ASHREIGNEY PARISH COUNCIL.

A meeting of Ashreigney Parish council was held on Tuesday, 17th September 2019 at Ashreigney Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. The minutes were duly recorded.

1. Chairman’s welcome: The Chairman, Mr. Hellyer, welcomed County Councillor Saywell to the meeting as well as District Councillor Newton. The following Parish Councillors were also in attendance: Dr Kirkup, Mrs. Tillyer, Mr. Cole, Mr. P. Middleton, Mr. S. Middleton and Mr. Parfitt.
2. Apologies: Apologies were offered from Mr. Johns and Mr. Thorne.
3. Public Question Time: There was no PQT.
4. Minutes: The minutes relating to the meeting held in August 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors all agreed that they were an accurate record of events, and the Chairman duly signed them.
5. Matters arising: Mrs. Tillyer reported that the noticeboard in Riddlecombe will be installed by Mr. Parker.

District Councillor Newton reported that he has contacted the Planning Department at Torridge District Council (TDC) regarding the planning issues at Stonechat Meadow. TDC have requested that any evidence of continued use to be sent to the Enforcement Team, with details of times, dates etc. All evidence needs to be submitted and logged. An appeal has been lodged by the Applicant, and as an interested Party Ashreigney Parish Council should be notified of the result of the decision. The appeal should resolve things one way or another, and fines could be implemented.

District Councillors Newton also advised Councillors of a broadband provider in the area – Airband. The company is proving to offer a reliable, consistent service and is government backed.

1. Correspondence:

The Clerk informed Councillors that TK Play have ordered the play equipment selected for the children’s play area. (TK Play have also liased with the Village Hall Committee regarding queries they have raised).

Devon County Council Highways advised of forthcoming Parish & Town Council Conferences.

Attention was also drawn to a Parish & Town Council dedicated newsletter – Roadmap. (Future copies can be by following the appropriate links).

Information was received regarding a meeting to be held in Barnstaple library, on 19th October, to discuss increasing bus services to run in the evenings and on Sundays.

Information was also available about advice sessions offered by Living Options.

1. Planning: There were no planning application to discuss.

Stonechat Meadow discussed in Matters Arising.

1. Financials: No invoices were due to be paid.
2. Update on Children’s Play Area: As reported in Matters Arising the equipment has been ordered.

The Clerk confirmed that an application has been submitted to Coastal Waste for additional funding for the Play Area.

District Councillors Newton pledged financial support for the project, with some funds available imminently and a balancing payment upon completion.

The wall around the proposed area was also discussed regarding safety issues. TK Play have assessed the situation.

1. October meeting: The October meeting is to take on a different format. It will be a year since the DAAT Community Landing Site in Ashreigney became operational, and the October meeting will be an open meeting to celebrate the facility. Toby Russell, from DAAT, will be at the meeting. Pasties and cider will be available with a donation tin for funds for DAAT. County Councillors Saywell and District Councillor Newton were also asked to attend.
2. Village Hall Updates: The Clerk reported that the Steering Group are working to move the refurbishment forward. Councillors were reminded to complete the questionnaire relating to the refurb.

The Constitution is also being looked at, and updated.

1. District Councillors Report: DC Newton reported that there have been complaints regarding overgrown verges. The turnaround, if reported to DCC, is relatively quick.

DC Newton went on to say that he is has been working on the scrutiny of accounts at TDC, and debt has been driven down considerably. These savings will be hard to maintain, and a strategy needs to be established.

DC Newton instructed that all correspondence from Extinction Rebellion be filed. TDC have set 2030 as a Carbon Neutral aim which is ahead of both Government and DCC. Easy carbon savings have been made – harder challenges are to come, and planning law/legislation needs to reflect this.

1. County Councillor’s Report: County Councillor Saywell reported that DCC have increased allowances for foster carers in the County. New families have been recruited as a result, which has created 60 new placements. DCC has also pledged £20million in additional funding for education.

CC Saywell reminded the Clerk to contact Daryll Jager, from DCC highways to instigate a meeting to discuss the roads in the parish and prioritise works.

Councillors were reminded of forthcoming road closures in Beaford as well as Torrington, though pedestrian access will remain in Torrington.

There are likely to be changes within the fire service, with restructuring likely. There is a shortage of crew members, with retained fire crews finding the requirements rigid to work around. Chulmleigh and Torrington stations are safe from closure, as are other local stations. However, there could be changes at Appledore with a possibility of a station being relocated to serve the community better. Money is to be reinvested and adjustments made to improve the current system, with centres of excellence likely to be created. The Fire Service is also looking at using ‘roving’ fire appliances to plug gaps in coverage when retained crews are not available.

1. Community Christmas Lunch: The date was confirmed as Sunday, 8th December. It was agreed to support the DAAT and North Devon Hospice, and tickets are to be the same price as last year. Final arrangements to be made closer to the time.
2. Any other business: The Chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance, and confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th October as discussed. The meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm.