**ASHREIGNEY PARISH COUNCIL.**

A meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council was held on Tuesday, 21st January, commencing at 7.30pm, in Ashreigney Village Hall.

1. Chairman’s welcome: The Chairman, Mr. Hellyer, welcomed Parish Councillors to the January meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council. Councillors in attendance were:

Dr. Kirkup, Mrs. Tillyer, Mr. Cole, Mr. Johns, Mr. P. Middleton and Mr. Thorne. There were three members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from County Councillor Saywell, Mr. S. Middleton and Mr. Parfitt.
2. Public Question Time: The Chairman invited comments from the members of the community present. The nominated spokesman introduced himself as Chris Hoole, from Roborough, and explained that he would like to express his concerns regarding Eaglescott Airfield to Ashreigney Parish Council.

Mr. Hoole explained that he is concerned that there are jet helicopters regularly flying out of Eaglescott Airfield. It appears that a Newquay based company are training pilots at Eaglescott after complaints forced them to cease running training flights from Bodmin. These operational flights are running seven days a week, for several hours a day, and the machines often hover at full power above the airfield which is a cause of massive noise pollution. The training flights are sometimes operational at 6-9pm and, at times, the noise is difficult to live with inside as well as outside. Direct contact that Mr. Hoole has made with the training company has been helpful, and it appears that the owner of Eaglescott has encouraged the training company to use his facilities despite that the airfield is licenced to operate as a sporting and recreational site only. It was suggested that this is a new commercial enterprise and not within the guidelines of a sport club.

Mr. Hoole went on to explain that there seems to be an element of forethought with this development. Jet fuel is now stored at Eaglescott – as advertised on the website. Concerns were raised that the infrastructure is not adequate for any potential accidents. Eaglescott was originally operational with light aircraft only, and the original runway was grass. Hanger space has subsequently increased and a training facility developed.

At this point of the meeting Mr. Cole declared an interest as an immediate neighbour to the airfield. Mr. Johns also declared an interest as a member of Eaglescott Airfield.

Environmental health was also discussed, particularly as there are houses within a close radius of the airfield.

Mr. Hoole concluded that he has major concerns that the situation will become ‘fait accomplait’ and the problem will only increase over time. Ashreigney Parish Council were asked to correspond with the Planning Department at North Devon Council expressing concern at the present situation. (Roborough and Burrington Parish Councils have also been approached).

Mr. Hoole and his colleagues thanked the Parish Council for their time and considering the request for support in the matter, and duly left the meeting.

Ashreigney Parish Council discussed the matter fully, and agreed to write to North Devon Council on Environmental grounds.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in November 2019 had been circulated, and were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of events.
2. Matters Arising: The Chairman reported that despite repair work being carried out at Hollocombe Moor Cross there still appears to be a significant drainage issue. The recent extreme wet weather has also caused a decline in the condition of the many potholes in the parish. The Clerk to contact Mr. Jagger at highways.

The position of grit bins in the parish was also discussed, and the possibility of appointing a volunteer to organise gritting, when required, in Ashreigney and Riddlecombe was also discussed. It was also agreed that sources of grit should be established.

Play Area: The Clerk reported that the play area is proving a popular addition to the village, and that TK Play are keen to install the benches and picnic table. However, a survey has indicated that space is a premium. The contractors have suggested moving an item of fitness equipment to complete the play area, and reposition the piece of equipment elsewhere in the parish. This was agreed as a sensible option, and various alternative sites were discussed. The Allotment Field is an option, in co-operation with the Community Garden Committee.

The Clerk requested that Councillors approve the purchase of necessary signage for the Play Area, as suggested by TK Play. This was approved – the Clerk to order.

1. Correspondence: Mid Devon District Council detailed modifications to the Mid Devon Local Review, for information.

Information was supplied regarding Casual Vacancies on the County Committee of DALC. There are several vacant seats to be filled, and nominations are requested by 2pm on Friday, 31 January.

A Clerks and Councils Direct Newsletter was available.

1. Planning: Application Ref:1/0042/2020/AGMB has been put forward for Parish Consultation. The Clerk had downloaded information from the TDC Planning Portal, and Councillors discussed the application at the meeting. A site meeting is to be carried out by Mrs. Tillyer, Mr. P. Middleton and Mr. S. Middleton.
2. Financials: The Clerk had prepared a financial report from the Christmas lunch, held in December. A profit of £796.90p was achieved which will be divided between DAAT and North Devon Hospice. The Chairman thanked Councillors for their work in organising the event, which was a very enjoyable event for the community.

Pre-Cept – The Pre-Cept for the year 2020/21 has to be set. The Clerk confirmed the current financial position, and had prepared a budget for the year ahead to assist Councillors in their decision making. It was pointed out that after a period of investment to improve facilities, there are no projects on the horizon. However, there are additional running costs associated with the play area and increased insurance premiums. The Clerk also suggested that it is likely that there will be additional training to be funded. Councillors discussed the finances and eventually an increase of 4% was proposed by Mr. Johns. This was seconded by Mr. Cole and duly approved.

The Clerk was due to be reimbursed the sum of £16.80 (Ref. Village Hall). Payment was proposed by Mr Thorne and seconded by Mr. Johns. (708).

An invoice was due to be paid for Village Hall hire. Payment of £68.30 was proposed by Mr. Thorne and seconded by Mr. P. Middleton. (709).

1. Village Hall – Report from meeting to discuss the revised Constitution. Mr. Parfitt had attended the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council, and reported back to the Clerk. This report had been circulated to Councillors, for their information, prior to the Parish Council meeting. District Councillor Newton was clear that, in his opinion, the Village Hall is a parish asset and as such the Trusteeship should be representative of the wider parish. It was proposed that the Chair of the Parish Council automatically become a Trustee on an ‘ex-officio’ basis, with a second trustee nominated. It was agreed by Councilllors that Mr. Hellyer and Mr. Parfitt will represent the Parish Council as trustees of the Village Hall, and that the Parish Council Representative should have a voting right. The Clerk to confirm these points, in writing, to the VH Committee.
2. District Councillor’s Report: DC Simon Newton reported that there are two key things ongoing at TDC currently. Negotiations continue between Kivells and TDC regarding the situation at Holsworthy Market. It is likely that the Council will take a substantial hit. Legal action has stopped to avoid costs.

The Devon and Somerset Fire Consultation indicates that two fire stations are to close. Appledore will remain open for the time being.

DC Newton has become Chairman of the Torrington Area Advisory Group. This involves two meetings a year with the aim of improving communication between parishes. Parish Council will be encouraged to attend.

1. Any Other Business: The Chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance, and confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th February at 7.30pm in Ashreigney Village Hall. The meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm.