggestion that Councillor Newton could be approached for some funding to meet repair costs.

7.4: Items for the Ashcombe:

It was agreed to include details of the proposed Airband presentation to be held in June in the Ashcombe together with any relevant Parish Council business.

1. Planning:

8.1: Application 1/0250/2021/CPL: Certificate of proposed lawful use for siting a wagon in a domestic garden at The Barn at Skellies Briar. Councillors Tillyer and Stephen Middelton to carry out a site visit.

8.2: To approve Application 1/0183/2021/FUL at Bridge Farm.

A site visit had been conducted by Councillors Thorne and Dr.Kirkup and they advised that they could not see a problem with the application. Some of the documentation was missing but was provided to Dr. Kirkup upon request.

Councillors were all in favour of approving the application.

8.3: To approve Application 1/0159/2021/AGMB ;

A site visit had been conducted by Councillors Thorne and Dr.Kirkup who advised they could not see a problem with the application.

Councillors again approved the application unanimously.

8.4: Update on Eaglescott Airfield:

It was reported that Mr. Hoole continues to work on the matter.

Circumstances with noise from low flying aircraft has improved.

Councillors all agreed that the DAA facility at Eaglescott needs to be protected.

1. Discussion on possible Community payment relating to the proposed Solar Farm at Coldharbour Farm.

9.1: The Chairman confirmed that the date for approving the Community Payment offer is in early April. It was noted that the Parish Council must be clear that a Community Payment, whilst welcomed, cannot influence any decisions made by the Parish Council on the application itself. The application, when submitted and presented to Ashreigney Parish Council for approval will be looked at in the same way as every other application.

It was agreed that a) this is a long term project (25 years+) and the effects on the community as a whole will be lengthy, and b) the Parish Council should not be pressured into making decisions as the plans are not yet submitted to Torridge District Council.

Councillors were unanimous in their wish for an Open Parish Meeting to be held for the benefit of the community and to provide ample opportunity for the plans to be looked at, discussed as required and to allow for a Q&A opportunity.

The Clerk to write to the Agent detailing these facts on behalf of the Parish Council.

The debate concerning a Community Payment led to a discussion on the possibility of a piece of land becoming available in Riddlecombe, perhaps as a result of this project, to create a children’s play area.

Councillor Tillyer suggested that the Community Garden could offer a site for the creation of an area for the children in the parish to enjoy and benefit from.

The provision of a family friendly area may broaden the appeal of the Community Garden and reinforce the work that has been carried out by the Community Garden group. Suitable equipment compatible with the surroundings would enhance the area.

1. Financials:

10.1: Payment of invoices:

The Clerks salary was due to be paid:

Total salary calculated on 4 hours a week at £10.24/hour as per NALC Payscales.

Total, prior to deductions - £2129.92p.

Figure allowed for TAX due - £425.98p. (20%). Payment proposed by Councillor Parfitt and seconded by Councillor Tillyer. (Cheque No: 734).

Payment of £1703.94p was proposed by Councillor Kirkup and seconded by Councillor Tillyer. (Cheque No: 733).

1. Emergency Planning/ Covid 19:

11.1: Councillor Kirkup confirmed that there have been no requests for help through the ‘Ashreigney Help’ email. However, it has been brought to her attention that there was a request for transport to the Chulmleigh Health Centre. This request was made directly to a Co-ordinator apparently on the advice of the Health Centre. Owing to health and safety requirements the Co-ordinator felt it was not in the best interests of either party to help on this occasion. The Co-ordinator has since stepped down from her role.

11.2: Councillor Kirkup also confirmed, as per the February meeting that the Parish volunteers have all been contacted with updated links and contact details.

1. Matters to be carried forward: None.
2. Date of the next meeting:
Tuesday, 20th April 2021 at 8pm via Zoom.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed: Dated: